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Fairbank ISLANDER

SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

APRIL 3, 2024

Compiled by Fairbank Community Club ~ Designed and Printed by Oelwein Publishing Co.

VOLUME 5, NO. 4

Farm Credit grants \$25K to Fairbank Fire rescue trailer

BY OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER STAFF

As spring is here and some farmers are starting spring nitrogen applications, the Fairbank Fire and EMS Association and department committee that began fundraising last fall for a Rural Rescue Response (R3) Trailer offered a progress update.

Since last fall, the project has reached the \$80,000 mark, meaning a goal to raise at least \$100,000 dollars by May 2024, is approaching reality. Earlier in March, Fairbank Fire Department learned of its receipt of a grant award from Farm Credit Services for \$25,000. The R3 Committee sought the grant in December.

"We are thrilled and very thankful for this wonderful donation and investment in rural and farm safety right here in the Fairbank area and surrounding communities," FFD R3 Committee Chair Janice Martins said.

The Fairbank Fire Department also was informed that their res-

See GRANTS, A2



JANICE MARTINS | FFD COURTESY

Presenting a \$25,000 grant award from the Farm Credit Services, Cedar Falls office for the Fairbank Fire and EMS Rural Rescue Response (R3) trailer campaign are Jared Kane, Lori Kane and Ron Oltrogge, who also serves on Readlyn Fire Department. Members of Fairbank Fire and EMS surround them. Pictured from left are: Front row, Elaine Zimmerman, R3 Committee Chair Janice Martins, Jared and Lori Kane. Back row, Adam Bachman, Drake Mangrich, Ryan Westemeier, Tim Zimmerman, Ted Vorwald, Conner Jones, Justin Ritter, Nick Curley, Oltrogge and Dick Chapman.

Fairbank sets special election for council seat

BY MIRA SCHMITT-CASH
news@oelweindailyregister.com

FAIRBANK — Fairbank city council candidates had until Friday, March 29 to file nomination papers after the city clerk received a petition for a special election.

Voters will go to the polls on April 23 for a special election to fill the Fairbank City Council seat Matt Coffin vacated on Jan. 26.

As Fairbank spans both Buchanan and Fayette Counties, a special election will be held in both counties with Buchanan being the control county.

Fairbank incorporated areas in Fayette County vote at the Oran Community Hall, 5054 Main St., Oran.

"The state requires we have a polling place in our county," Fayette County Elections Commissioner Lori Moellers said. "They're always

MEET THE CANDIDATES ON PAGE A11

See ELECTION, A11

Fairbank Little League receives matching grant from Minnesota Twins for field upgrades



The Fairbank Little League renovation project was awarded a financial boost from the Minnesota Twins after a \$7,000 matching grant was given to the organization.

The money will be used to resurface both diamonds in Fairbank with a total cost coming in at \$40,000.

The new fields will allow bases to be moved to 60 feet, 65 feet and 70 feet, giving the opportunity for both softball and baseball to be played on the fields.

"Once completed this will allow us to host more tournaments and draw more teams in with such a great playing surface and scoreboards to allow fans to see who is winning and what inning we are in," Michael Gruetzmachet said.

Following the winter, 2 inches of infield material that consists of lime, silt and sand mix will be put on the diamonds to allow the fields to properly drain after rain.

Woods Funeral Home serving Fairbank area 65 years



COURTESY PHOTO

Carson Woods is first licensed funeral director

BY MIRA SCHMITT-CASH
news@oelweindailyregister.com

The John and Randy Woods families have been serving the funeral needs of Fairbank and the surrounding area under the Woods Funeral Home name since 1959, celebrating 65 years in June 2024.

John and Sharon Woods owned the business until Randy and Jodi Woods purchased it in 2013.

Randy and Jodi's youngest, Carson Woods, became the first licensed funer-

See WOODS, A2

Three generations of Woods Funeral Home owners, Randy Woods, his father John Woods, and Randy's son, Carson Woods, stand at the entrance to the family business at 400 Laksesinde Drive in Fairbank. Carson Woods is now a licensed funeral director, allowing the business to conduct more work in-house.

A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR



MAYOR JASON KAYSER

As you are well aware by now, the next phase of the Main Street project is underway. This phase will be in two, unrelated parts. First, complete removal and repaving of Grove Street from approximately the fire station apron to the railroad crossing. Secondly, grinding, widening, and relaying of asphalt will take place when the weather gets warm enough. Depending on weather and supplies, this project is expected to be completed around June 1st. In the spring, the city typically begins the process of warning property owners of nuisance violations. Junk and junk vehicles are described in chapter 51 of the city code of ordinances (https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/fairbankia/latest/fairbank_ia/0-0-0-1048). This section also describes the abatement process. I know this topic can be emotional for some citizens. However, these are the rules and laws we agree to follow as citizens in Fairbank. The city will make reasonable efforts to work with those in violation, but if the nuisance is not abated, then citation and removal procedures will begin. This month I would like to highlight our Public Works Department. Currently we have 3 full-time employees and a number of "as needed" employees to call on when snow needs to be removed. The City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk also commit a considerable amount of their day working on utility billing, questions, etc.. So what does our team have to maintain? Here's a rough breakdown: -Over 20 miles of natu-

ral gas pipeline -Over 9 miles of electrical wire -12 miles of streets and alleys -Over 25 acres of public property -28 buildings and structures -8 vehicles (excluding fire and police) Regarding utilities, we are only one of 35 communities in Iowa who own and operate all essential utilities. We are the only community in Buchanan or Fayette counties who own the gas company, and Independence is the only other electrical company. Cedar Falls is the only area city who also owns gas and electric. To keep our environment safe, we operate a state-of-the-art waste water treatment center. When we look at all this, there is an incredible amount of very important things to manage and maintain with only 3 employees and two administrative office staff (who have to share their time with other city business). Our team also must operate in the safest possible manner in a potentially dangerous environment. To do this takes many hours of training to become safe and certified to do the work to keep your water, gas, and electric running, your streets cleared and repaired, your park equipment inspected and safe, your public buildings repaired, trees trimmed, and on and on. Sure, we contract some work because we may not have the ability, equipment or time to do a specific task. However, our team conducts the lion share of the work in town. So when you get frustrated because a road is closed, snow may not be plowed when it's convenient for you, or when the power is out; please consider giving our team a break and maybe some space to work. They are doing the best they can. There are many nights they are out working when you are comfortable in bed. So if you see them out and about, or stop in at City Hall, maybe say thank you, It goes a long way. Personally, I am thankful for the work our team does.

Woods Funeral Home serving Fairbank area 65 years

CONTINUED FROM A1

al director in the family business after a series of accomplishments, receiving an associate's degree in mortuary science from Des Moines Area Community College in 2023, passing a national board exam and completing an internship in February 2024.

Many day-to-day operations at a funeral home have to be done by a licensed funeral director. Until now, the business has relied on Oelwein's Hintz, Hintz-Geilenfeld and now Geilenfeld-Buehner Funeral for licensed work.

Now most operations can be done in-house.

They offer funeral services, pre-need and at-need, including traditional burials and cremation. They began offering monument sales in summer 2023.

In fact, the business has been in the family since the grandfather of John Woods, whose name was John Youngman, started a furniture business, Youngman Furniture, in the 1920s, which also



MIRA SCHMITT-CASH | OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER PHOTO

Woods Funeral Home moved to the current location, 400 Lakeside Drive, in 1976. Randy and Jodi Woods purchased it in 2013, and their youngest, Carson is now their first in-house licensed funeral director.

provided undertaking. The business was located at 101 E. Main St., which is now a vacant lot across the street from Costa's.

(This was not an uncommon business pairing; Hintz of Oelwein began as Hintz Funeral Home and Furniture Store in 1901.)

John Woods purchased the furniture store from John Youngman in June 1959 and changed the name to Fairbank Furniture, operating Woods Funeral Home out of it.

There was no dedicated funeral home in Fairbank until four years later, in 1963, when the Woods family built the funeral home chapel at 103 E. Main St., current home of the Fairbank Historical Society. Woods Funeral Home moved to the current location, 400 Lakeside Drive, in 1976, after about a year of construction.

Since purchasing the business in 2013, Randy and Jodi have been continually updating the building while keeping the same floorplan. The present facility is handicap accessible and consists of a main chapel capable of accommodating up to 160 people, family area in the lower level and display area.

They have a "very lean team" Randy said, of Jodi, Carson and himself. Carson said he has been "in and out" working there since going to school. Longtime Oelwein funeral director Chuck Geilenfeld assists part-time.

Persons can contact Woods Funeral Home at 319-635-2207 or visit them online at <https://woodsfuneralhome.net>.

Farm Credit grants \$25K to Fairbank Fire rescue trailer

CONTINUED FROM A1

cue trailer, being built in Cresco, is on target to be completed by the end of April.

"This is very exciting news," Martins said, indicating the department can now start ordering all the equipment and tools to make the trailer complete for not only grain bin rescues but all large farm equipment and vehicle res-

cues and emergencies.

Once the trailer is delivered, the department will start training and preparing crews to respond using this specialized apparatus. The department will then invite neighboring fire departments to train alongside them. The goal is to have a multi department Rural Rescue Response Team, Martins indicated.

"Familiarizing every member of this team with the trailer, the equipment in it, and its proper use is intended to ensure safety of rescue crew members and any potential victims of rural emergencies," Martins said.

They still have about \$20,000 to raise. Donations can be sent to Fairbank Fire Dept., 301 Grove St., P.O. Box 28, Fairbank, IA 50629.



SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

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Fairbank Public Library
P.O. Box 426, Fairbank, IA 50629

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



What's Cook'in

"Don't be afraid to try new recipes; the worst that can happen is you'll have to eat them yourself!"

People love this quick and easy salad!

Butterfinger Grape Salad

(Makes 1 Large Bowl)

3 lbs. of grapes (use at least 2 different colors)
8 oz. soft cream cheese 1/3 c. brown sugar
8 oz. sour cream 1/3 c. any kind of nuts
1/2 c. powdered sugar (I use salted sunflower nuts)
5 small Butterfinger candy bars (crushed up small)

Rinse grapes and remove stems. In large bowl, mix the cream cheese, sour cream, and powdered sugar. Then add grapes and toss till well coated. Cover and refrigerate. Mix the crushed candy bars, brown sugar, and nuts. Stir this mixture into the salad about an hour before serving. (I usually just go ahead and add this mixture right away, since the salad keeps well in the refrigerator for 3 or 4 days.)





Peach Crescent Rolls

2 whole large peaches 1 tsp. vanilla
2 - 8 oz. cans crescent rolls Cinnamon (to taste)
2 sticks butter 1-12 oz. can Mt. Dew
1 1/2 c. sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Peel and pit peaches. Cut both peaches into 8 slices. Roll each peach slice in a crescent roll. Place them in a 9x13 buttered cake pan. Melt butter, then add sugar and barely stir. Add vanilla, stir, and pour entire mixture over peaches. Pour Mt. Dew around the edges of the pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon and bake for 40 minutes. Serve with ice cream or cool whip, and spoon some of the sweet sauce from the pan over the top.

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

Camryn Wolfe named to the Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic

Camryn Wolfe of Fairbank, IA has been named to the 2023 fall trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Camryn is the daughter of Ben and Jeannie Wolfe and is a 2021 graduate of Wapsie Valley High School. She earned Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo before transferring to Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport where

she earned her Bachelor of Science degree. Camryn is now in the second trimester of the Doctor of Chiropractic program at Palmer and anticipates completing her DC degree in February 2027.

Camryn has also recently joined Palmer's prestigious Women's Rugby team and was able to travel with the team to the 2024 NashBash Rugby Festival in Nashville, TN March 23-24. The regular season will start this Fall.



BIRTHDAY

SIMON DAVIS
URNS ONE
ON MAY 9

Happy birthday to our sweet little man. Simon, we love you very much. Love Daddy, Mommy and big sister Lillian.



BIRTHDAY

LILLIAN DAVIS
URNS TWO

Happy 2nd birthday to our sweet and spirited red head. We love you very much. Love Daddy, Mommy and Brother Simon.



FAIRBANK BAGS TOURNEY WINNERS

FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CLUB PHOTO

Fairbank Community Club bag tournament winners from the March 2 tournament were, in first place, Tanner Bantz and Caleb Erickson, and in second place, Joe Jans and Brock Berg, the community club announced.



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



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City wide clean up day



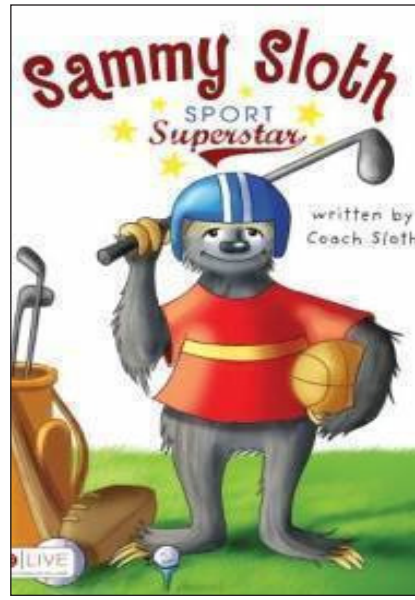
City wide clean up day will be on May 6, 2024, starting at 7:00 AM.

Will accept at no cost: Carpet, Furniture, Tv's, Computers/monitors and Grill's (remove propane tank). Won't accept: Paint, Oil, Yard waste, Concrete, Dirt, Liquids, Batteries, Construction material and Shingles. Appliances & electronics are \$15 Per unit: Microwave, Refrigerator, Stove, Air conditioner, Furnace, Water heater, Dishwasher, Washer/dryer, Dehumifiers and Treadmills.

All appliance tags must be bought by 5:00 PM ON Friday, May 3, 2024. There will be a metal bin located behind City Shop the week before cleanup day for metal items. Everything else will be picked up on the curb. Metal will be picked up on the curb as well but will be left and picked up last.

Fairbank PTO will be hosting Coach Sloth on April 5

Fairbank PTO will be hosting Coach Sloth on April 5th. Students will have a small group session with the Iowa Author.. Coach Sloth grew up on a farm in Dike, Iowa. When he was in 3rd grade he moved to Belmond, Iowa. He loved to play all sports in school. During his high school English class he came up with his idea for a children's book starring Sammy Sloth. Coach Sloth attended Iowa State to study Sports Management, but still had a passion for writing stories. Coach Sloth Played football for Iowa State, Iowa Barnstormers, Bakersfield Blitz, and Columbus Destroyers. He later coached for Iowa State and Iowa Barnstormers. Coach Sloth also had an acting career starring as a football player in several movies from We Are Marshalls to Amazing Spider Man.



Coach Sloth started to write books while reading a story to his son. He has spoken to over 1,000 schools and shared his books with 500,00 kids across the country. The stories he writes are inspired by his life experiences, favorite activities, and ideas from his wife and their six children.



ISLAND QUEEN
AVA VANDAELE

I hope everyone is enjoying this warm weather to start out March, I know I am. Track has started up out at the high-school. I usually run the 800 or 400. Another thing that is happening in March is Easter! I can't wait to see the kids faces at the Easter Bunny and the excitement it brings to them! I hope everyone had a great March and had a great Easter with their families!

From Ava

Fairbank Municipal Utilities resolving 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 arise.

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



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4-H ATOM BOMBERS



FROM THE DESK OF
ALIVIA WEEPIE

Buchanan County ISU Extension shared information and answered questions about the Novice Sheep Project, Novice Meat Goat Project and the Boiler project. There is still time to sign up deadline is April 5.

Presentations given by Wally Kaufman on the history of showing cattle. Rachell Kaufman talked about the boxer bred of dog and their history. Morgan Jipson shared some word art she has been doing.

Fair T-shirt designs were presented voted to approve "To Make the Best Better". The club will pay for one shirt per member. New barn designs where discussed.

Community service ditch cleaning will be held April 14 all members are expected to participate. Clover kids must have a adult accompany them. Please meet at 4:00 at the hall.

Talked about field trip idea for May meeting. Ended the evening with everyone learn how to make a Patriotic wreath. Members are encouraged to enter them at fair.

The Atom Bombers 4H meeting was held at the IC Hall on March 10th. Meeting called to order by President, Brock Kleitch, at 5:00. Roll call questions "What is your favorite holiday" was answered by 17 members present. Secretaries report was given by Charlie Sweeney. Need everyone to sign and return club expectations sheets. Treasures report given by Cece Sweeney. Reminder if you have not paid your dues yet please do so asap as they are now past due.

Guest speaker Megan Rawlins, Buchanan County youth coordinator for



Fairbank Cemetery cleanup scheduled Saturday, April 13

Looking for volunteers to help clean up cemetery and help straighten tombstones. Saturday, April 13th from 8:00-12:00.

Meeting place is the public Fairbank.

Fairbank Fire & EMS Association Breakfast!

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH, 2024
8A-11A

Come support your local volunteer first responders at the fire station for a free will donation breakfast!

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City of Fairbank Yard Waste and Mowing Reminders

CITY YARD WASTE RULES

Please make sure items are going to the designated area. A key is available at City Hall during office hours (M-F 9am – 5pm) to check out.

Compost Brush Pile (residential only)

Grass Clippings Restricted to nothing over 6 feet long and 4 inches wide

- Leaves Small Branches
- Flowers Twigs
- Pumpkins/Apples
- Plants
- Bush/Shrub trimmings
- Pinecones
- Wood Ashes
- Sod Chunks

Commercial use is restricted to the compost pile only.

Not Allowed: Plastic, lumber, furniture, bricks, rocks, tree stumps, stump grindings, etc.

Surveillance – Cameras are up to monitor what is being dropped off. If a person is caught disobeying these rules, they will be penalized, and they will be responsible for haul away fees.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 319-635-2869. Thank you for your corporation.



MOWING SEASON REMINDER

52.02 CONTROL OF VEGETATION.

It is the duty of every owner and the person occupying any real estate within the corporate limits of the City, which real estate is platted or used for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes, other than property being used as timberland or for agricultural purposes, to maintain the property in such a condition so that all uncultivated vegetation thereon is cut, sprayed, or otherwise controlled so that the height does not exceed six (6) inches.

52.03 NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS. Whenever the Mayor or other authorized municipal officer finds that the uncultivated vegetation on any lot or parcel has not been cut as provided in this chapter, written notice shall be served upon the property owner, as shown by the records of the County Auditor, that unless said vegetation is cut within five (5) days, the City will cut or destroy the vegetation and assess the costs thereof to the owner of the lot or parcel of ground.

52.04 COLLECTION OF COSTS OF CUTTING. The Clerk or other authorized municipal officer shall mail the statement of the total expenses incurred in the cutting of uncultivated vegetation as provided in this chapter to the property owner who has failed to abide by the notice to cut, and if the amount shown by the statement has not been paid within thirty (30) days after the rendering of the statement, the Clerk shall certify the costs to the County Treasurer, and it shall then be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

Church Services



United Methodist Church

107 N. 2nd Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
319-635-2932
Worship Service: 9:15 AM



St. John Lutheran Church

(MISSOURI SYNOD)
208 N. 4th Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
319-635-2181
Pastor Jacob Swenson
Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:00 AM



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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



Lord of the Harvest

Prayer and Praise Center
101 South 4th Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
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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Celebration of Life

Reginald David Etgeton

June 29, 1995 - February 29, 2024

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Reginald David Etgeton. Affectionately known as Reggie, he was a hard-working, quirky, and loving individual who left us far too soon.



Reggie was born in Oelwein, Iowa on June 29, 1995, and passed away on February 29, 2024 at Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa. Reggie was surrounded by family and friends who loved him so much.

Known for his tenacity and a heart full of love, Reggie's spirit will continue to inspire those who knew him. Reminding us all it costs nothing to work hard, smile, and always be willing to help someone in need. He wore his heart on his sleeve and brought a touch of quirkiness that made him unique and endearing to all. His smile and laugh will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Reggie was raised in rural Fayette and Bremer Counties. He proudly attended Waverly-Shell Rock High School, graduating in 2015. After graduation Reggie held various jobs in the area, but more than anything, he enjoyed his time making friends and working hard at Upper Iowa University. When Reggie was not working, he enjoyed the outdoors, especially fishing, and spending time with his Dad in the garage. As Reggie has passed into the arms of our Lord, this is the end of Reggie's physical life on Earth and the beginning of an eternal and beautiful journey for him in the life everlasting.

Through his final act of love and generosity, Reggie demonstrated the depth of his compassion for his fellow humans. As an organ donor, he has bestowed a new lease on life to countless individuals. His heart now beats within a man in his 60s, his lungs breathe life in a woman in her 50s, his liver sustains a man in his 60s, and his left kidney purifies the life of a man in his 40s. Reggie's selfless legacy in life and in death will continue to impact lives and evoke admiration for years to come.

His memory will live on through his family. Survived by his parents Chris and Terace Etgeton, his siblings Nathan (Tonio), Alexander (Savana), Kloyee, Shyla, and Brad. He leaves behind six nieces and three nephews who loved their Uncle Reggie very much. He will also be cherished by his grandparents, Keith and Marilyn Westpfahl and all of his aunts, uncles, and cousins. Reggie is preceded in death by his cousin Deidre Westpfahl, his grandparents Lyle and Leona Etgeton, and his aunt Stephanie Seiler.

A Celebration of Life for Reggie was held on March 16, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Hawkeye Community Hall. Following the services there will be a Cowboy Meal (hamburgers, hot dogs, sides).

Reggie's loss is deeply felt by all who had the privilege to know him. He will be remembered for his boundless love, unwavering work ethic, and the joy he brought into the lives of those he cherished.

Celebration of Life

Leona Ann Kleitsch

July 24, 1933 - March 2, 2024

Leona Ann Kleitsch age 90, passed away on March 2, 2024, at at Prairie Hills Assisted Living. Leona was born July 24, 1933, at Stanley, the daughter of Andrew P. and Matilda M. (Federspiel) Michels. She graduated from Stanley High School in 1950. Attended St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana. Graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Dubuque with the class of 1954. She worked at People's Memorial in Independence, Iowa, and Mercy at Oelwein, Iowa, later in life she worked at Grandview Nursing Home, Oelwein, Iowa. Leona and Edward C. Kleitsch were united in marriage on October 12, 1954 at St. Mary's Catholic Church of Hazleton, Iowa. To this union six children were born, the survivors are; Michael (Jackie) Kleitsch of Brooklyn, IA; Monica (Steve) Ortner of Harmony, MN; Maria Delagardelle of Independence, Mark (Angie) Kleitsch of Fairbank and Marcia (Doug) Sickles of Cresco, 16 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren and one expected in the spring, she is also survived by a brother, James Michels of Stanley. Leona was preceded in death by a daughter, Julie at birth, her parents, Andrew P. and Mathilda M. Michels, her husband, Edward C. Kleitsch in 2002; a sister, Sister Mary Dianne Michels; a son-in-law, Randy Delagardelle and a granddaughter, Jenifer Dahly. Leona and Ed farmed together in the Dunkerton-Fairbank area until 1991 when they moved to Hazleton, IA. Leona was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church of Fairbank and the Fairbank American Legion Auxiliary. She loved her quilting group, flower gardens and bingo. She loved her family and adored her grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Visitation: 4:00-7:00 pm Tuesday, March 5th with a 3:00 pm Rosary at Woods Funeral Home in Fairbank.

Funeral Mass: was at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Fairbank on Wednesday, March 6th at 10:30 am with interment in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery. Lunch will be served at the Fairbank American Legion in Fairbank following the burial.

The family would like to thank Prairie Hills Assisted Living Assisted Living of Independence for caring for Leona along with Cedar Valley Hospice, which aided in her care in later.

Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation.

Online condolences can be left at www.woodsfuneralhome.net

Celebration of Life

Troy Michael Kuethe

May 7, 1962 - March 26, 2024

Troy Michael Kuethe, 61, of Geneseo, Illinois and formerly of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at his home in Geneseo.



Troy was born on May 7, 1962, in Sumner, Iowa, the son of Dale LeRoy and Grace Joan (Nolte) Kuethe. Troy was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn and graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in 1980. Troy was united in marriage to Paige L. Hagenow on September 18, 1982, at Zion Lutheran Church.

Troy worked for Quality Accounting Services in Waterloo for thirty years. In 2014, Troy and Paige moved to Geneseo to be closer to their family. While in Geneseo, Troy worked as office manager for Crowe Chrysler Dodge Jeep (Now Ed Morse) in Kewanee, Illinois retiring in September of 2023.

Troy was a lifetime member of Zion Lutheran Church, where he served as deacon. He also served on the Readlyn Library Board. Troy's greatest joy was being Papa to his five grandchildren. Troy was handy and always eager and willing to help his sons with their projects. He was also an avid golfer.

Troy is survived by his wife, Paige Kuethe; two sons, Clay (Jessica) Kuethe and their children, Madison and Avery Kuethe; and Tyler (Brittany) Kuethe and their children, Barrett, Elouise, and Wesley, all of Geneseo, Illinois; his mother, Grace Kuethe; a brother, Todd (Kris) Kuethe, a sister, Sara (Steve) Boevers; his mother-in-law, Doris Hagenow; two sisters-in-law, Penny (Jeff) Schmidt and Tempest (K.C.) Hutcheson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dale Kuethe, father-in-law, Larry Hagenow, his paternal grandparents, Elmer and Leona Kuethe and his maternal grandparents, Oscar and Martha Nolte.

Visitation was held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn and one hour prior to services at the church on Friday. A Funeral Service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 29, 2024, at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Jean Rabary officiating. Burial was held in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Readlyn. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family for a later designation.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn is assisting the family. 319-279-3551

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Celebration of Life Mary Louise Peters

February 28, 2024

Mary Louise Peters, (Carol, Dimmich) of Fairbank Iowa passed away on February 28 in Orlando, Florida at the home of her daughter Jana.



Mary, was 76 years old. She was surrounded by loved ones including one of her dearest friends Mary Jans of Fairbank. Mary Lou as many called her worked at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Fairbank for several years as church secretary. Mary graduated from the IC school , as Fairbank was her hometown. She was witty independent and a social gal who always lived her life on her own terms. She loved to dance bake and read and had a knack for home decor. She was devoted to her family and leaves behind five children: Thomas Carroll of San Jose, California, (wife Michelle) Christie Hunter of Phoenix, Arizona (husband TJ) Jana Spencer of Orlando, Florida, (husband Brian) Jeremy, Carol, of San Carlos, California (wife Krista) and Jeffrey Carroll of Florida (wife Jenna). She is survived by 11 grandchildren, there will be a mass in her name at the Catholic Church in Fairbank on Sunday, September 1. Afterwards the family will proceeded to the IC cemetery. Mary Lou's children would like to thank all of her Fairbank friends for making her life so rich. She loved you all very much. .

Deadline for May 2024 publication is April 22.
Please contact Melaine Buzynski at 319-404-7116
Or email fairbankislander@gmail.com

Celebration of Life Mary Lou Fink

September 30, 1936 - March 21, 2024

Mary Lou Fink age 87 of Fairbank passed away Thursday, March 21, 2024 at Harmony Nursing Home in Waterloo. She was born September 30, 1936 in Cresco, Iowa the daughter of Lawrence and Mary (Ferrie) Joerger. Mary Lou attended and graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in Fairbank. On September 17, 1955 she married Darwin Fink at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Fairbank. Mary Lou and Darwin made their home and raised their children in Fairbank. Besides being a homemaker Mary Lou was a bookkeeper for several businesses during her working career, including the family business, D & D Texaco and for the City of Fairbank. Mary Lou was a lifetime member of the Immaculate



Conception Church where she was also was a member of the choir. She was also a longtime member of the American Legion Auxillary. Mary Lou enjoyed crocheting, playing Solitaire on the ipad and had a love for owls and enjoyed collecting anything that had to do with owls. Most of all Mary Lou enjoyed spending time with her family. She is survived by her two children; Kathy (Dave) Byron and Denny (Rachelle) Fink, six grandchildren; Gary (Catelyn) Feldmann, Quincy (Courtney) Sproston, Jessica Feldmann, Nicole Fink, Mitchell (Nikki) Mastin and Mason

(Haley) Mastin, six great-grandchildren, one brother, Charlie (Cleo) Joerger, two sisters; Patty Bentley and Betty Sturm along with many nieces and nephews. Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one son, Douglas in infancy, two brothers-in-law; Gordon Bentley and Bill Sturm.

Visitation: 5:00-7:00 PM Tuesday, March 26th at Woods Funeral Home, Fairbank.

Mass of Christian Burial: 10:30 AM Wednesday, March 27th at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Fairbank.

Interment: Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

Lunch was served at the Parish Center following the service.

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

City of Fairbank Christmas lights for sale

The Christmas Lights that the City has used in the past are available to purchase. \$100.00 per decoration. Please contact City Hall at 319-635-2869 if you are interested to set up a time with public works. Candles, Trees, and Santas available. First come first serve

Dunkerton Methodist Church's Spring event

The Dunkerton Methodist Church's Spring Event will be held April 6, 2024 starting at 2:00 PM. This year's speaker will be Deborah Hackman who will be telling us about raising Monarch Butterflies. After Deborah speaks there will be time for questions and answers, and anyone else is welcome to share personal stories. Snacks will be provided after the event. We will be collecting a free will offering to go toward helping with the upkeep of the City of Dunkerton's Butterfly Gardens. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you!

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Tapping for Nature's Sweet Treat

BY BETTY BRANDT PASSICK

bbpassick@comcast.net

"The winter of 2023-24 has been unusually warm, says Ronald Hutschenreuter, "so I was able to start to tap the trees for syrup by the first week of February. Usually, the best time is late March, when nights still fall below freezing and the days get above freezing. That's when the sap begins to flow."

This year he was working on the last batch of homemade maple syrup by the end of February.

"My brother Randy bought a traditional wood-fired syrup cooker 10-12 years ago that he found at a garage sale in Vinton. Knowing my dad Ronald and I like to get involved in all kinds of odd activities, he decided to buy it."

The first year was devoted to doing research on the equipment needed to collect, store, and cook the sap.

The tapping process entails drilling a two-inch deep hole into the tree using a drill bit compatible with the spile, typically a 7/16 inch bit, about four feet from the ground. The south-facing side of the tree where the sun hits is the best place to drill. It's a good thing not to drill near the previous year's hole for the health of the tree, though largely holes almost completely heal by the next season. Sap flowing down the exterior of the tree means it's the right time to sapple. Finally, hammering a metal spile into the hole channels the sap to drip into a collection container. Ron uses a 2 gallon Ziploc bag that he hooks to the spile. Sap flows for roughly 4-6 weeks, with the earliest sap having the highest sugar content.

Maple trees aren't the only trees that can be sapped. Sycamore, birch, hickories, and walnut each produce their own variety of sugary water and sap. Black birch has a rich flavor similar to wintergreen. Walnut trees have a small amount of iodine in the nuts and in their sap, which also



bears a slight bitterness that is briny, almost fishy from the iodine. It's best to skip sapping walnut trees, especially if allergic to walnuts and other tree nuts. Younger trees produce more sap.

The first year Ron tapped the maple trees in his yard. Maples are easy to identify by the smooth medium-gray bark on the tree. On average, a single maple tree will produce enough sap to make a quart of maple syrup.

Several times a week, the sap must be collected from the bags and poured into a sterile container. Collected sap should be treated like milk: keeping it cold and clean, and doing something with it sooner rather than later is crucial. If the sap turns cloudy and smells sour, it has become a breeding ground for bacteria and should be discarded.

"Initially, it took us about three weeks of collecting and freezing sap before we finally hit our target of 60 gallons of sap, enough to startup the big outdoor cooker."

The cooker holds about 100 gallons of sap, with an additional 20-gallon warmer to keep from 'killing the boil'. Pouring cold sap into boiling sap kills the boil and slows down evaporation, so pre-heating the sap is optimal. Ideally, the sap is brought to a boil and kept at a boiling stage until it visibly thickens, stirring frequently as the sugar tends to settle at the bottom and will scorch and burn – when all all



the hours spent tapping, collecting, and boiling potentially could be lost. Overcooking the sap will result in crystallization into a solid mass upon cooling.

It takes about 20 hours of cooking to get the sap to syrup stage. The reason for using an outdoor cooker is because boiling indoors for that length of time means every surface will soon be covered with condensed water, a sure recipe for mold.

Depending on sugar content, 60-80 gallons of sap will make one gallon of syrup.

Ron soon expanded the collection area to neighbor's trees and now he collects for as long as possible, depending on the weather and the cooperation of the trees.

"It's a fun little early spring-time hobby that brings us Hutschenreuter men together...and ends with a sweet treat from nature. Each season we each retain several jars of maple syrup and the rest is given away to other family members and friends."

Ron and his family have lived in the Fairbank area since 1984, and in the town since 2008. He enjoys helping out with his kids' sporting activities and coaching archery. Ron and Randy also have been doing the fireworks for Fairbank Island days the past fifteen years.

CITY OF FAIRBANK REMINDERS

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 are scheduled for Saturday May 4th, 2024. 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Sign up at the library in order to be included on the map. Cost is \$10.00 to cover maps, posters, and advertising. Sponsored by the Fairbank Community Club.

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP DAY

Scheduled for Monday, May 6th, 2024. Please stop at City Hall if you are needing an appliance tag. All appliance tags need to be purchased by 5pm on Friday, May 3, 2024.

FLOWERS ON MAIN

Please call City Hall if you are interested in sponsoring flowers on Main Street this year. \$50 per basket. Thank you!

TREE DONATIONS

The City of Fairbank is continuing to replace trees that were destroyed from the storm of August 2021. If you are interested in donating a tree for one of the parks, please contact City Hall at 319-635-2869 for more information.

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 information.

GARBAGE & RECYCLING PICK-UP REMINDER

Cans need to be at the curb on or before 7am in order for trash and recycling to be picked up. Containers need to be 4 feet away from any other object including each other. Yard waste cannot be mixed with trash. Drive routes may change week to week due weather.

Coaches need for swim team

We are looking to add dedicated and enthusiastic adult and junior coaches to our team. If you are interested in the opportunity to inspire and mentor swim athletes from ages 6-18 of various skill levels, please contact us!

Our coaches: work with swimmers during practices to fine-tune basics and techniques of competitive swimming. Contribute towards creating and maintaining a

positive and inclusive team environment. Foster a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Certification via USA Swimming is required. Practices historically have been held in the mornings at Fairbank and evenings at Oelwein.

Candidates may contact us via Facebook messenger or emailing Oelwein. Fairbank.Sharks@gmail.com

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Fairbank sets special election for council seat

CONTINUED FROM A1

the same polling place.”

Fairbank incorporated areas in Buchanan County vote at the Fairbank American Legion Hall, 109 Main St. E.

Both counties will charge to operate the poll, Moellers said, listing setup costs and paying workers from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. There are also ballots to print and legal notices to run.

Filing forms are available at Fairbank City Hall, 116 Main St. E., 319-635-2869, the Buchanan County Auditor/ Elections Commissioner, 210 Fifth Ave. NE, Independence, 319-334-4109, as they are the control county, and on the Iowa Secretary of State website.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Tom Hyde

I hope this finds you enjoying these early days of spring in Iowa. Thank you for taking a few minutes to learn a bit more about me and my desire to support our great town of Fairbank. This winter when Matt Coffin resigned from the Fairbank City Council, I saw this as an opportunity to give back to our community. As a long-standing citizen of Fairbank, I believe I can help continue the important work of growing our town.

I moved to Fairbank in 1997 after my wife Annette and I were married and wanted to raise our future family in a small town. We chose Fairbank because it provided access to many local businesses as well as a great location close to work for both of us. This choice has proven to be very wise as we raised our three children. Gavin, Benton

and Ashlyn are all graduates of Wapsie Valley High School and are succeeding in their college careers. I am also the owner and operator of Gavin Marine, a boat repair and trailer sales company on the edge of town in the Fairbank Industrial Park.

This city council opening came at the right time for me. Our kids are all living on their own and I finally have some extra time to give back. Building and running Gavin Marine while raising our family did not give me much extra time. I recognize the need for community involvement, especially in a small town, and believe my knowledge and skills are best used on our city council. I believe my experiences running a business as well as raising a family provide me with a solid understanding of the council's importance. I have had to make diffi-



TOM HYDE
CANDIDATE FOR
FAIRBANK CITY COUNCIL

cult decisions, work with concerned customers, and constantly look for ways to be more efficient and effective - these are all skills that will benefit our community.

This special election on April 23 will allow the citizens of Fairbank to make a choice about leadership in our community. I encourage you to vote for me - I will do my very best to listen, learn and support sound decisions that ensure Fairbank continues to grow and thrive.

Respectfully submitted - Tom Hyde, Candidate for Fairbank City Council

Michael Gruetzmacher

My name is Michael Gruetzmacher. I grew up five miles north of Fairbank, I've always considered it my home, even during the two year period I lived in Dunkerton where I met my wife Christy and her son Ayden. We moved back to town three years ago and have since added another son, Legend, to our family.

My passion runs deep for our community and the youth, as they are our future! For the past three years, I've proudly held the title of youth rec/little league coordinator. Within this role, I have worked diligently to improve our batting cage by adding turf and hanging a new net. The next goal I'm currently amidst is the fundraising project to resurface both diamonds and add scoreboards. These advancements amongst future improvements will provide the opportunity for our youth to utilize top of the line facilities. While proudly serving our youth to the best of my abilities, I currently hold office as one of the Board of directors for the Little Island Day Care and I am a member of the Community Club.

I have a great desire to see our community grow. I believe it is important to focus greatly on maintaining our current infrastructure; all while capitalizing on what we currently have in our community to increase the sustainability of our economic growth by attracting new families to our community. I have decided to run for City Council as an opportunity to personally aid in the continued betterment of our community that many other community members and elected officials have worked so hard for! Thank you all for your continued support through all of my endeavors and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve our community as a dedicated Council Member! Respectfully submitted by Michael Gruetzmacher, Candidate for Fairbank City Council.



MICHAEL GRUETZMACHER
CANDIDATE FOR
FAIRBANK CITY COUNCIL

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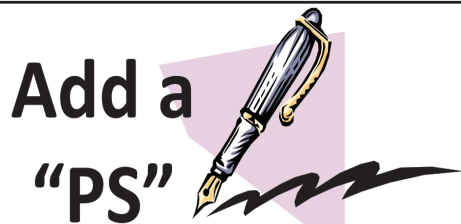
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Fairbank Days Antique Tractor Show

On Saturday, June 22, 2024. Registration from 10-Noon, East of the IC Church in the parking lot. Awards at 2 p.m. Contact Bill Dixon at 563-920-0772



Deadline for May 2024 publication is April 22.

Please contact
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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 26, 2024. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, and Erickson. Absent: T. Woods. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council continued to review the proposed budget numbers for FY2025 and information regarding setting the property tax rate. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Erickson, second by Williams to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings.

Erickson/Williams to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: February 12, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, Setting the date for the next budget meeting for March 11th at 5:30 pm, and Approval of Resolution 2024-03 – Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing Concerning a Tax Statement Showing the Proposed Tax Levies for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. Motion carried. The public hearing for the proposed tax levies for FY25 was set for Monday April 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm at City Hall in Fairbank. Ayes: Three. Nays: None.

There were no public comments.

Samples of the changes discussed at the previous meeting to the Code of Ordinances will be presented at the next meeting.

The possible new Parks and Rec position was dis-

cussed and was felt to not be feasible right now. Erickson/R. Woods to table until the first meeting in September. Motion carried.

The city received one mowing bid for the mowing of the city parks. It was from Randy's Lawn Care, and it was submitted as a multiple year bid including the next three years. The bid listed \$625.00 per mowing but also included a total for each season for the next three years of \$17,500.00 each. The council wanted to verify that season total to make sure it wasn't a set total amount that needed to be paid for the season because sometimes due to droughts and other situations that arise there might be weeks where mowing is not needed. Randy will be contacted, and it will be on the next agenda for review. R. Woods/Erickson to table until the next meeting after getting some clarification on the bid sheet submitted. Motion carried.

Lisa Kremer was present from the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission to discuss the annual report for 2023. She talked about the newest projects they have been working on for Buchanan County and the report can be viewed at www.growbuchanan.com.

Updates were made to the Buchanan County Housing Needs Assessment for 2023. Lisa Kremer stayed and reviewed the assessment with the council. R. Woods/Williams to approve Resolution 2024-04 – A Resolution of the City Council of Fairbank, IA Adopting the Updated Buchanan County Housing Needs Assessment. Ayes: Three. Nays: None.

The rates charged to the city for grave openings increased for 2024 so the council needed to pass a resolution to approve the new rates in order for the city

to maintain receiving their processing fees. Erickson/Williams to approve Resolution 2024-05 – Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Charges for Grave Openings. Ayes: Three. Nays: None.

The garbage/recycling contract through Black Hawk Waste is up on June 30th of this year. It was decided to start the process of renewing or replacing the contractor by sending out RFP's. R. Woods/ Erickson to send out RFP's requesting quotes on weekly garbage/recycling pick-up, two junk day pick-ups a year, city garbage containers included, and three-year contracts would be welcomed. They will be due by April 1st so that the council can review the information received and a decision could be made well before June 30, 2024. Ayes: Three. Nays: None.

There is a vacancy on the TIF Committee for the City of Fairbank due to Jason Kayser being elected Mayor. The council should consider choices for a replacement. Motion by Erickson, second by Williams to table until the next meeting and in the meantime look for possible replacements. Motion carried.

At the last meeting the council decided to try and fill the vacant council seat by appointment rather than having a special election due to the costs that an election would incur. Ron Miller and Michael Gruetzmacher both submitted letters of interest and they were both present at the meeting. Since T. Woods was absent from the meeting, it was thought that a decision shouldn't be made until the full council was in attendance. Attorney Prendergast stated that if the decision were to be tabled, there would be a possibility that the city could receive more letters of interest. R. Woods/Williams to table the decision until the next meeting on March 11th.

Ayes: Three. Nays: None.

During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Mayor Kayser told the council that he had met with an Aflac representative, and they were inquiring about whether the council would be interested in offering their employees the ability to have extra coverages in some areas. The council agreed to talk with the employees and see if there would even be three interested then they could go from there. He also stated that Kane Kleaning Services were able to clean the carpets at City Hall on Tuesday February 20th. Public Works is also going to start cleaning out the basement at City Hall.

During the department reports, Nick stated that public works had to repair a water service line earlier that day and they were going to get moving on the basement clean out. He also mentioned that he obtained his CDL and that the snake at the pool would need some repair work since it had been damaged due to removing it out of the pool for swim practices incorrectly. Police Chief Drish gave an update on recent police activity. During the recreation department report, Mayor Kayser stated that the IC Youth Group was not interested in doing the concession stand at the ball diamond this year. Micheal Gruetzmacher said that he might have a group in mind for that and he also stated that he had been submitting grants to hopefully get some help putting in a new surface on both ball diamonds.

R. Woods/Erickson to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Motion carried.

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES FROM 3/21/24

The Fairbank City Council met in an emergency meeting at 2:00 pm on Thursday March 21, 2024. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Hyde. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

Present via telephone: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney. Mayor Kayser phoned Attorney Prendergast at 2:00 pm.

Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and Attorney Prendergast participated in the meeting via telephone.

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

Attorney Prendergast advised that the meeting was called per Iowa Code Section 44.8 pursuant to section 362.4 because two objections were received on Wednesday March 20, 2024 regarding a petition for a special election received previously. The objections were submitted regarding a submitted petition requesting a special election be conducted to fill a council seat after that seat was appointed to Tom Hyde by the Fairbank City Council. The emergency meeting was held so the council could pick a panel to review the objections in a hearing before the mayor and that hearing needed to be completed within twenty-four hours per Iowa code. The panel would need to consist of the Mayor and Clerk and one member of the council who would be chosen by the council through a ballot. Shortly before the meeting started, the City Clerk received information regarding the two objectors wanting to withdraw their submitted two objections. Both individuals who filed written objections emailed confirmations that they wished to withdraw their written objections. The City Clerk has retained both withdrawals in the city files. Due to no longer needing a panel member because there were no objections to review, the agenda item was then moot and no longer necessary. T. Woods/Williams to adjourn at 2:05 pm. Motion carried.

At that time, there was also no need for the last agenda item consisting of a meeting by a panel regarding objections to a special election petition received since there were no objections received to review.

Jason Kayser, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

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 March 11, 2024. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, and T. Woods. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council discussed expenses and revenues for FY2025.

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

Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings.

T. Woods/Williams to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: February 26, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, February 2024 Treasurer's Report, No budget workshop was set for the next council meeting, the approval of the liquor license for Outer Banks, and the Payment of Bills. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

Treasurers Report for the Month of February 2024: Revenues - General, \$30,159.26; Special Revenue, \$29,952.91; TIF, \$2,075.26; Capital Projects, \$33.63; Permanent Funds, \$21.36; Proprietary, \$215,172.24; and Transfers In, \$27,055.00. Disbursements - General, \$31,233.87; Special Revenue, \$14,757.40; Proprietary, \$214,282.65; and Transfers Out, \$27,055.00. Balance on hand at close of business on February 29, 2024, was \$5,445,200.41.

Bills for the Month of February 2024
Aero-Mod, Supplies \$ 133.17
Arnold Motor Supply, Supplies \$ 20.23
Black Hawk Waste Disposal, Jan/Feb Pick Up Fees \$ 11,661.36

Bound Tree Medical, LLC., Supplies \$ 2,231.14
Alejandro Lopez Carrasco, Utility Deposit Refund \$ 200.00
Butler County REC, Electric \$ 48,547.56
Casey's General Store, Gas \$ 768.39
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas \$ 6,495.76
Clayton Energy Corporation, Natural Gas \$ 16,106.73
Clayton Energy Corporation, Reservation \$ 12,494.54
Danko Emergency Equipment, Supplies \$ 330.00
Ben Delagardelle, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00
Brian Delagardelle, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00
Display Sales, Christmas Decor \$ 3,845.80
Fairbank Postmaster, Utility Bills March 24 \$ 380.10
Farm Win Co-Op, Supplies \$ 47.00
Brittany Fuller, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00
Robert Gipper, Training Reimbursement \$ 493.64
Gordon Flesch Company Inc., Copier/Printer Fees \$ 114.14
gWorks, Subscription \$ 1,811.00
Hawkeye Alarm & Signal Co., Annual Monitoring \$ 300.00
IA Dept. of Public Health, Pool Registration \$ 70.00
IMFOA, Memberships/Certification \$ 195.00
Iowa Insurance Division, Annual Filing Fee \$ 41.00
Iowa Regional Utilities Assoc., Water Ipers, Benefits \$ 8,196.80
John Deere Financial, Supplies \$ 3.97
Kane Kleaning Services, Services \$ 516.00
Kiesler's Police Supply, Supplies \$ 471.80
Kirkwood Community College, Training \$ 125.00
Nick Kuker, CDL/Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 129.00
Little Wapsie Communications, Static IP Addresses \$ 20.00
Mediacom, SW Plant Phone Line \$ 95.10
Michelle Laube, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00
Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Testing \$ 572.50

Modern Building Products, Supplies \$ 410.81
Jeffrey & Jeana Muir, Utility Balance Refund \$ 29.18
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 2/1/24 \$ 10.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 2/15/24 \$ 8.33
NE Security Bank, Non-Sufficient Check Fee \$ 4.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 3/1/24 \$ 10.00
NE Security Bank, Utility ACH Service Charge \$ 10.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Contributions \$ 625.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Payroll Deductions \$ 100.00
Oelwein Publishing, Publications \$ 293.12
Plumb Supply Company, Supplies \$ 121.76
Quick Med Claims, Ambulance Billing \$ 490.63
Region 1 AWWA, Training \$ 90.00
Roberts, Stevens, Prendergast, Attorney Fees \$ 825.00
Sam's Club MC/SYNCB, Supplies \$ 25.76
Signs & More LLC, Supplies \$ 240.16
Sun Life Assurance Comp, Life Policies \$ 82.70
Treasurer State of Iowa, Feb 24 WT Excise Tax \$ 1,215.96
Treasurer-State Of Iowa, Feb 24 Sales Tax \$ 3,998.80
True North, Premium Renewal \$ 465.50
U. S. Treasury, 941 Taxes \$ 7,745.92
U.S. Bank, PEFA Gas \$ 15,671.28
Van Meter Inc., Supplies \$ 1,526.91
Verizon Wireless, Cell Phones \$ 178.04
Visa, Supplies/Avaya Phone System/Microsoft Emails/Training \$ 1,275.03
Wellmark, March Premium \$ 3,979.56
Roxanne Wenner, Services \$ 120.00
Windstream Enterprise, GS Alarm Phone Line \$ 68.03
The Library Board Approved the Following Bills on March 6, 2024:
Amazon Capital Services, Supplies \$ 195.93
Baker & Taylor Inc., Books \$ 963.24
Gordon Flesch Company Inc., Copier/Printer Fees \$ 30.10
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 2/15/24 \$ 1.67
Overdrive, Inc., eBooks \$ 500.00
Visa, Training/Avaya Phone System/Microsoft Email \$ 73.17
Roxanne Wenner, Services \$ 320.00
There were no public comments.

The Code of Ordinance updates were discussed. Final drafts were not presented and there will need to be more discussions on setting rates without using a percentage at future meetings.

Erickson/R. Woods to approve the mowing bid received from Randy's Lawn Care & Snow Removal, LLC. It was the only bid received for the mowing of the city parks. The bid included the seasons of 2024, 2025, and 2026 at \$625.00 per mowing. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

There were no interested parties for the vacancy on the TIF Committee for the City of Fairbank. Also, a letter was received from Russ Myers. He thanked all of the previous councils, current council, mayors, and the citizens of Fairbank for all of the support he received during his roles on the TIF Committee and on the Zoning Commission. Since he moved away from Fairbank, he is stepping down from the roles on those two committees. Due to that another vacancy is available for the TIF Committee and there is also a vacancy on the Zoning Commission. Anyone interested should contact the council so replacements can be made at a future meeting.

Mayor Kayser explained that since the last meeting and the tabling of an appointment to the vacancy on the city council, they had received a second letter from Ron Miller requesting his name be removed from consideration for the vacant council seat. Also, another letter was received from Tom Hyde stating his interests in being appointed and Drake Mangrich verbally told Mayor Kayser that he would

be interested as well. Given that information, Mayor Kayser suggested that he would entertain a motion to appoint a candidate at that time. Motion by Erickson to appoint Micheal Gruetzmacher to fill the vacancy on the council. The motion failed for lack of a second. Motion by T. Woods to appoint Tom Hyde to fill the vacancy on the council. Second by Williams. Resolution 2024-06 – Resolution Making an Appointment to Fill Council Vacancy was completed with the appointment of Tom Hyde to fill the vacancy of Council on the Fairbank City Council with a term ending December 31, 2025. Ayes: Three. Nays: Erickson.

Adam Kerns, the city's current insurance agent, was present to discuss the renewal information on the city property insurance which is up for renewal on April 1st. He only retrieved one quote for the city through ICAP because the council was interested in receiving a quote from EMC through Van Daele Insurance after being approached by them. He stated that the renewal through ICAP had an increase from \$59,941.00 to \$77,032.00. The increase was due to many changes in the insurance processes, and he explained that everyone is seeing significant increases. The council hopes to see more quotes come in from Van Daele Insurance and will have to decide at the next meeting.

So far there have been no interested parties in running the ball diamond concession stand.

An Electric Reliability Plan is required to be reviewed and passed annually. The plan passed last year was reviewed and updated. T. Woods/Williams to approve Resolution 2024-07 – Resolution Adopting Electric Reliability Plan of the City of Fairbank Municipal Electric Utility. Ayes: Four. Nays: None. This plan will be filed with IUB by April 1st.

During council concerns and the mayor's report, R. Woods asked Brian if he could look into some information about an intake along Grove Street and Second Street regarding placement and elevation. Councilman Williams asked if Brian had been notified of a starting date yet for the Main Street Project. Brian stated that the project was starting up on March 25th pending weather. Signs will be going up soon to prepare people that will be traveling through town about the upcoming detours. Mayor Kayser stated that the easements were finished up for the sidewalk project along Fourth Street and that Attorney Prendergast was working on drafting the agreements for the property owners. He also said he was going to investigate any grant opportunities for lighting along that new sidewalk.

During the department reports, Brian said that more of the Christmas decorations were delivered that day and Nick said that the basement had been cleaned out. Michael Gruetzmacher talked to the council about the research he had done for the new surfacing at ball diamonds. One quote he received was for just under \$42,000.00. He said he was going to apply for a grant through Buchanan County.

Chief Drish thanked the council for the opportunity to serve the community and for the write-up in the Islander. He said they had worked on purging records and evidence, the rear end recall work was done on the squad car, talked about what the department had been up to the last few weeks, and stated that he will be getting his firearm training done in April and will work on re-certification for the officers of Fairbank.

Erickson/R. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wapsie Valley CSD

Public Hearing & Regular School Board Meeting
March 18, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Vice President Sauerbrei called the Public Hearing on the 24-25 School Calendar to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll call-Auel-Aye, Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Sauerbrei-Aye-Wolfe (excused) Motion carried 4-0
A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Kaufman, & Sauerbrei, Wolfe (excused)

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

C. Others: Jennifer & Vaughn Gross, Kip Ladage, Logan Rochette, Kennedy Kane, Natalie Gray, Danica Aiello, and virtual attendees

2. Hoover presented the 24-25 School Calendar

3. No public comment on the 24-25 School Calendar

4. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 6:32 PM - Roll Call

Auel-Aye, Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Sauerbrei-Aye Motion carried 4-0

1. Vice President Sauerbrei called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:37 PM.

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

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

C. Others: Jennifer & Vaughn Gross, Kip Ladage, Logan Rochette, Kennedy, Natalie, & Danica Aiello, and virtual attendees

2. Communication & Consideration of additional items for the Agenda: Amended agenda to strike Spotlight on Education and add approval of 24-25 School Calendar under New Business E.

3. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the amended agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

4. Public Comment: Kip Ladage from Bremer County Emergency Management Department discussed the use of WV JH/HS building to host a tabletop exercise. Board members agreed to have the exercise take place at WV JH/HS building. Kip thanked the staff, students, administration at WV. WV leads the pack in school safety.

5. The Prom Committee presented information on having a king/queen royalty for prom. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve queen/king royalty for Prom as presented. Motion carried 4-0

6. Spotlight in Education

7. Consent Items: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Brent Sauerbrei with informational open enrollments IN for 23-24 school year: Megan Bantz request to open enroll her 10th grade son to WV after a move to Denver-OUT - Patrick Lansing request to general transfer his

11th grade son to Don Bosco effective immediately, Melissa Sander request to open enroll her 10th grade son to CAM CSD school district effective immediately, Heather Holt request to open enroll her 10th grade daughter to Oelwein (O2) effective immediately, &

Alexieva Speer request to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to Dunkerton effective the 24-25 school year. Motion carried 4-0

8. Communication & Reports:

Board: None.

Superintendent: Mr. Hoover's report included Preliminary PK/TK/K numbers for 24-25 school year, HS Library school mural, facilities work, Bound ticketing, Hoover's 23-24 goals, legislative updates, & our son will be getting married March 30, 2024.

District: Report includes professional development updates PK-12 Principals: Report includes student led conferences, professional development, PTO family fun night, clothing night, elementary students attending the Addams Family musical, NICL academic conference, professional development, blood drive, spring activities, POPS concert, & FFA district contests.

9. Personnel Actions- Resignations: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the resignation of Abigail Fyfe 7-12 Vocal Music Teacher, Crystal Shedenhelm-Readlyn Elementary Teacher-Certified Early Retirement package, Vivian Wenger-Rural Paraprofessional-Classified Early Retirement package- all effective at the end of the school year and thank them for their service to Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 4-0

Contracts: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve contracts for Clint Munk-5 Co-Head Golf Coach-Base 1/Year 0-\$1,504, & Emily Ross-Spanish Teacher BA/3-\$40,863 (Contract) + \$5,070 = \$45,933 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

10. New Business-Arndt presented the FY25 preliminary budget, FY25 budget guarantee and FY24 budget amendment

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to publish the proposed budget with a tax rate of 14.97272 & set the public hearing date for the FY25 budget, FY24 budget amendment for April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve WV/CLS 24-25 PK Agreement as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve 24-25 AEA Purchasing Agreement as presented. Motion carried 4-0

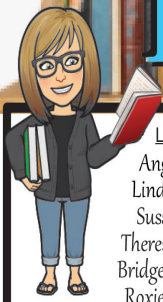
Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve 22-23 audit as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the 24-25 School Calendar as presented. Motion carried 4-0

11. Board Talking Points - Vaughn Gross inquired about Career & Technical Student Organization Sponsors getting paid a salary from Schedule B. Also, Jesup is talking with the state to see if it is possible to share with WV for CTSO-Family Consumer Science school based enterprise.

12. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 7:37 PM Motion carried 4-0

Fairbank Public Library



LIBRARY STAFF

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

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

Like us on Facebook!

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



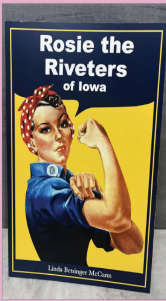
STORY HOUR

Wednesday Mornings starting at 10:00 a.m. on the following dates!

April 3rd May 8th
April 10th May 15th
April 17th May 22nd
April 24th May 29th



Join us for author **Linda McCann**
Thursday, April 4th at 5PM
Linda Betsinger McCann – author of non-fiction Iowa history; including *Prisoners of War in Iowa*; *Prohibition in Iowa*; several books about the Civilian Conservation Corps in different areas of Iowa; and *The Vanished Towns of the Cedar Valley* series.



In Loving Memory

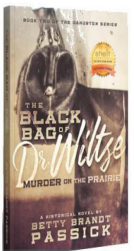
Beverly Ann Hill
Finding Sophie
... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia & Weston Costello
Michael "Luke" Rochette
Never Too Late
... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia & Weston Costello
Glenda Kaufman
The School Run
... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia & Weston Costello
Leona Ann Kleitsch
Rolls the Dice
... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia & Weston Costello
A Wild and Heavenly Place
..... from Randy, Jodi and Carson Woods
The Wishing Bridge
..... from Rick & Cindy Woods
Thank You



Mother's Day 2024 "The Life of Mrs. Dr. Alexander Wiltse"



Presented by
Fairbank Native &
Award-winning Author
Betty Brandt Passick



Fairbank Public Library
Monday, May 6 ~ 2 pm
Rsvns: 319-635-2487
(refreshments follow program)

Dress in pioneer-era costume, bring a family heirloom or artifact to showcase!

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will be taking a break and will resume in the Fall. If you would like to join Book Club, please contact the library so we can get you on the Book Club List (319)635-2487 or library@fairbank-ia.org

Coloring Contest!

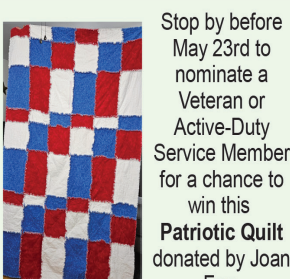
Winners will be announced in May Islander!



Saturday, April 20th
At 10am
Tammy Erickson will be doing a
"Mommy & Me Class"
\$10 per person
Please contact the library to sign up!

Spring Book Sale

Free will Donation! Gently used books now being accepted before sale. Sale Starts Wednesday, April 24th at 1pm and will run through Fairbank City Wide Garage Sales on Saturday, May 4th! There will be NO STORY HOUR on Wednesday, May 1st.



Stop by before May 23rd to nominate a Veteran or Active-Duty Service Member for a chance to win this Patriotic Quilt donated by Joan Fox.

Winner along with who nominated them will be announced on Friday, May 24th.



Easter Masterpiece!
Story Time!



Searching for the Perfect Book!
St. Patrick's Day Craft



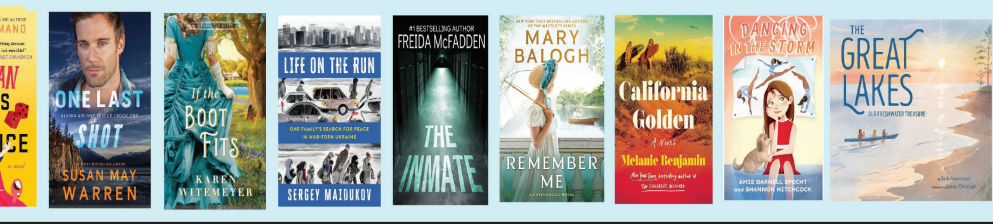
Stop by anytime and grab some Solar Eclipse Shades provided by the Fairbank Library and POET.

NINE SQUARE FEET
Thank you to those who participated in our Seed Swap! We had over 30 people participate!



Meet Libby.
The one-stop reading app from your library.

New Books Added In March!



WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL CORNER

AEA Bill, School Funding, Teacher Pay Yesterday, the Senate concurred with the House Amendment on HF 2612 AEA Reform, School Funding/SSA, and Teacher Pay. There is still a little process to be completed. The bill will be signed by the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and sent to Governor Reynolds for her signature. The AEA provisions are complicated and will be implemented with various effective dates. If you want to know more immediately you can check out the fiscal note written by Legislative Services Agency staff found here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1448318.pdf>. More explanation will be necessary to completely understand everything. Stay tuned for more information. SSA was included and is an increase of 2.5% of the state cost per pupil. This is an increase of \$191 per pupil, bringing the state cost per pupil up to \$7,826. The 2.5% also applies to categorical funds, supplementary weightings, AEA per pupil amounts and Education Savings Accounts. Regarding teacher pay, the Department of Management will determine up to 10 tiers and set Teacher Salary Supplement amounts to meet the new minimum teacher pay beginning July 1, 2024 (\$47,500 for beginning teachers up to 12 years and \$60,000 for teachers with 12 years or more experience teaching). DOM will make an additional calculation next year for the minimums effective July 1, 2025 (\$50,000 for beginning teachers up to 12 years and \$62,000 for teachers with 12 years or more experience). If you have questions about this new legislation please let me know and I will try to answer your questions the best I can.



CHRIS HOOVER
SUPERINTENDENT

School Property Taxes All Wapsie Valley School District property owners should have received their tax statement in the mail. The two important parts on the statement are the current tax rate and the proposed tax rate. Please understand that the district has published a worse case scenario due to the fact that the Iowa Legislature did not have SSA-State Supplemental Aid set, as required by law, by the time we were required to publish our proposed budget. Therefore, you can expect the proposed tax rate to be lower than what is on your statement due to the above reason. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Spring Break The Warriors will be on spring break from Thursday, March 28, until Wednesday, April 3. School will resume on Thursday, April 4. Take care and Go Warriors!

B & K AUTOMOTIVE

Complete Auto Repair

(319) 635-2058

101 6th Street
P.O. Box 252
Fairbank, IA 50629



Serving the Community for 26+ Years!

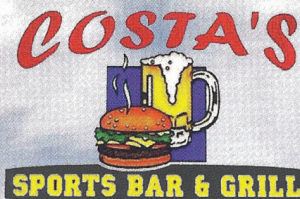


DR. NATHAN STEINBRONN, DC

FAIRBANK CHIROPRACTIC

101 South 4th Street
Suite C
Fairbank, IA 50629
319-849-5155
Steinbrondc@gmail.com

CREATE YOUR BETTER TOMORROW



Beni Rushiti
Nita Nuhiji

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Fairbank, Iowa 50629

Sumner Community Theater presents a production for the generations: **CLUE: ON STAGE**



COURTESY PHOTO

Back Row Left to Right: Christopher Tibbott (Director/Mr. Green), Mike Kasemeier (Colonel Mustard), Josh Wennes (Professor Plum), Ezekiel Boehmler (Mr. Boddy), Kourtney Platt (Cook), Anna DeSloover (The Cop). Front Row Left to Right: Laurie Stauffer (Co-Director), Nancy Libke (Mrs. White), Pastor Ann Donat (Mrs. Peacock), Deb Fedeler (Wadsworth), Norma Leach (Miss Scarlet), Hannah Schultz (Yvette). Not Pictured: Sabrina Baker (The Motorist)

Under the direction of Christopher Tibbott and Laurie Stauffer, the Sumner Community Theater brings to life a classic family board game with the production of CLUE: On Stage.

This production is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat and asking the questions, "Who did it, where, and with what?" CLUE: On Stage is based on the 1985 film and brings to life the recognizable characters Wadsworth, Colonel Mustard, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Miss Scarlet, Professor Plum, and Yvette, amongst others. Make sure to watch closely as the lively Boddy

Mansion will transform right in front of your eyes and reveal secrets you didn't see before.

Please join us at the Sumner-Fredericksburg High School on April 5th and 6th at 7:30pm or at a matinee to follow on April 7th at 2:30pm. Doors will open approximately 45 minutes prior to the start of the production and tickets may be purchased there. Tickets may also be purchased prior at J&C Grocers or Northeast Security Bank in Sumner or at Westy's in Fredericksburg.

For questions please contact Sara at 319-415-6348.

ALL WRONG, ALRIGHT



COLUMN BY
JD FRANCIS

I really don't consider myself a pessimistic person by any stretch but I do tend to over-evaluate the negative in any given situation.

I've had enough negative things happen in my life that it just comes naturally, I guess. Where I'm concerned, thinking the worst always seems to fit the best. I make this claim in general terms, my negative analyzing isn't always 100% proof positive. I do have in my possession, that one case in point where it all went wrong and I was way off the rails in my consideration of the worst possible scenario.

It was a beautiful, summer Sunday afternoon and I was walking down the colorful, exposed aggregate sidewalk in the local park. I could hear the neighborhood kids laughing while playing softball on the ball diamond just ahead. My "slate" was clean and I had nothing but time on my hands. I didn't have anything better to do at the time, so I thought I would check out our future, professional ball players in action.

The portion of the park where the ball diamond was had a chain link fence sur-

rounding the field. As I walked along the fence, I strummed my fingers across the links, creating rhythmic variations of pleasing musical tones. The tune reminded me of when I was once a kid in the park, when I used to pin cards on the spokes of my bicycle wheels with clothespins. I've never been able to fathom that transition from being a kid to a middle-aged, well, I should say, the old buzzard that I am now.

As I watched the kids playing ball, I noticed up ahead was a youngster sitting against the fence and not playing with the others. I immediately became suspicious, as I knew the student and knew he wasn't quite suited for ball games. He was much heavier than the others and likely wasn't considered to be a good ball player. I was aware that he grew up without a father in the household and he wasn't afforded the typical lifestyle pleasures that most all kids experience.

As I got closer to him, I could see he was just closing his phone and he must have called someone for help. I could see he was crying. The other kids must have been picking on him and wouldn't let him play with them. Though I didn't let it show, I was angry this could happen. Children can be so mean at times and unaware of the lasting hurt that their words and actions can cause.

I approached him on the opposite side of the fence and knelt

down to his level. He wiped his eyes fast and furious as if he wasn't crying, though I could see otherwise. Careful not to embarrass him, I asked why he wasn't playing ball with the others. He said he was but he stopped to make a phone call. I asked him if the kids were all playing nice and treating him all right. He said they were. I was confused and wondering if he was afraid to tell me the truth, that maybe the kids wouldn't allow him to play with them. He was crying for a reason and I figured he was afraid to tell me of any bullying that may have occurred.

I asked him one last question as to why he needed to make a phone call? "I called my mom," he said. "She had a Doctor's appointment today and she just found out that she is cancer free."

He turned and ran back to the game. I stood up and watched as he joined his teammates. They all huddled around him close. Apparently, he told his friends the good news, that his mom was cancer free because they all yelled out and smothered him with close, warm hugs.

I walked away contemplating how that group of youngsters gave me quite an education. After imagining all of those negative things how they were treating that young man, they showed me the bright and shiny reality. Right about then, his world was filled with red balloons and carnival tunes, with his friends there to share in his excitement.

Sumner Community Theatre Presents...

Clue

Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn
Written by Sandy Rustin
Additional Material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price

PERFORMANCES

April 5th: 7:30pm

April 6th: 7:30pm

April 7th: 2:30pm

Performances held at the
Sumner-Fredericksburg High School Auditorium
Tickets: \$15 - adults & \$10 - children

Purchase tickets at local establishments including:
J&C Grocery, Northeast Security Bank-Sumner, Westy's-
Fredericksburg

Text questions to Sara at 319-415-6348



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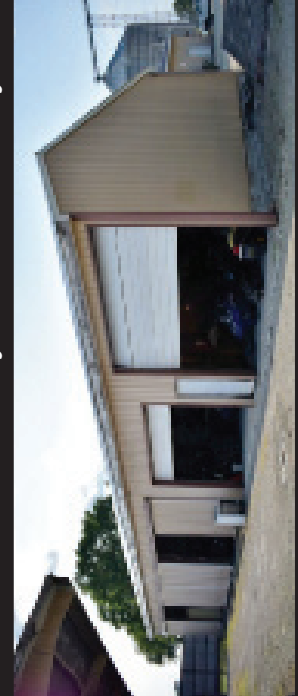
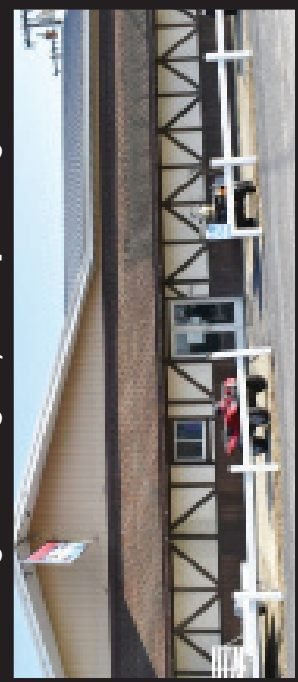
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254 KILLARNEY DR., JESUP

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300 - 4TH AVE SE, OEL

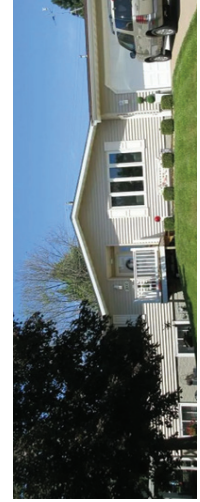
PENDING

37 - 6TH AVE SE, OEL

SOLD

208 - 4TH ST SE, INDE

730 PROSPECT ST, LAMONT
 4 BEDRMS, 2 BATHS, 2 CAR GAR, MAINFLR LAUNDRY, CHARACTER WOODWORK, STAINGLASS WINDOWS, ROOM GALORE, PARK LIKE YARD.



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118 - 7TH ST SW, OEL
 3 BEDRMS, 1.5 BATHS, 2 CAR GAR, 2 LOTS, MAIN FLR LAUNDRY.



210 W MAIN ST, STANLEY
 4 BEDRMS, 1 BATH, LARGE KITCHEN, FENCED YARD, MANY UPDATES.



448 - 3RD AVE SW, OEL 2 LOTS



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