

MAY 1, 2024

Compiled by Fairbank Community Club ~ Designed and Printed by Oelwein Publishing Co. **VOLUME 5, NO. 5**

Congratulations to Fairbank EMS and firefighters on their accomplishments







COURTESY PHOTO

Top: Chief Christ West, Collin Woods, Roger Carr, Lonnie Newhall. Congratulations Collin on firefighter of the year Above: Congratulations to Jenna Beck, our newest EMT on passing her test. Left: Chief Chris West speaking at the dinner.



On April 13th the department celebrated our annual banquet. Each year we get together with active and retired members and their families to celebrate years of service, achievements, and enjoy fellowship.

This year we would like to congratulate the following on their years of service:

Jason Kayser- 30 years Brad Gordon- 20 years Kevin Bodensteiner- 15 years

Nick Curley- 15 years Courtney Rochette- 10 years Tim Zimmerman- 10 years Dick Chapman- 5 years Amy Kaufman- 5 years Alexis Rausch- 5 years Jake Schwartz- 5 years Elaine Zimmerman- 5 years

See FIREMEN, A4

COURTESY PHOTO

Left: Dick Chapman, Elaine Zimmerman, Alexis Rausch, Jake Schwartz, Collin Woods, Chris West, Roger Carr, Lonnie Newhall. Congrats Dick, Elaine, Alexis, and Jake on 5 years with the department.

Wapsie Valley prom royalty crowned



Wapsie Valley Prom King Ian Buzynski and Prom Queen Kallie Franzen were crowned after the grand march on Saturday April 20.

NIDA dancers attend STARZ Dance Competition

OELWEIN: The Northeast Iowa Dance Academy (NIDA) Competition Team attended the STARZ Regional Dance Competition held April 5th through April 7th at The Double Tree Convention Complex in Cedar Rapids, IA. The Northeast Iowa Dance Academy dancers performed a total of 43 routines for the STARZ judges earning 28 Platinum Awards and 15 High Gold Awards.

Established in 1989, STARZ is a family owned and operated dance competition. The mission is to engage, enrich, and encourage a lifelong love of dance in every dancer. The goal is to provide every studio a superior dance competition experience.

The results for the NIDA Competition Team are: In the Solo Category: Preteen Solos 9 – 11 Rising Star Division Hazel Fauser 8th Place in Category Kennedi Benesh 1st Place in Category-6th Place Overall

Mallory Gissel 5th Place in Category **Teen Solos 12-14 Star Division**

<u>A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR</u>



MAYOR JASON KAYSER

Fairbank loves their pets! I mean we REALLY love our pets. While out and about, I have casually taken note of the number of homes that have pets, as well as people who are out walking pets. Although not scientific by any means, I estimate 70% to 80% of homes in town have at least one cat, dog or a combination of both. Personally, our home has a dog and two cats. I can say we are a pet-friendly community and will likely continue to be that way. There are a number of pet waste stations in the parks where bags and disposal containers are available. Please be courteous and use them.

Fairbank also requires owners to license their pets. There was a time when a number of individuals in town were feeding feral cats. This lead to more feral cats, other animals also feeding (squirrels, skunks,





Above left: Kayser pets. Above right: Mayor Harter at Firefighters Ball.

etc.) and diseased animals. This was the driving force behind adopting this ordinance. If an individual is feeding a cat or dog, they are in your possession and should be licensed. This may have curbed some of the "wild" cat issues, but certainly not all. However, licensing pets also has other benefits to the community. Some of them are:

1. Ensuring that ani-mals can be identified, and returned to their owners should they get loose or are running at large

2. Licensing is another means to make sure animals have received their vaccinations.

3. Having reliable data on pets in town can be used to apply for any future grant or other funding opportunities

that support pet initiatives.

Licensing your pets is easy and inexpensive. Information on licensing, and all pet ordinances, can be found on the city web page and in Chapter 55 of the City Code.

Finally, I have been approached by a few citizens expressing interest and desire in developing a dog park. A few years ago, Mayor Harter and I spoke about this at one of our "morning ses-sions", and at that time he also thought it would be a great asset to the community. This is one of my goals, but I can't do it alone. If anyone is interested in researching, spearheading, or serving on a committee to establish a dog park in town, please contact me at mayor@fairbank-ia.org.

VanDaele graduates from University of Iowa

Elsie VanDaele daughter of Chad and Amber VanDaele will graduate from the University of Iowa on May 11. Elsie is receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in entrepreneurial management from the Tippie College of business. She will also receive her bachelor of arts degree and dance from the college of liberal arts and sciences.

Her future plans include moving back to Fairbank where she will continue to run her business, Balanced Nutrition, along with working with Anna Kearns of Northeast Iowa dance Academy in Oelwein. Elsie graduated from Wapsie Valley high school in 2020.









1/4 c. green pepper (chopp 1/4 c. chopped onion 1½ T. brown sugar 1 tsp. yellow mustard 1/2 tsp. caraway seed



In med. bowl, combine green pepper and onion. Stir in brown sugar, mustard, caraway seed and sauerkraut. Mix well. Cut 2 (16") pieces of heavy-duty foil. Stack foil pieces together. Spray top layer with nonstick vegetable spray. Spoon the seasoned sauerkraut in the center of the foil and fold foil into a tent pack. Preheat grill to medium heat. Place brats on the grill above direct heat and set the pack of sauerkraut to the side or back over indirect heat. Close lid and cook for 45 to 20 minutes, turning horts, sourced times during cooking. NOTE: If you profer to use for 15 to 20 minutes, turning brats several times during cooking. NOTE: If you prefer to use your oven, preheat to 375 degrees. Cook the brats inside the foil pack w/ sauerkraut. Set foil pack on a baking sheet and bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until heated through.



Another fun camping treat! Sweet Banana Boat (Makes 1 Serving) 1 firm banana 1 T. miniature chocolate chips 2 T. miniature marshmallows

Peel back 1 long strip of banana peel from the inside of the curve but leave the bottom end attached. With a spoon, scoop out 'some' of the exposed flesh of the banana as if making a boat. Fill opening in banana with chocolate chips and marshmallows, pressing them down lightly. Replace the strip of banana peel. Cut 1 piece of foil large enough to wrap around the stuffed banana. Wrap banana tightly in foil. On pre-heated grill, set foil-wrapped banana over direct heat, close lid and cook for 5-10 minutes or until filling is melted. Carefully unwrap foil, peel back skin and eat dessert with a spoon. Yummmmy!

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



Sponsored by IC Parish Life Committee



NIDA dancers attend STARZ Dance Competition

CONTINUED FROM A

Ellianna Meike Contemporary Category-2nd Place in Category, 3rd Place Overall

Ellianna Meike – Jazz Category- 1st Place in Category Isabella Weig - Jazz Category-2nd Place in Category

Teen Solos 12-14 Rising Star Division

Karlynne Sandhagen - 2nd Place in Category

Teen Solos 12-14 New Star Division

Sara Cook - 1st Place in Category, 1st Place Overall Senior Solos 15-18 Star

Division Elzsie Fauser – Jazz Category-2nd Place in Category

Elzsie Fauser - Contemporary Category-10th Place in Category Mackenzie Christian

Contemporary Category – 1st Place in Category, 1st Place Overall

Aliya Brandt-10th in Category Senior Solos 15-18 Rising **Star Division**

Ariana VanDenHul - 12th in Category

Aryeana Bolender - 15th in Category

In the Duet/Trio Category: Pre-Teen - 9 -11 Rising Star Division



NIDA Competition Dancers

Kennedi Benesh & Scarlett Benesh - 2nd Place in Category, **3rd Place Overall** Teen Duet 12 - 14 Star

Division Ellianna Meike & Isabella Weig

 1st Place Overall Teen Duet 12 - 14 Rising Star

Division

Addison Mustard & Karlynne Sandhagen – 2nd Place in Category

In the Small Group Category: Pre-Teen 9 – 11 Rising Star Division

"BOOGIE SHOES" - 10th Place in Category - Rachel Grover, Maelyn Hickey, Leah Knepper, Rilev

Meike, Grace Peyton, Kendall

Rasmussen, Lydia Youngblut "FLY ME TO THE MOON" -7th Place in Category – Kennedi Benesh, Hazel Fauser, Mallory

Gissel, Harper Slessor, Brynley Tripp

In the Large Group Category: Mini 5-8 Rising Star Division

"SPEED DRIVE" – 2nd Place in Category, 4th Place Overall -Scarlett Benesh, Adelina Castro, Allyson

Fauser, Maebry Henderson, Paizley Irvine, Bella Jacobsen, Hattie

Kelly, Hannah Mahloch, Lauren Matthias, Madi Moser

Pre-Teen 9-11 Rising Star Division

"DEEPEND" - 5th Place Overall - Kennedi Benesh, Sara Cook, Hazel Fauser, Mallory Gissel, Julia

Kuennen, Addison Mustard, Karlynne Sandhagen, Harper Slessor, Parker Spece, Brynley Tripp.

Two NIDA routines placed in the Top 20 of the more than 800 entries performed in Room A at the STARZ Competition.

"DIG" placed 7th - Mackenzie Christian

"THANK GOD I DO" placed 11th - Ellianna Meike & Isabella Weig.

Six of the NIDA dancers were recognized as STARZ STANDOUT DANCERS: Mackenzie Christian. Izsy Fauser, Elzsie Fauser, Aliya Brandt, Ellianna Meike, and Isabella Weig. STARZ Standout Dancers are selected by the judges at each of the regional events and are invited to attend the National event where they work with a professional choreographer on a production routine that opens the last day of the Grand National Groups Competition.

Special Judges Awards were also handed out to the NIDA dancers:

"EMPTY HEART-SHAPED BOX" - Smooth Transitions Award – Izsabella Fauser

"GILDED LILY" - Legs For

Days Award-Julia Kuennen.

"FABULOUS" – Stellar Stage Presence Award-Kennedi Benesh.

TIRED" - Perfect "I'M Partnering Award - Elzsie & Izsabella Fauser.

"DIG" - Best Choreography Award - Mackenzie Christian.

The STARZ event also included an Improv Shootout competition that dancers could choose to compete in. Participants had 60 seconds to improvise a dance to a music selection they had not heard in advance. The judges then selected a number of dancers to improv once more in the final round. The Northeast Iowa Dance Academy was honored to have 2 Improv Winners - Scarlett Benesh (Mini) and Isabella Weig (Teen). Mallory Gissel placed 2nd in the Juniors division and Elzsie Fauser placed 3rd in the Senior division.

Anna Kerns, studio owner/ instructor attributed the success of the competition team to the family members' support and encouragement which allowed all the NIDA dancers to shine every time they took the stage. Anna also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of every dancer and congratulated them on an excellent competition.



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WOOD

Castro, Toula Ehlers, Zola

COURTESY PHOTO

Congratulations to Fairbank EMS and firefighters on their accomplishments

CONTINUED FROM A1

2024 Firefighter of the year: Collin Woods

2024 EMT of the year: Kevin Bodensteiner

The Fairbank Fire and EMS Association would like to thank all who have or are currently serving.

May 19th-25th is National EMT Week. The department would like to thank all of our EMT's and those of the surrounding communities whom we have the privilege to serve with! A special thank you to our crew: Jenna Beck, Kevin Bodensteiner, Dick Chapman, Robert Gipper, Brad Gordon, Kim Gray, Amy Kaufman, Jason Kayser, Bryce Kleitsch, Drake Mangrich, Janice Martins, Ayla Nelson, Alexis Rausch, Courtney Rochette, Ted Vorwald, Chris West, Cindy Woods, Collin Woods, and Elaine Zimmerman. We appreciate you!







Above left: Courtney Rochette, Tim ZImmerman, Chris West, Collin Woods. Congratulations Courtney and Tim on 10 years with the department. Above: Collin Woods, Chris West, Brad Gordon, Roger Carr IFA President, Lonnie Newhall IFA. Congratulations Brad on 20 years with the department. Far Left: Nick Curley, Kevin Bodensteiner, Collin West, Collin Woods. Congratulations Nick and Kevin on 15 years with the department. Left: Chief Christ West, Jason Kayser, Collin Woods, Roger Carr IFA President, Lonnie Newhall IFA 5th VP. Congratulations Jason on 30 years with the department.





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Thank you

The Fairbank Fire and EMS Association would like to thank everyone who was able to enjoy breakfast with us on April 7, 2024. This was the first one we have had in a long time and was a great turn out serving about 280 guests. We could not have done it without the help of our sponsors, thank you.

Adam & Sara Etringer, Casey's General Store- Fairbank, Kleitsch Family Farms, Immaculate Conception Church, Costa's Bar and Grill, Fairbank Food Center, Outer Banks Bar, Martins Family Farms, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Kwik Star- Oelwein, Casey's General Store-Oelwein, Fareway Grocery Stores- Oelwein andModern Building Products.



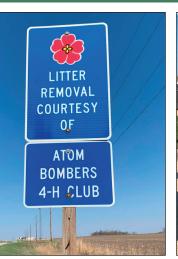
4-H ATOM BOMBERS



The April 4-H meeting was held on April 14th at the IC Hall. A short meeting was held with 12 members present.

Clover kid, Gavin Gross, gave a presentation on his future pet. Brock Kleitch gave a presentation on the all the products that are made from pigs.

After the meeting the members worked on their Community Project which is cleaning of the ditches east of town. Next meeting will be May 5th.

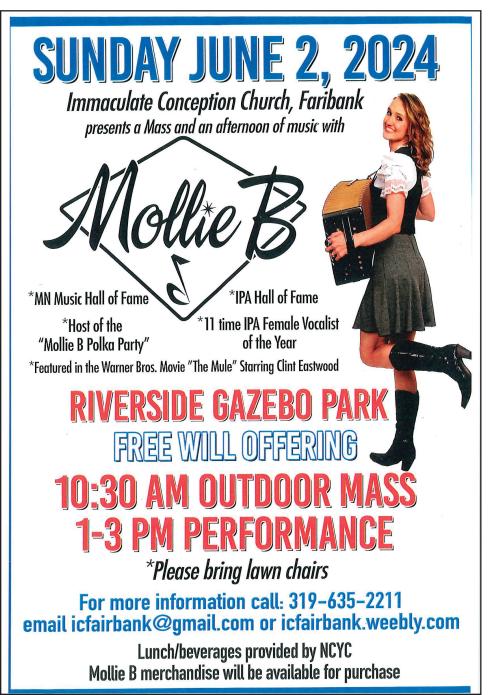












2024 RED CORD RECIPIENTS

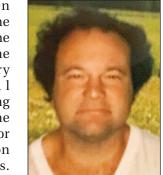


Reagan Barnes Drea Behnke Anna Curley Kallie Franzen Kali Lampe Matilda Miller Brielle Parkes Liza Riordan Kate Risse Lily Schwickerath Ava VanDaele Ella Weepie

Celebration of Jife Dennis Dwayne Ott December 9, 1958 - March 30, 2024

Dennis Dwayne Ott, 65 of Fairbank, entered into rest Saturday, March 30th at home surrounded by family. Dennis was born on December 9th,1958 in Germany to Dwayne and Geraldine (Fisk) Ott. Dennis was raised on the family farm near Fairbank. He attended and graduated from Wapsie Valley Community Schools with the Class of 1977. On March 18th,1989 Dennis was united in marriage to Roxanne Nystrom at St. John's Lutheran Church and together they raised two daughters, Darcy and Amy, on the Ott Century Farm. Dennis was a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Fairbank, a dairy farmer and worked for Oran creamery. Dennis was a hardworking, honest, simple man. He was dedicated to the dairy farm, helping his father since he was a kid, and eventually taking over operations in 2003. He passed on a passion for agriculture and a love for animals, especially his "hairy cows". It

was often joked that he "never left the farm" as he was very p u n c t u a l about getting back in time for milking or checking on the cows. Undoubtedly



though, Dennis's favorite hobby was snowmobiling, even owning multiple snowmobiles at one time. He could hardly wait for winters arrival and hoped for enough snowfall to ride around the farm, the local trails, and the Volga River recreation area. Dennis loved winter, the snow and cold, and was always telling those he was parting with to "think snow". Dennis excelled at every title he was given: son, brother, farmer, husband, father, and grandpa. His four grandchildren were the light of his life, and he would do anything to fill their requests and make them smile.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 35 years, Roxanne Ott, two daughters, Darcy (Christian) Kroemer of Kalona, and Amy Scott of Fairbank, four grandchildren; Charles Scott, Melanie Scott, Bristol Kroemer and Conroy Kroemer and a sister, Donna (Randy) Brown of Mountain Home, Arkansas. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Dwayne and Geraldine Ott, a stepmother Laura Heilmann-Ott, along with numerous aunts and uncles.

Visitation was: Thursday, April 4th at Woods Funeral Home.

Funeral Service was: Thursday, April 4th at Woods Funeral Home.

Interment: Oran Township Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation.



Hi everyone, I hope everyone is having a good start to their spring and had a great Easter! This month I got to help out at the Fireman's Breakfast and it was so good getting to see everyone! Track is underway for me and the weather seems to be getting better for us to be outside. With April wrapping up I only have about 15 days of school left, which is crazy! Hope everyone is doing well and can get outside and enjoy the nice weather!

WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL CORNER



CHRIS HOOVER SUPERINTENDENT

Hello Wapsie Valley,

It is hard to believe that we are into the month of May and school will soon be out for the summer! Congratulations to all of our students who have competed in athletics or extracurriculars this spring. Track and field was always one of my favorite activities and I have enjoyed being able to help out a little bit with some long jumpers this year. I was a varsity track coach at Independence and at Nodaway Valley during our times at those places and I also coached my son from 8th grade until he graduated.

FY 25 Budget

The Wapsie Valley Board of Education has approved the budget for fiscal year 2025. Below is a recap of some of the things sions on as well as the tax rate that the board has set: \$400,000 levied for cash

that the district has made deci-

reserves \$300,000 levied for the management fund

Increase SAVE contribution to

\$275,000 toward debt levy Through retirement, attrition, and reduction 9 positions were

affected for next year. This will equate to a cash savings of \$453,486.

FY 2024 Tax Rate \$13.7063 FY 2025 Tax Rate \$13.7339 Net Change \$0.0276 **Facilities Survey**

Thank you to those who took the time to fill out our facilities survey online. We had approximately 100 responses! The WV board will go through a prioritization exercise in May to set some priorities for the facilities at the JH/HS. Thanks again for taking the time to fill the survey out.

Upcoming Events:

May 12- Commencement 2:00 p.m.

May 24- Last Day of School As always, if you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at choover@wapsievalleyschools.org or call 319-638-6711.

Thank you and Go Warriors! Chris Hoover, Superintendent

Island Days Little Prince/ Princess & King/Queen Competition

Attention boys and girls ages 4-9!

The annual Island Days crowning ceremony for our grade school children is right around the corner! If you are between the ages of four and nine and wish to participate, please fill out the form below and return it back to the Fairbank Library along with a picture of yourself by May 17th. Any questions, please feel free to contact Alexis Rausch 712-301-5067 or Emily Little 563-380-2850. Thank You!

Island Days Little Prince/Princess & King/Queen Competition

Name:

Age & Grade: _____

Siblings/Family members:

Interests/Activities/Sports you are involved in:

WAPSIE VALLEY ARCHERY TEAM

Wapsie Valley Archery is a National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). All coaches are volunteers.





COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Senior archery students with coaches, Leena Fuller, Madyson Richards, Lily Schwickerath, Landon Cummings

Left: Senior Archery Students and coaches, Kali Lampe and Matilda Miller with coaches













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

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Rev. Mike Anderson

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Wapsie Valley Members Recognized at the 96th Iowa FFA State Convention

Wapsie Valley FFA attended the 96th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership Conferences at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa April 14th- 16th. 26 Students, and 3 chaperones were in attendance. Members attending were recognized for various awards and participated in different contests. These awards and events included:

FFA Creed Speaking, State Champion - Zach Boevers

Chapter Display, Silver Rating -Miriam Rulapaugh and Kylie Strottmann

Poultry Evaluation, Silver Rating and 4th Place in the Ready-to-Cook Class - Kaiden Belinsky, Dayton Jergens, Destry Peine, Lane Shores

Marketing Plan, Silver Rating -Kylie Belinsky, Addilyn Fuller, Addisyn McElhose

Farm Business Management, Silver Rating - Madyson Richards, Kylie Strottmann, Jack Munk. Ella Schares

Ag Biotechnology, Silver -Freddie Auel, Jonah Frost, Claire O'Donnell, Mae Wedemeier

Team Ag Sale, Bronze Rating -Eric Bryan, Braden Strottmann,

Noah Richards, Finn Schaefer Middle School Workshop Attendees - Cole Munk, Ryker

Oberle, Ashlyn Strottmann State Officer Candidate and Teach Ag Day Signing Participant -Lily Schwickerath

Iowa Degree Recipients - Dallas Tisue, Braden Strottmann, Gabe Matthias, Dayton Jergens, LeeAnn Oltrogge, Addisyn McElhose

During the state convention, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter was also recognized during the Ambassador Award Program and received a silver rating.



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Iowa FFA 2024 State Creed Speaking Winner, Zachary Boevers. Left: 2024 Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Attendees: Dayton Jergens, Brody Kleitsch, Lane Shores, Braden Strottmann, Noah Richards, Destry Peine, Freddie Auel, Jonah Frost, Eric Bryan, Zach Boevers, Addilyn Fuller, Miriam Rulapaugh, Claire O'Donnell, Ryker Oberle, Lily Schwickerath, Mae Wedemeier, Finn Schaefer, Ella Schares, Jack Munk, Cole Munk, Addisyn McElhose, Kylie Strottmann, Ashlyn Strottmann, Kylie Belinsky, Madyson Richards, Kaiden Belinsky.





Left top: 2024 Teach Ag Day Signing L-R: Dr. Tom Paulsen of Morningside University; Miss Carmen Wille, Wapsie Valley FFA Advisor; Lily Schwickerath; Mr. Carlton Ness, IAAE President. Left bottom: 2024 Wapsie Valley FFA Iowa Degree Recipients L-R: Dallas Tisue, Braden Strottmann, Gabe Matthias, Dayton Jergens, LeeAnn Oltrogge, Addisyn **McElhose**



Warrior girls track and field brings plethora of state experience into the season

BY NICK THOMPSON

sports@waverlynewspapers.com The Wapsie Valley girls track and field team has seen their season end at the state meet for the last few years and they are bringing that experience into the new year.

Head coach Duane Foster is in his ninth season as head coach of the girls team and he feels confident about his upperclassmen.

"The team has a lot of returners who have run down at state," Foster said. "It is a great group pushing each other to be even better. Leadership has been strong."

Isabel LaRue and Ava VanDaele are two seniors on the team that bring in that state experience in the long jump and the 4x800, respectively. Peyton Curley was a member of the 4x100 relay team that took fourth place, the 4x200 team that placed seventh and the sprint medley that took eighth.

LeeAnn Oltrogge and Taylor Buhr also both ran in the 200.

The team will be trying to replace their leaders from last season, Brylee Bellis, Elle Voy, Hannah Knight and Emma Jones.

"I think that the goal will always be to continue to grow throughout the season and be the best team that we can be in May," Foster said.



Front from left: Ava Meyer, Haley Stuber, Avery Jones, Taylor Buhr, Kiley Schmitz, Mae Wedemeier, Austin Frank, Kalle Voy Second from left: Adelynn Wierck, Tessa Brunscheon, Jaylin May, Dakota East, Ava VanDaele, Isabel Larue, Brielle Parkes, Mary Sutherland, Lydia Stuber, Macyn Schultz, Maya Barnes Back from left: Coach Sittig, Maddie Ladeburg, Kylee Moulds, Bailey Murphy, Ella Morarend, Claire O'Donnell, Taylor Schneider, LeeAnn Oltogge, Peyton Curley, Claire Fagerlind, Coach Foster

Wapsie Valley boys track bringing back good portion of state qualifiers







Above left: Brody Kleitsch, Above middle: Reyce Burgart

Above right: Brock Kleitsch, track relay, Left: Krayton

Zimmerman. Below: Senior parents on field at Oelwein

COURTESY PHOTO

BY NICK THOMPSON sports@waverlynewspapers.com

The Wapsie Valley boys track and field team had a number of state qualifiers a year ago and key parts of relay teams and individuals will be returning for the 2024 season.

Aidan Shannon broke out onto the scene last year after taking fifth in the 3200-meter run and seventh in the 1600 and after a third place finish in the 1A state cross country meet last fall, he's looking to improve on his two school records that he set.

Weston Schares, Traeton Sauerbrei, Dallas Tisue and Ian Buzynski were all integral parts of the 4x100, 4x400, 4x800, sprint and distance medley teams that finished inside of the top-20, with the 4x800 team taking home third place, anchored by Shannon.

Newcomers will be looking to replace those that graduated and a good number of freshman will be looking to make their mark on the program.

"We have a number of upper classman going out for the first time or coming back out and our freshman class has the talent to contribute on the varsity level," head coach Justin Davie said.



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JAVIN FAUST



DAYTON **JERGENS**



KALLIE FRANZEN

KIM

KALENSKE



LEENA FULLER

BROCK

KLEITSCH



IAN BUYNSKI

CORINA GRAY



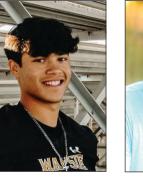


ANNA

CURLEY



TANNER **CURLEY**



JACK



EASTON KRALL

TUCKER LADEBURG



BRODY **KLEITSCH**







MADDISEN **KOLAAS**





KALIYA LAMPE



LEXIE LANSING



ISABEL LARUE



GABRIEL MATTHIAS



MATILDA MILLER



MADISON

MULLIHAN

BRIELLE PARKES



REESE PEINE



DANIEL PLATTE



CAITLYN RECHKEMMER



MADYSON **RICHARDS**



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VERONICA WITTENBURG









Chris Boehme Crop and Farm Speci The Osborne Agency





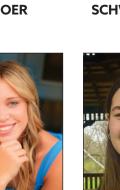
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LILY







DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2024 PUBLICATION IS MAY 27

Please contact Melaine Buzynski at 319–404–7116 Or email fairbankislander@gmail.com Please send us your celebrations. Celebrations are free to submit.



January, March, May, July, September, & November

3rd Wednesday

sponsor an event



erk

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Wapsie Valley FCCLA 2023-2024 organization

The picture is of our chapter, FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for Family and Consumer Sciences Education. This organization is a group of 7th through 12th grade students who focus on community service and leadership skills through Family and Consumer Sciences topics and activities. Adviser for the group is Jenni Gross, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher.

COURTESY PHOTO

Back Row: Claire O'Donnell, Carizma Sander, Jenni Gross (adviser), Landry Kane, Callie Collins, Layla Thompson, Olivia Brockmeyer

Middle Row: Addison Franck, Danika Jergens, Delana Johnston, Mira Schaefer, Arizona Franck, Lexie Fleming, Nora Schares, Jayden Suhr, **Cameron Erickson**

Front Row: Reagan Szurley, Alyssa Stuber



Wapsie Valley Fairbank Elementary celebrates Literacy Week April 22-26

This year's theme was D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read)

DRESS UP DAYS

Monday- Favorite Team Jersey Tuesday-Wear something you can read Wednesday-Favorite Book Character Thursday-Wear your class color Friday- Super Hero Day

Students had several guest readers visit their classrooms throughout the week.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Reading Interventionists, Emily Beecher and Amy Buzynski, hosted a Breakfast with Books where our students and their families were invited to come to school to enjoy a free light breakfast and receive a free book to read together and take home. The meal was sponsored by Kwik Star, Caseys, and Northeast Security Bank. Books and games were donated by our Wapsie Valley Education Foundation. Thank you for your continued support.

Students also had the privilege to participate in their first "Book Tasting" in the Library led by our librarian, Heather Sullivan. During the book tasting students were able to look



Zach Schroeder as the Dog.

through several different types of genres of literature and pick their favorite choice.

Throughout the week, students were asked to Drop Everything And Read. The benefits of reading at least 15 minutes a day extend beyond just academic readiness- they encompass nurturing a love for learning, cultivating essential literacy skills, and fostering a special bond between you and your children.

At the end of the week, students were invited to an assembly where they unveiled the masked readers. Masked Readers were the following: Johnny Kleitsch, Holly Myers, Heidi



as Darth Vader.

> Shannon, Chris Hoover, Tara Sullivan, and Zach Schroeder.

the bunny.

EU

Literacy Week is always fun and packed with exciting activities for our students. The benefits of reading go far beyond literacy. Reading helps children learn vocabulary and grammar, especially with words that they may not normally hear within their household. In addition to language and vocabulary, reading can help children develop empathy. Stories can introduce children to characters whose lives are different from theirs, and help them better understand other people's feelings, cultures, and lifestyles. You might wonder what you





Superintendent Chris Hoover was the scary clown.

Mrs. James dressed up as The along with Grinch along Julian Bate.

can do at home to build literacy

skills at home. Try reading aloud together as a family for a minimum of 15 minutes a day. You can read to your child or have them read to you! Of course carving out a set time for reading each day is easier said than doneif reading at bedtime isn't the best for your family, consider reading at the breakfast table or after school. During literacy week and beyond, is a wonderful chance to let your child not only hear language, but connect with parents and caregivers.



Above: Volunteers serving at Breakfast with Books: Emily Beecher, Kathy Bachman, Tara Sullivan, Caitlyn Rechkemmer, Ella Adamson, Norah Oldfather, Amy Buzynski, Right: 2nd grade students were all on their best behavior for Mrs. Hesse's substitute, Mrs. Swamp. Things are always a lot more quiet when she pays a visit.





Left: Student winners from the Breakfast with Book raf fle were as follows: Gavin Gross, Wyatt West, Aspyn Bickers, Hadley Brown, Mrs. **Beecher**, Liam Rechkemmer, Brielle Shellhorn, Oaklie Cornwell, **Reese Laube**, Dylan Buhman, Holly Myers, Amy Buzynski

COURTESY PHOTO

A14 MAY 1, 2024



30 Years, Pastor of St. John's: Rev. H. J. Heilmann

BY BETTY BRANDT PASSICK bbpassick@comcast.net

The Rev. Henry J. Heilmann was a young man of thirtyfour years when he arrived in Fairbank with his wife and four young children to begin his pastorate at St. John's Lutheran Church on March 16, 1930.

It was an ambiguous time in America. The previous October the U.S. stock market had crashed, and no one yet fully grasped the calamity that had befallen the nation, or of the economic hardships to come.

His arrival in Fairbank happened as the first residents were leaving the area in search of jobs.

Henry Julius Heilmann had heard the call to become a Lutheran pastor early in life, growing up in the home he shared with his parents, Henry C. and Katherine (Dennis) Heilmann, and three siblings in Evansville, Indiana.

By age 14 in 1909, after completing three years of parochial and five years public education, he enrolled at Concordia College in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He graduated in 1912.

It's uncertain to what degree his education may have been delayed after the U.S. declared war on Germany during World War I in 1917, or the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. Eventually, he attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, while also serving St. Peter's Lutheran Church in East Peoria, Illinois.

On June 26, 1919, a few months before graduation, he married Pauline nee Engel.

His first pastorate as an ordained minister in the Missouri Synod was the dual pastorate of St. James and St. John's Lutheran churches in Holland and Woodstock, Minnesota. His ordination occurred at the St. James Church.

Four years later in 1923, Rev. Heilmann accepted a call to serve St. John's Lutheran Church in Marengo, Iowa.

Seven years later, the Heilmann family arrived at St. John's with four children in tow: Paul, Eleanor, Alfred "Fritz," and Robert, ages 10 to 2 years.

As was customary, a small delegation of well-wishers, adults, and children were on hand when Heilmann's car came to a halt outside the parsonage on Fourth Street that March Day, a truck containing all their worldly possessions





closely behind. After a hot meal, parishioners likely remained to help the family unpack and get settled. At some point during the day, several of the adults walked Rev. and Mrs. Heilmann to the school and church next door, as this was probably Pauline's first look at the facilities.

The first German Lutherans had come to Fairbank from Independence about 1854. The Lutheran Society in Fairbank was organized on November 18, 1868, with twenty-seven members, who soon built the first small church building. Construction of a larger church building next door materialized in 1891; the initial structure was repurposed as a Christian day school, "The Little German School," as it became known in the village. In 1924, Mrs. Adoline Steggall from Fairbank became the first teacher to be hired, in addition to the pas-

Pastor Heilmann's responsibilities included preaching and all religious instruction, including confirmation class on Saturdays for the Lutheran children who attended public school. He was fluent in German and English, an Iowa teaching requirement since May 23, 1918, when Gov. William Harding proclaimed a ban on the use of all languages other than English in public conversation, in churches and schools, and in telephone conversations. During WW I, German-speaking immigrants first became viewed as suspicious of being 'pies. Within the year the Sunday Devine service alternated weekly between English and German; also, the Sunday school, taught by a staff of seven, with Herman Hein as superintendent.

Rev. Heilmann officiated at a funeral within his first month, the one-year-old daughter of church members Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Heth. His first wedding, the marriage of Mabel Polege and John Mohlis, happened the following September.

According to a 1930 newspaper article, Fairbank's new Lutheran pastor was quick to jump in and assist with a community project. Charles J. Grantham, a local entrepreneur, was engaged in the design and construction of a cable footbridge to the Island Park—for a decade the only access to the island had been by boat. Grantham acknowledged Rev. Heilmann, along

COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Rev. H. J. Heilmann with children Robert, Paul, Eleanor, Alfred "Fritz," and wife Pauline

Left: Courtesy Doreen (Hein) Wilson, 1958 (seated) Doreen Hein, Jane Albrecht, Rev. Heilmann, Imogene Fink, (standing) Wayne Miracle, Dale Heth, Linda Lehmkuhl, Donald Avenson, Jeanann Prentice

with J. H. Williams, Fairbank High School superintendent, and F. F. Cowlishaw, Fairbank State Bank president, for their aid in bringing the project to fruition.

Shock waves reverberated throughout the town and surrounding area in 1931 with the closure of the Farmers Bank. Sheriffs' auctions ensued, where foreclosed property was sold—cows, tools, kitchen items, pans, and furniture. Still more residents relocated in search of starting afresh elsewhere.

Initially, preaching and teaching, officiating at baptisms, funerals, and weddings largely consumed Rev. Heilmann's waking hours. Pauline and the children too became fully engaged in the life of the congregation. At the wedding of Edith Fratzke and Victor Volrath in 1934, Bobbie, 14, was enlisted as ring bearer, and Pauline was among the singers in a quartette that sang for the nuptials. Paul regularly sang during worship services and for weddings, too.

"In his spare time, my grandfather helped farmers plant and harvest crops, bail hay, and other projects, and he showed up, ready to go to work, staying until the job was done," said Steve Heilmann, whose father was Fritz Heilmann. One such project was helping Ray Fink re-shingle a building on the farm after shingles had been stripped off in a windstorm—which turned into a three-generational Heilmann family project, Grandpa, Fritz, and Steve.

"The church didn't have much money to pay toward his salary, and the family often got donations of food, a pheasant, a goose, vegetables from someone's garden, whatever was available, food that helped feed his growing family."

Somehow, Rev. Heilmann found the time to start a Boy Scout troop and serve on myriad committees for the district office of the Missouri Synod.

In May 1936, when America was in the throes of the Great Depression, the congregation broke ground for a 20-foot extension on the south end of the church and a full basement was dug. A Wicks pipe organ replaced the older hand-pumped organ; additionally, stained glass windows, new furniture, and a new furnace were added. Members did much of the work on the \$8,000 project.

A year later, St. John's hired Gerhardt Potratz from Westgate to oversee the school, charging him with teaching the full elementary course to meet state requirements for entrance into high school. He played the church organ, as well.

These physical and personnel upgrades reflected congregational support of Rev. Heilmann's leadership in bringing Christ's message of love and salvation to the community.

Ecumenism didn't exist during those years. Essentially, the four churches—Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic—carried out their mission in denominational silos, other than the few years the protestant churches all sold Christmas trees.

While Rev. Heilmann quickly became beloved by his congregation, if he learned a parishioner was dating a Catholic, he made a pastoral call to the home, and his words came with a warning of consequences if the relationship didn't cease immediately. The Protestant Reformation the break from the teachings of Roman Catholicism - was at the very heart of Lutheranism, and no one took that more seriously than did he.

Steve Heilmann grew up in St. John's church in the 1950s-

A16 MAY 1, 2024

FAIRBANK ISLANDER

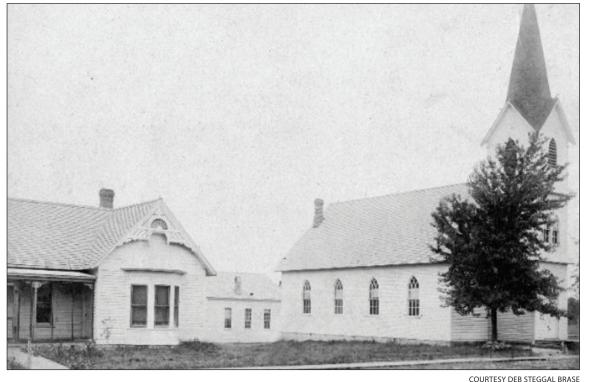
30 Years, Pastor of St. John's: Rev. H. J. Heilmann

CONTINUED FROM A15

60s and recalls the palpable tension between the Protestants and Catholics, which slowly diminished over the years. Around the mid-1950s the Catholic school, which owned and operated two school buses for its rural students, began to pick up and deliver students attending St. John's school...and it transpired without much fanfare.

Eventually, the eldest of the Heilmann children married. Rev. Heilmann officiated at Paul's wedding to Delores Hein from Dunkerton in June 1940. Delores would reside with Rev. and Mrs. Heilmann while Paul served in the Army Air Force; America entered World War II in December 1941. Eleanor married H. Max Northrup, both from Fairbank, in July 1941. A reception and dinner followed in the new church parlors for fifty guests. Alfred married Mirian Hein from Dunkerton at St. John's in November 1945.

St. John's celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1945. Church records state the first official charter members were



St. John's Parsonage school and church, built in 1891 then remodeled in 1936.

the Johann Philip Krafts, Christopher Bahes, Heinrich Bockholts, and Christian Kolbs. A year earlier, the church had officially changed its name from the Lutherische St. Johannes Germeinde Church to St. John's Evangelical Congregation of Fairbank, Iowa.

After fifteen years, Rev. Heilmann had increased church membership by 100. By his twentieth anniversary the congregation grew to 460 members-when they voted to give him a new 1950 De Luxe Chevrolet car.

That same year, the last of the Heilmann children married: Rev. Heilmann officiated at the nuptials of Robert and LauraGallupofIndependence. Throat cancer surgery forced Rev. Heilmann's retirement in 1960 after serving the congregation for thirty years, long enough to have confirmed multiple generations of family members.

"He confirmed my dad Martin Hein in 1932 and me in 1955," said Doreen (Hein) Wilson. "We both attended St. John's school through the 8th grade...then Fairbank public school through grade twelve.'

The parochial school closed in 1959, largely the result of the consolidation of the public school system. Miss Fern Lange taught the final eight years. The last students to graduate were Elaine Hein and Lois Lehmkuhl. Pastor Heilmann's final confirmation class numbered sixteen confirmands.

Rev. Heilmann led the St. John's congregation through the Great Depression, outbreaks of measles, typhoid fever, and scarlet fever, World War II, and the Korean War.

His death came on March 31, 1964. Russell Hein, who had attended K-8th grades at the school and was pianist and organist at St. John's for many years, served as pianist for the burial service. Pastors of the Westgate Circuit, the Iowa District East, and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod served as pallbearers.

He was eulogized as a humble and very gentle man.

Rev. Heilmann's beloved wife and helpmate Pauline died in 1988. Both are buried in the Protestant cemetery bordering the north side of St. John's church.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

SPECIAL MEETING

SPECIAL MEETING The Fairbank City Council met in special session on Monday April 8, 2024. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Hyde. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Brian Delagardelle, Water/ Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk. Williams/T. Woods to approve the agenda. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

None. Erickson/R. Woods to open the public hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Levy for fiscal year 2024-2025. Motion carried. There were no written or oral comments received before the meeting. Five residents were present wanting clarification about the mailing that the County Auditors mailed out to all property tax owners and the reason for such an increase. Due to the

REGULAR MEETING

REGULAR MEETING The Fairbank City Council met in regular ses-sion on Monday March 25, 2024. Mayor Pro-Tem R. Woods called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Hyde. Absent: Mayor Kayser. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Brian Delagardelle, Water/ Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk. T. Woods/Erickson to approve the agenda. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. There were no public hearings. Williams/T. Woods to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: March 11, 2024 Regular City Council Minutes and March 21, 2024 Emergency City Council Meeting Minutes. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. During the public comment section, Michael Gruetzmecher was presented as he wanted to

Minutes. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. During the public comment section, Michael Gruetzmacher was present as he wanted to touch base with the council on his reasoning for turning in a petition for a special election. At the last meeting the city property insurance renewal through ICAP was discussed as the current policy expires April 1st. There was only one quote presented to the city from Adam Kerns, the city's insurance agent due to the city's insurance agent, due to another agent wanting to provide quotes to the city as well. The city never received any other quotes. Williams/T. Woods to approve the ICAP Insurance Renewal for 2024 with the lower deductible at \$82,209.00. Ayes: Five. Navs: None.

Nays: None. The updates to the Code of Ordinances were briefly discussed but the council is still waiting for more information before any drafts can be finalized. inalized

There were still no interested parties presented

passing of House File 718 in 2023, there were many changes made to the budget process for this next year. One of them being an annual mailed hearing notice to each owner of taxable property in March which would provide a large amount of infor-mation in the hopes to educate taxpayers about the upcoming budget. It was explained that the notices showed the max that was possible to levy for and that the increase in the proposed tax levy was showing a levy amount only if the council chose to levy for the full amount of liability, property and self-insurance costs and other employee benefits. The council could levy for raise it any higher than what was published on the Proposed Property Tax Levy. The notice showed a projected \$1.26 increase from \$9.15 last year to the projected max of \$10.41 but then also showed an overall decrease in the amount that would be owed for taxes of 3.40%. This was due to a significant drop

for the vacancies on the Fairbank TIF Committee. There were also still no interested parties pre-sented for the vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission Board. Michael Gruetzmacher stated that he was approached by Jennifer Davis regarding run-ning the ball diamond concession stand. Between her and Michael's wife they could have it open a few days each. Attorney Prendergast stated that it would be easier to have it ran by an organization with the City just providing the available building. No decision was made, and it will be on the next agenda for any further ideas or discussions. The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on Monday March 18th for a rezoning request for the property located at 502 Grove Street from Tyler Woods. The request was asking to rezone the property from C-1 to R-1. After that meeting, the Council received a written recommendation from the board to consider approving the request and continue the process of amending the zoning

board to consider approving the request and continue the process of amending the request and continue the process of amending the zoning ordinance to reflect that change. Williams/ Hyde to approve the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and continue with the process of amending the ordinance for the rezoning request. Ayes: Four. Abstain: T. Woods. Nays: None.

After the council approved the recommenda-After the council approved the recommenda-tion to allow proceeding with the zoning change from the Planning and Zoning Commission, a public hearing would need to be set to allow for public input. Williams/Hyde to approve Resolution 2024-08 – Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fairbank, Iowa Setting a Public Hearing Regarding the Rezoning of a Property. Ayes: Four. Abstain: T. Woods. Nays: None. The public hearing was set for Monday April 8, 2024 at 6:15 pm at

Fairbank City Hall. The Council received another quote this year from Frontline Warning Systems for a service contract for servicing the warning sirens. The \$800.00 contract included inspecting the warning sirens twice a year. Erickson/T. Woods to approve the one-year contract with Frontline Warning Systems. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. T. Woods/Erickson to approve the closing of Main Street from First Street to Fourth Street for the Fairbank Days Celebration during the days of June 19 through June 23, 2024. Ayes: Four. Abstain: Williams. Nays: None. The petition for a Special Election submitted by Michael Gruetzmacher needed to be approve Resolution. 2024-09 – Resolution Calling for a Special Election. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The Special Election will be held on April 23rd to fill the council seat that was appointed to Tom Hyde at the meeting on March 11, 2024. Candidacy paperwork must be submitted to the Fairbank City Clerk by 5:00 pm on Friday March 29, 2024.

March 29, 2024. During the council/mayor comments or con-cerns, Councilman Williams verified with Brian that the Main Street project was pushed back to April 1st. Brian stated that it was due to the warther

weather. During the department reports, Brian said once the Main Street project detours are in place they would be working on the intake at the corner of 2nd Street and Grove Street. Also, he explained that there was a power outage around the Riverside Drive area a week ago around midnight Saturday night, but they didn't know about it until 7 or 8 am on Sunday. Reminder to everyone that if you call City Hall after hours, the instructions and numbers are listed for any utility outages or concerns. When a person does that, the right people are con-

in the residential rollback and due to the calculations not con in the residential rollback and due to the calculations not con-sidering any increases in valuations although everyone has seen increases in their valuations this last year. The council assured the residents that they were considering leaving the rate the same as last year or possibly even lowering it some and they would be looking at that later in the night at the next meeting. Questions regarding the school's numbers were asked but the information would need to be addressed at the school's sched-uled public hearing. Williams/T. Woods to close the public hear-ing. Motion carried. T. Woods/R. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 pm. Motion carried. Jason Kayser, Mayor

Jason Kayser, Mayor Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

tacted and the issues are resolved faster com-pared to using social media. Public Works have also been working on the parks and are going to get the old Christmas lights ready to sell. They can be purchased at \$100.00 apiece and on a first come first served basis. Individuals interested in buying them need to call City Hall to arrange a time to look, purchase, and pick them up. Also, the link to purchase the flags for Main Street that was sent to the City Clerk was for the wrong flags. They will need to be sent back or sold if possible so that the new flags can be ordered. Police Chief Drish gave an update on the recent police activity and stated that there might be a potential radiator issue in the squad car. They will keep an eye on it. Micheal Gruetzmacher stated that Dunkerton was struggling to get kids to go out for Little League and that they might be coming to Fairbank to join the teams in town. Bathrooms at the parks won't be open until the weather is favorable and he also asked for a garbage can to be placed at the south ball diamond. The City Clerk reminded the council that the public hearing for the final budget adoption will need to be set at the next meeting so it can be final-ized before the deadline. She also informed them that the office will be closed from April 17th through April 19th for the IMFOA Spring Conference. Her and Michelle Laube's atten-dance allows them to keep their credits current for their certifications. During the time that City Hall is closed, the clerks will be available via the City Hall phone system as they are able to access it remotely. Please leave them a mes-sage during that time and they will get back to you as training allows. Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm. Ayes: Five. Nays. None. Ron Woods, Mayor Pro-tem Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

Wapsie Valley CSD Property Tax Statement -Public Hearing Minutes April 3, 2024 Pledge of Allegiance 1. President Wolfe called the Public Hearing on the 24-25 Property Tax Statement to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye Motion carried 4-0 Auel (excused)

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

(excused) B. Secretary Arndt, Supt

B. Secretary Arritit, Supt.
 Hoover (excused)
 C. Others: Rustie Kane, Jerry Van Daele, John Even, Mary Lee Even, Keith Lansing, Verna Lansing, Deanna Armbrecht, & Lynne Bellile
 Moved by Sauerbrei,

Lee Even, Keith Lansing, Verna Lansing, Deanna Armbrecht, & Lynne Bellile 2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the agenda as pre-sented. Motion carried 4-0 3. Secretary Arndt stated the property tax statement was published at the highest prop-erty tax rate due to supple-mental 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 pre-sented at the April 15, 2024 Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting. President Wolfe read opening state-ments regarding public hear-ing requirements and proper-ty tax statement. 4. Community members would like the board to take in consideration of setting the property tax rate low and stay within the set budget for the upcoming year and years to come. No written comment on the property tax statement was presented. 5. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 7:18 PM Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye Motion carried 4-0

REGULAR MEETING

REGULAR MEETING The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday April 8, 2024. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Hyde. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk. Erickson/Hyde to approve the agenda. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Erickson/Hyde to approve the agenda. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Williams/R. Woods to open the public hearing on the rezoning request for the property located at 502 Grove Street from R-1 to C-1. Abstain: T. Woods. Motion car-ried. Mayor Kayser explained that the corner lot located at 502 Grove Street owned by Tyler Woods was empty and that the owner would like to put up a commercial building. Alex Schmitz, a neighbor, was present and stated that he had no comment. The Planning & Zoning Commission wrote a letter of approval for the zoning change and there were no negative comments received. Michael Gruetzmacher who was present at the meeting Michael Gruetzmacher who was present at the meeting stated that he thought it was a great idea and that it would get rid of an empty lot in town. Williams/Erickson to close the public hearing. Abstain: T. Woods. Motion carried

to close the public hearing. Abstain: T. Woods. Motion carried. Erickson/T. Woods to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: March 25, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, March 2024 Treasurer's Report, and the Payment of Bills. Motion carried. Treasurers Report for the Month of March 2024: Revenues - General, \$23,989.14; Special Revenue, \$21,141.79; TIF, \$3,401.80; Capital Projects, \$33.72; Permanent Funds, \$121.53; Proprietary, \$227,688.41; and Transfers In, \$27,055.00. Disbursements - General, \$21,675.45; Special Revenue, \$4,654.97; Proprietary, \$163,551.66; and Transfers Out, \$27,055.00. Balance on hand at close of business on March 31. 2024. was on hand at close of business on March 31, 2024, was \$5,531,694.72. Bills for the Month of March 2024

Amazon Capital Services, Supplies \$126.94 Black Hawk Waste Disposal, Services \$5,830.68 Buchanan County Economic Development, Utility Dues \$600.00

Butler County Rec, Electric \$47,752.17 Butler County Rec, Services \$ 1,025.00 Carrico Aquatic Products, Supplies \$42.30 Casey's General Store, Gas \$ 625.11 Casey's General Store, Gas \$ 625.11 Clayton Energy Corporation, Natural Gas \$15,928.31 Clayton Energy Corporation, Reservation \$12,494.54 Crossroads Mobile Maintenance, Services \$1,458.64 Keith & Tammy Curley, Rebate \$325.00 Cy & Charley's, Inc., Supplies \$1,220.00 Davis Lawn Service, Services \$707.00 Ben Delagardelle, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$75.00 Brian Delagardelle, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$75.00 Dakota Drish, Mileage Reimbursement \$60.52 Electrical Engineering & Equip, Supplies \$728.00 Engineered Equipment Solutions, Equipment \$2,050.00 City of Fairbank, Replenish Postage Fund \$ 37.63 Fairbank Development Corporation, Donation \$ 1,000.00

000.00

arm Win Co-Op, Diesel \$ 804.78 ayette Co Emergency Management, EMA Dues \$ 504.86

Frontline Warning Systems, Service Contract 800.00

800.00 Brittany Fuller, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00 Gordon Flesch Company Inc, Services \$ 114.14 Fehr Graham, Engineering Fees \$ 1,190.50 Grainger, Inc., Supplies \$ 75.61 Hawkeye Fire & Safety Company, Services \$ 49.10 Heath Consultants, Inc., Services \$ 569.65

IAMU, Member Dues \$ 4,732.00 lowa Communities Assurance Pool, Annual Premium \$ 78,702.00 IMFOA, Training \$ 350.00 lowa Regional Utilities Assoc., Water \$8,347.20 IPERS, Benefits \$ 2,747.68 Kiesler's Police Supply, Supplies \$ 181.03 Kirkwood Community College, Training \$293.00 Krivachek Janitorial Supply, Supplies \$ 148.82 Nick Kuker, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$75.00 Michelle Laube, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$75.00 Little Wapsie Communications, Static IP Addresses \$ 20.00 Lumber Ridge Home Source, Shipping \$ 173.91

20.00 Lumber Ridge Home Source, Shipping \$ 173.91 MercyOne Waterloo Medical, Mutual Aid \$ 160.00 Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Testing \$ 347.00 Modern Building Products, Supplies \$ 597.79 NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 3/15/24 \$

NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 3/15/24 \$ 8.21 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, Publishings \$ 340.76 Overhead Door Co. Of Waterloo, Services \$ 1,044.66 Premier Technology, Services \$ 28.75 Quick Med Claims, Ambulance Billing \$703.18 Alexis Rausch, Supplies Reimbursement \$100.00 Sadler Power Train, Supplies \$ 37.48 Sam's Club Mc/Sync, Membership \$ 110.00 Sandry Fire Supply, Supplies \$ 429.75 Steffen Services, Services \$ 2,159.99 Sun Life Assurance Comp, Life Policies \$ 82.70 The Shred Master, LLC., Services \$ 106.40 Treasurer-State Of Iowa, March 2024 Sales Tax \$ 3,112.08

5,112.08 Treasurer State Of Iowa, March 2024 WT Excise Tax 5,1,157.40 Treasurer-State Of Iowa, State Withholding Tax \$

2,952.63

2,952.63 U. S. Treasury, 941 Taxes \$ 6,596.38 U.S. Bank, March PEFA Commodity \$ 3,363.28 Verizon Wireless, Cell Phones \$ 178.04 Visa, AVAYA Phone System/Microsoft Email Accounts

Visa, AVAYA Phone System/Microsoft Email Accounts \$ 454.95 Wapsie Valley CSD, Supplies \$ 121.18 Wellmark, April Premium \$ 3,979.56 Roxanne Wenner, Services \$ 150.00 Windstream Enterprise, Gas Alarm Phone Line \$ 68.03 The Library Board Approved The Following Bills On April 3, 2024: \$ 442.72

April 3, 2024: Amazon Capital Services, Supplies Baker & Taylor Inc., Books \$1,043,47 Davis Lawn Service, Services \$28.00 City Of Fairbank, Electric & Gas \$200 \$ 443.72

200.57 Communities Assurance Pool, Annual Premium \$

Iowa Coi 2,802.00

 2,802.00

 Modern Building Products, Supplies

 Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 3/15/24

 NE 3 1.79

Our Iowa Magazine, Subscription \$ 39.98 Taste Of Home, Subscription \$ 16.05 Visa, AVAYA Phone System/Microsoft Email Accounts

/isa, AV

\$ 53.06 Roxanne Wenner, Services \$ 200.00 During the informal public comment section, there were three companies present from the garbage companies that submitted RFP's. Rod Eckhoff with Kluesner Sanitation LLC stated that he had turned in a bid and that he just wanted to say that his bottom line is customer service and how close he lives to town. Alex Tungland with Rite Environmental was present and stated that their pro-posal says it all. Blane Benham was present from Black Hawk Waste Inc. and stated that he had served Fairbank for many years and has thirty-nine years of experience and since he had been doing a good job the

last ten years, would enjoy the opportunity to keep serving Fairbank. A resident was present and stated that she thought that Black Hawk Waste had been doing an excellent job but also stated that she didn't know much about the other companies. Water and sewer rates were discussed because the code now states that a city can no longer list in their ordinances increases in rates by percentages. Water, sewer, and garbage are different than electric and gas as they are operated under a different code section. The ordinance examples presented to the council showed the rates listed in a table for the next seven years. They were calculated by using the current rate and the cur-rent ordinance percentage of increase each year. The first reading of these ordinances will be conducted at the next meeting. Alex Schmitz offered to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mayor Kayser appointed him to the com-mission.

Commission. Mayor Kayser appointed him to the com-mission. Mayor Kayser stated that he had heard from Drake Mangrich and Aaron Wust about wanting to serve on the TIF Committee. Erickson/T. Woods to approve the two new members to fill the vacancies on the TIF Committee. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The ball diamond concession stand was discussed again and there is still nobody interested in running the concession stand at the ball diamond. T. Woods/Hyde to approve the payment of a \$1,000.00 sponsorship from the city to the Fairbank Development Corporation for Fairbank Days 2024. Ayes: Three. Nays: None. Abstain: R. Woods and Williams. Mayor Kayser mentioned that the agenda item on the garbage/recycling contracts were for council discus-sion only and that Attorney Prendergast stated to him earlier that it would be best if the council could make a decision that night. Five RFPs were received on time by the deadline of April 1st from Black Hawk Waste, Kluesner Sanitation LLC, Republic Services, Rite Environmental, and Waste Management. Councilwoman Erickson stated that she had no comments or ques-tions. The two city-wide clean up days were discussed, and Councilman B. Woods asked what the fees were tions. The two city-wide clean up days were discussed, and Councilman R. Woods asked what the fees were for those two clean-up days on the lowest two bids which were Black Hawk Waste and Kluesner Sanitation LLC. Black Hawk's stated that the city would be responsible for the landfill fees for each clean-up day

LLC. Black Hawk's stated that the city would be responsible for the landfill fees for each clean-up day and Kluesner's stated that the city would be responsible for \$850.00 for each clean-up day. Erickson/Williams to approve the three-year contract with Kluesner Sanitation LLC for the city's garbage and recycling needs. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The council needed to finalize the tax rate for this next budget year. They debated between \$9.15 which was last year's rate or lowering it to around \$9.00 and Councilwoman Erickson said that the lower rate seemed a little tight since she would like to see some things done to the parks in town and that the park on the Southeast side of town needed a lot of updating. R. Woods/T. Woods to Approve Resolution 2024-10 – Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing for the City's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The rate will be published at the rate of \$9.0003 and the public hearing was set for Monday April 22nd at 6:00 pm. An ordinance needed to be read regarding amending the official zoning map after the public hearing had been completed for the rezoning of 502 Grove Street from R-1 to C-1. R. Woods/Williams to approve the first reading of Ordinance 361 – Ordinance Amending Official Zoning Map. Ayes: Four. Nays: None. Abstain: T. Woods.

Woods. Erickson/R. Woods to waive the second and third read-ings of Ordinance 361 – Ordinance Amending Official Zoning Map regarding rezoning 502 Grove Street from R-1 to C-1. There had been zero negative feedback,

only positive with getting something built on a current empty lot. Ayes: Four. Nays: None. Abstain: T. Woods. An ordinance needed to be read regarding adding a new section to our city code authorizing the use of the State Income Setoff Program. This is a program that the office uses to collect past due utilities. T. Woods, Erickson to approve the first reading of Ordinance 362 – Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fairbank, Iowa, by Adding a New Section Authorizing Use of the State Income Setoff Program. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. R. Woods/Williams to approve waiving the second and third readings of Ordinance 362 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fairbank, Iowa, by Adding a New Section Authorizing Use of the State Income Setoff Program since it is regarding new rules and regulations regarding a pro-gram that the city utilized Narce Narce

Use of the State Income Setoff Program since it is regarding new rules and regulations regarding a pro-gram that the city utilizes. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The Library Board of Trustees had a resignation from a resident member, Paula Farrington. Due to the vacancy the Mayor needed to make an appointment. Brenda Coffin had mentioned to the board her interest in filling the vacancy. Mayor Kayser appointed Brenda Coffin to be the resident member to fill the vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees. During the council/mayor comments or concerns.

Library Board of Trustees. During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Councilwomen Erickson stated that she had gotten some questions regarding the UTV's on the corner of Myer's Polaris and the stop sign. Councilman Williams stated that with Fairbank Days approaching everyone is getting excited to not have construction and the pro-cess of getting Main Street closed has started. Brian stated that as of that day the water main work on Grove Street was 2/3 done.

cess of getting Main Street closed has stated. Brian stated that as of that day the water main work on Grove Street was 2/3 done. During the department reports, Brian talked about a power outage along Lakeside Drive that they had been dealing with. They got the new conduit installed and finished everything up earlier that day. They also started opening the park bathrooms. Councilman R. Woods asked about some damage to the Don's building and was wondering if it was from when the utility poles were installed. Cameras will be looked at to see if there is anything on any cameras. He also asked Brian if the manhole by Costa's located in the brick can be lowered at all. The trees along Collins Road will be trim by the city guys as much as they can then they will be calling in someone to finish up what they can't get. Micheal Gruetzmacher informed the council about the request that he received for \$7,000.00 to help with the ball dia-mond upgrades from the Twins Community Fund's Fields for Kids Grant Program. Nick stated that the garbage cans had been set out and that the nets were installed. Mayor Kayser stated that he had been at the library, and they were concerned about the handicap ramp that was removed with the Main Street project. It was explained that the previous handicap ramp was not legal, and that the library now has a legal handicap ramp. The library is looking into putting an addition on and once those plans are finalized more information can be explored as far as accommodating another ramp along their sidewalk. Police Chief Drish gave the council an update on what the department had been up to. City Clerk Fuller stated there had been four people interested in purchasing the old Christmas lights so far and she also reminded everyone about the training that next week. The office will be closed April 17-19th and also reminded them that they would be available via the City Hall phone system as they are able to access it remotely. Just leave them a message during that time and they will get back to you as tr

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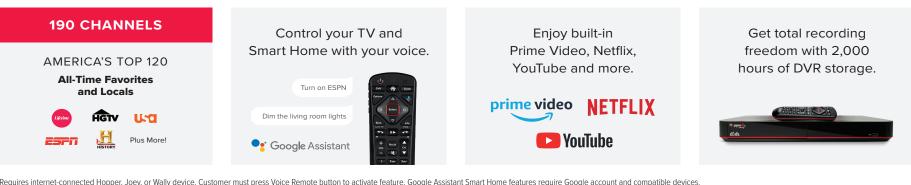
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