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# Fairbank ISLANDER

SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

MAY 6, 2026

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VOLUME 7, NO. 5

## Spinning up something SWEET



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELAINE BUZYNSKI

The Sweet Spinning Cotton Candy Co. crew recently donated \$500 from cotton candy sales towards the Fairbank Elementary playground project. Pictured behind the check in the pink hats are cotton candy makers Lauren, 10, and Caden, 8, of Fairbank with other students and PTO/staff of Fairbank Elementary.

TAYLOR NOHRENBURG  
news@oelweindailyregister.com

Two Fairbank kiddos are spinning up something sweet that will impact future generations to come and bring a new treat to local events.

Lauren, 10, and Caden, 8, are the children of Lucas and

See SWEET, A13

## 'It's a Fairbank thing'



TAYLOR NOHRENBURG | OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER

### Costa's Market revives lost grocery store with community outpour

BY TAYLOR NOHRENBURG  
reporter@oelweindailyregister.com

"It was a change having to go somewhere else," longtime Fairbank resident Sharon Woods said on the day Fairbank's only grocery

store reopened its doors. Costa's Market in Fairbank, 102 N 4th St., opened with a ribbon cutting Wednesday, April 8, with employees, Buchanan County Economic Development and the Fairbank City Council welcoming the new business.

A familiar name among Fairbank's business corridor, Costa's Market, 102 N 4th St., opened their doors with a ribbon cutting on a sunny Wednesday morning with residents like Woods eager to get in and see their revived local grocery store thrive with goods and produce once more.

Owners Nita Nuhiji and Beni

Rushiti — the familiar faces from Costa's Sports Bar and Grill — praised their community Wednesday as shoppers returned to their hometown store to purchase wares from their shelves, supporting local and keeping Fairbank thriving.

"I think it will be convenient for a lot of people to have something nice in town and something local,"

See COSTAS, A3

## Wapsie Valley announces new superintendent Timothy Murphy



The Wapsie Valley Board of Education is proud to announce the appointment of Timothy (TJ) Murphy as the next superintendent of the Wapsie Valley Community School District, effective July 1, 2026.

Following a thorough search process, the Board determined that Mr. Murphy's proven leadership, deep-rooted connection to our community, and vision for educational excellence make him the ideal leader to guide

See MURPHY, A4

Wapsie Valley High School Principal TJ Murphy has been promoted to superintendent.

## Family Fun Night draws big crowd at Red Rock Farms

It was a perfect night for families and fun at Red Rock Farms on April 24, as more than 400 people gathered for the annual Family Fun Night hosted by the Fairbank Elementary PTO.

The event offered something for everyone. Students and families enjoyed a wide variety of animals, face painting, a popular cookie walk, and plenty of dancing throughout the evening. Outdoor activi-

ties kept kids moving, with the mini golf course, basketball toss, football toss, and skee-ball games staying busy all night long. The biggest attraction, however, was the giant jumping pillow, which drew con-

See FAMILY, A11

Students enjoyed events like face painting during Family Fun Night at Red Rock Farms on April 24.



COURTESY PHOTO

# A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR



MAYOR JASON KAYSER

As we move through April, I want to share a few updates from City Hall and say thank you again for the many ways residents and volunteers continue to make Fairbank a great place to call home.

This month, the City Council, City Staff, and myself addressed a number of items focused on keeping safety, maintenance, and planning responsibly for the future. We also welcomed new team members with oaths of office.

Sidewalk improvements: The Council reviewed final items for the Fourth Street Sidewalk Project, including close-out documentation, as we continue investing in safer,

more walkable routes. We can now focus on possible extension of the trail system.

City ordinances & services: Work continued on updates to the zoning map for the possible addition of a new housing development as well as two additional condominium projects. An ordinance establishing new solid waste collection rates. These slight increases were anticipated as part of our contractual agreement with Kluesner Sanitation. Plus minor rate adjustments help ensure services remain reliable and sustainable.

Community topics: The Council discussed items such as e-scooters/e-bikes. There have been a number of concerns voiced to City Hall and myself about reckless usage and near miss collisions. Our School Resources Officer will be making a presentation at the elementary in early May.

City property: Sealed bids were opened for a City-owned property. This is an important step as we manage assets responsibly and look for the best outcome for the neighborhood and community at large.

Infrastructure planning:

We reviewed utility/equipment needs and discussed street conditions in areas that have been brought to the City's attention. The Public Works Director and myself have reviewed street conditions and standard maintenance and repairs will occur later this summer. The Council approved purchasing new electrical transformers for an upgrade project in the West Main Street neighborhood. Eventually, the overhead wires, poles, and transformers will be replaced with underground service.

With spring arriving, please help us keep Fairbank looking its best by watching for changing street conditions, being cautious around any work areas, and taking a moment to tidy up yards and sidewalks as weather allows. If you see an issue that needs attention—street concerns, signage, or utility questions—please reach out to City Hall so we can get it on the list.

City Council meetings are open to the public, and I encourage you to attend, listen online when available, or share your thoughts with City staff and Council members. Your input helps us set priorities and make good decisions for Fairbank.

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	<b>AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>WILDCARD</b> 5:30-8:30 PM

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Live for Today. Plan for Tomorrow.

# 'It's a Fairbank thing'

CONTINUED FROM A1

Nuhiji said that morning. "It'll be super nice and convenient for a lot of different ages, groups, everybody who comes here. For parents that are busy working, it'll be nice to have in-town ingredients. A lot of people are excited."

Keeping their brand Fairbank local, the couple decided to continue on with the Costa's name. Their sports bar has been in business for eight years now, a goal Nita hopes continues with the grocery store and its many facets for years to come.

Fairbank Food Center's unfortunate shuttering in spring 2024 was a crack in the community foundation of Fairbank. It was community support, Mayor Jason Kayser said, that really pushed for a new shop to take its place, and thanked the Costa's crew for stepping in to take the charge.

"There was a community outpouring when the previous purveyors sold that we need to keep this going, and obviously it can expand and improve the services," Kayser said. "It's pretty remarkable, that community sup-



TAYLOR NOHRENBURG | DELWEIN DAILY REGISTER

**Shoppers purchase essentials in the heart of Fairbank Wednesday morning on opening day of Costa's Market.**

port and the word that was put out."

He noted that Fairbank's American Legion has committed to purchase their goods locally at Costa's Market, furthering the goal of keeping business local.

Shoppers like Woods, who previously owned businesses in Fairbank, as do her sons, said supporting the local shops is top

priority for her and is the way of life for residents.

"We've been in business all our life, too. It's a Fairbank thing [shopping local], I'm so happy they decided to do it because we needed it," Woods said. "[...] It's very rare that you see such a beautiful one like we have here now in a small town, and it is so wonderful that they decided

that they didn't want to see it go away."

Nuhiji and her husband have had their challenges from shifting from restaurant owners to restaurant-market owners and are learning about the industry as they go. The couple also remodeled with new shelves, logos and signage to provide a fresh look to the well-known space.

"There's a lot of learning, there are a lot of details you don't think about before getting into it," she said. "This means a lot for our town, this does mean a lot for our neighbors. Our town really needs something like this."

"It'll be good, I have a good gut feeling," Nuhiji added. "We had people here at 8 o'clock checking it out, so it was good. We are excited to welcome everybody in and show our faces as they get what they need. We will get whatever they need if we don't have it."

The market has not only full selections of all things grocery, but also caters, has a deli for meats and cheeses and meals to go or to sit and eat in their booths, and supplies a vast selection of alcohol. Costa's Market has daily lunch specials from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Costa's Market is open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Daily specials and updates can be found on their Facebook page, Costa's Market.

"I don't think I can ever say how thankful I am for everybody that is supporting us and has our back in every way," Nuhiji said.

## Every Child Plays receives \$2,250 toward inclusive playground project



COURTESY PHOTO

**The Little Wapsie representatives were Ethan Kleitsch, Isaac Buzynski, Corinne Schares and Matt Johnson. Danielle Hutchinson was the representative from Aureon. Every Child Plays Board Members are Angie James and Tara Sullivan.**

The Every Child Plays initiative is excited to announce the receipt of a \$750 grant from Aureon in support of its ongoing efforts to build an inclusive playground for children of all abilities. Demonstrating a strong commitment to the community, Little Wapsie Communications matched this grant, doubling their contribution to \$1,500.

The combined gift was recently presented in the form of checks to representatives of Every Child Plays, marking an important milestone in the group's fundraising campaign.

The Every Child Plays project is dedicated to creating a welcoming, accessible space where children of all physical and developmental abilities can play, learn, and grow together. The planned playground will feature inclusive equipment and thoughtful design elements to ensure that no child is left out.

"We are incredibly grateful to Aureon for their support and to Little Wapsie Communications for amplifying that impact," said Angie James, Every Child Plays board member. "This generous contribution brings us one step

closer to making our vision of an inclusive playground a reality for our community."

Fundraising efforts for the Every Child Plays playground are ongoing, with community members, local businesses, and organizations continuing to rally behind the cause.

For more information about the Every Child Plays project or to learn how to contribute, please contact: Tara Sullivan at 319-635-2071 or [tsullivan@wapsievalleyschools.org](mailto:tsullivan@wapsievalleyschools.org).

# FAIRBANK

# SCRAP IRON DRIVE

Fundraiser for the Fairbank Community Club

**MAY 7TH - MAY 11TH**

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If you are unable to drop off your donation,

Contact **Kenny Little**  
**(319) 238-2828**

to arrange to have your donation picked up.

# Fairbank Historical Society opening Memorial Day

The Fairbank Historical Society will be open on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

The regular meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Historical Society building. We would like to invite anyone interested in the History of Fairbank to come and join us.

At the meeting in March, Robert Sheilds shared information about the first meeting of the Methodist Church in 1852. It was held at the home of Alexander Stevenson, 8 people were in attendance, and the service was led by Rev. D. Gill.

# Wapsie Valley announces new superintendent Timothy Murphy

CONTINUED FROM A1

our district into the future.

For the past six years, Mr. Murphy has served with distinction as our 7-12 Secondary Principal. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in fostering a positive school culture, improving academic outcomes, and building strong relationships with students and staff alike. His transition to superintendency ensures a seamless continuity of leadership and a steadfast commitment to the "Warrior Way."

Beyond his professional qualifications, TJ is a devoted member of the Wapsie Valley family. He and his wife, Beth, are proud residents of the district. As parents of three children who currently attend Wapsie Valley schools, the Murphy family is deeply invested in the success and well-being of our local youth and the community at large.

"It is a profound honor to be selected to lead a district that means so much to my family and me," said Mr. Murphy. "I look forward to collaborating with our talented educators and the entire community to ensure every student at Wapsie Valley has the tools and support they need to thrive."

# Wapsie Valley Prom 2026: A night in New York



COURTESY PHOTO/ EMILY KOCH PHOTOGRAPHY

**Above: Wapsie Valley 2026 prom court left to right: Tanner Bergmann, Derek Matthias, Krayton Zimmerman, Briggs Boehme, Ari Behnke, Ava Auel, Ma-leena Sander, Ella Morarend, Claire O'Donnell and Mae Wedemeier. Right: Prom King Tanner Bergmann and Prom Queen Ava Auel were crown during the grand march.**



Emily Koch Photography



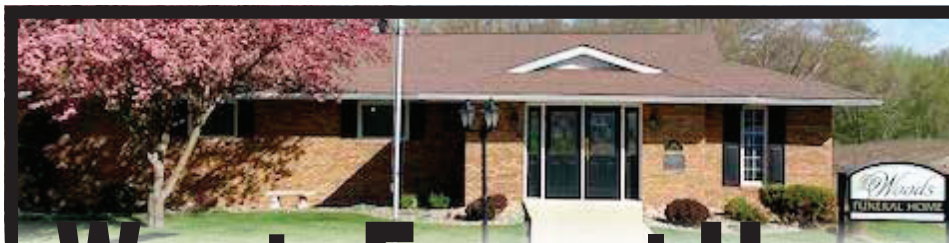
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# Celebration of Life

## Michael "Mike" J. Curley

March 13, 1954 - April 25, 2026

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Michael "Mike" J. Curley, who died on April 25, 2026, at the age of 72. Mike was born on March 13, 1954, in Oelwein, Iowa to James (Jim) and Patricia (Meier) Curley.



Mike graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in 1972. While there, he excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. After high school, he attended the National School of Meat Cutting in Toledo, Ohio. Mike worked for his father Jim, at Curley's Jack and Jill grocery store and at Curley's Locker. He eventually purchased Curley's Locker and proudly operated the family business for several years. He later continued his career in the food processing industry working at Iowa Ham in Independence and Kerry Foods in Fredericksburg.

On December 1st, 1973 Mike married Trish Meier. Together they raised four children and were later divorced.

Mike was a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Fairbank. He proudly served the Fairbank community as a volunteer firefighter and EMT with the Fairbank Fire Department, eventually retiring after 23 years of service.

Mike enjoyed playing cards, bowling, and deer hunting. He was a huge Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Cubs fan. Mike loved weekend social events including waterball, state firefighter conventions, softball tournaments, camping, and canoeing. Mike, AKA "Sugarfoot", played slow pitch softball for several

area teams and in several different leagues throughout the years, often playing more than 100 games in a season. His biggest fans included his family who rarely missed a game. His love of sports continued after his playing years were done. Mike was a dedicated fantasy sports manager- often balancing numerous online teams in every sport imaginable.

Even with his development of Alzheimer's disease, Mike never forgot how to treat others with kindness and was known for sharing a smile, a quick joke, and a laugh.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents Jim and Pat Curley. He is survived by his children: Jamie (Melanie) Curley, Nick (Jo) Curley, Tiffany (Chris) Madsen, and Tony (Megan) Curley; nine grandchildren: Jenna (Colin Schrader), Kaylie, Anna, Tanner (Corina Gray), Peyton, Hunter, Mason, Braxton, and Brynlee; and his brothers Tim (Martha) Curley, Russ (Judy) Curley, and Keith (Tammy) Curley along with many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was: 5-7 p.m. Wednesday April 29, 2026 at Woods Funeral Home.

Funeral Services were: 10:30 a.m. Thursday April 30 at Woods Funeral Home.

Interment: Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Fairbank.

Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation.

Online condolences can be left at [www.woodsfuneralhome.net](http://www.woodsfuneralhome.net)

# Fairbank Community Club hosts puzzle competition

BY JULIE COSTELLO

The Fairbank Community Club recently hosted a lively and friendly puzzle competition, bringing together seven enthusiastic teams for a unique challenge. Each team raced to finish a 500-piece puzzle while also enjoying eight American Legion beers and a Costa's pizza along the way. After an evening of fun and teamwork, the team Piece of Cake claimed victory, completing their puzzle in an impressive 2 hours and 10 minutes.

More puzzling fun will be on the way—stay tuned for our next puzzle competition coming soon.



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Above: The winning team included Kari and Evan Kamp, Kim Toussaint and Jodi Ellerman. Below other community members participate in the puzzle competition.**



# Island Days Little Prince/Princess and King/Queen Competition looking for candidates

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 Friday, June 15. Additional copies will be available at the library. Any questions, please feel free to contact Alexis Rausch 712-301-5067.

### Island Days Little Prince/Princess & King/Queen Competition

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age & Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

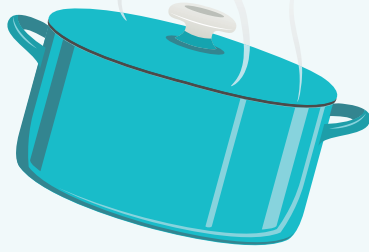
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Interests/Activities/Sports you are involved in: \_\_\_\_\_

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# May COMMUNITY POTLUCK



BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!

**MAY 20, 2026 AT 11:30 AM**

Tableware and beverages provided. Sponsored by IC Parish Life Committee.



# Heath Zuck named head coach for Pride Football

DUBUQUE, IOWA - Clarke University Athletics and Director of Athletics Curt Long are excited to announce the hiring of Heath Zuck as the head coach for Pride football.

Zuck becomes the third head coach in the history of Pride football heading into the program's eighth season of competition in 2026 with today, Thursday, Apr. 9, serving as his first official day on the job.

"Heath is a veteran coach with over two decades of experience," Long said. "He has contributed to championship-level programs at the NAIA level and has a proven track record in both recruiting and student-athlete development. He is committed to fostering excellence both on the field and in the classroom as well as building a culture of accountability, discipline, and long-term success."

"These are very exciting times," Zuck said. "There are a lot of exciting things that I think can take place here and the leadership, accountability, and discipline that it's going to take to get this program where it needs to be excites me and fuels me to get going right away. I'm still getting used to hearing 'head football coach' in reference to myself. Having coached football for over 20 years, [becoming a head coach] has felt like a long time coming and I attribute that to my wife and kids being able to allow me to do what I love to do."

Zuck comes to CU after serving an assistant coaching role at Mount Marty University for the past six seasons, instrumental to starting the Lancers program from scratch in 2020 where they have produced an overall record of 16-38 from 2021 to 2025 in an incredibly strong Great Plains



**HEATH ZUCK**  
PRIDE FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

Athletic Conference (GPAC) that is home to three teams perennially ranked in the NAIA Top 25 including Morningside, Dordt, and Northwestern.

During that span, Zuck held roles that include most recently serving as Co-Offensive Coordinator and Offensive Line Coach along with being a Special Teams Coordinator, Backfield Coach, Director of Football Operations, NAIA Clearinghouse Liaison, Equipment Manager, and Adjunct Professor at Mount Marty.

Under his instruction on the offensive side of the ball, the Lancers averaged 353.9 yards of offense per game in 2025 that included an offensive performance in the season-opening game against Clarke where Mount Marty earned a 37-22 victory behind 447 yards of total offense, their second-best mark of the season, as well as their second-highest rushing yards total of the year at 176.

Part of their offensive success came from an All-GPAC performance from running back Kyle

Hirsch, who produced a strong all purpose 2025 out of the backfield, rushing for 441 yards and a touchdown as well as being a treat out of the backfield in the passing game, catching 51 balls for 495 yards and five receiving touchdowns with all three of those stats finishing second on the team.

The Pride are coming off of a 2025 season in which they went 2-9 and went 1-5 in the Heart of America North Division with the seven-year record since the football program's first season in 2019 sitting at 14-57 as Clarke looks to Zuck's experience building NAIA programs like Mount Marty and previously Grand View University for their first season in 2008 to spurn change.

"We have to get expectations laid out right away," Zuck said. "The groundwork has to start immediately with academics being a main focus as well as creating trust, commitment, and love, three pillars that I stand for. Instilling core values of doing what's right, doing it to the best of your ability, and treating others how you want to be treated. We're going to direct these young men to life after football, but while they're here, we have a job to do in the classroom and we're going to put a product on the football field that we're going to see big changes with very, very soon."

Prior to Mount Marty, he spent the 2019 season at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, Iowa, helping with the Quarterbacks, Linebackers and Special Teams where he coached multiple All-District selections. It was at Wapsie Valley where Zuck got his start into coaching, serving as an assistant at Wapsie from 2002-2007, under the tutelage of IFCA

Hall of Fame Head Coach Tony Foster, coaching all facets of the game. The Warriors reached back-to-back championship games in 2006 and 2007, winning in 2007. In all, Zuck coached at Wapsie Valley for six years as an assistant football coach, assistant middle school baseball coach, and head middle school boy's track coach as well as the assistant boy's high school track coach from 2018-2020, coaching multiple State Track Meet Qualifiers.

Before the 2019 season, he was an assistant football coach at Wartburg College for the 2018 season where he was the Tight Ends Coach as well as helping with Special Teams. While at Wartburg he coached an Honorable Mention All-Conference Tight End. The Knights were the 2018 American Rivers Conference Champions and Automatic Qualifier for the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Preceding his time at Wartburg College, Zuck spent 10 years at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa, helping start and build the program with Head Coach Mike Woodley. Within six years of starting the program the Vikings were National Champions, earning the title in the 2013 season. While at Grand View, he began as the Running Backs Coach (2008-2014) for seven years before switching to the Tight Ends for the last three years (2015-2017) along with also coaching Kicking and Punting. While coaching those positions, he had over ten All-Conference selections. During his time at Grand View, the Vikings were Conference Champions six times, an NAIA Playoff Qualifier six times, and the previously mentioned 2013 NAIA National

Champions.

A Fairbank, Iowa, native, and Wapsie Valley alum, Zuck won both All-District and All-State awards for the Warriors under IFCA Hall of Fame Head Coach Jerry Southmayd. He won state championships both as a player (1997) and a coach (2007) while at Wapsie Valley High School.

Zuck played collegiately at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa, was a two-way starter as the kicker and punter for the Peacocks' Special Teams, and holds a Master's Degree from Ohio University his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Northern Iowa.

Excited to begin this new era of Clarke football, Zuck wants the Pride faithful to be ready to come out in full force for the 2026 season as their season is set to begin on the road against the team he was just with, the Mount Marty Lancers when CU travels to Yankton, S.D. for their season opener on Aug. 29, 2026 before their home opener on Saturday, Sept. 5 against Baker University for a 1:00 p.m. CT scheduled kickoff at Dalzell Field.

"You're going to see a team that does not quit, a team that knows how to handle adversity, a team that is very, very attentive to detail where the fundamentals show through, and a team that plays exciting football," Zuck said. "But there is a lot of work that needs to be done between then and now to get there."

Heath and his wife Malynda have four children in daughters Kyra (17) and Lyndee (16), as well as sons Ryder (12) and Maddux (10).....and two beagles, Bruce and Lucy.

*This article was published on www.clarkepride.com on April 9, 2026*

## Wapsie Valley Education Foundation announces 2026 Annual Fundraiser

Fairbank, Iowa — The Wapsie Valley Education Foundation is excited to announce its 2026 Annual Fundraiser, taking place on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at Bent's Smokehouse in Readlyn.

This year's event will feature a refreshed, entertainment-focused format, including dinner, a live dueling pianos performance, and a thoughtfully curated auction. The evening is designed to bring the community together for a fun and engaging experience while supporting a meaningful cause.

Funds raised from the event will directly support classroom grants, student scholarships, and enrichment opportunities for Wapsie Valley students and teachers.

"We're looking forward to creating an event that not only raises important funds for our schools, but also gives our community a memorable night out," said Leah Woods, WVEF Board Member.

Additional details, including ticket sales, table reservations, sponsorship opportunities, and auction highlights, will be announced in the coming months.

Join us for a night of entertainment with a purpose—investing in education and supporting classroom grants, student scholarships, and enrichment opportunities.

For updates, follow the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation on social media or contact the Foundation directly.

*Mark Your Calendar*  
**WAPSIE VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PRESENTS:**  
*Dueling Pianos*

**SEPTEMBER 26TH 2026** **BENTS SMOKEHOUSE READLYN, IA**

Get ready for an incredible night of dinner, drinks, & the Dueling Pianos!

*more info coming soon...*

# Fairbank Easter Bunny Event



## BIRTHDAYS



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

THE FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CLUB WANTS TO THANK THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR MAKING THE EASTER BUNNY EVENT POSSIBLE AND SUCCESSFUL WITH THEIR DONATIONS OF BASKETS, CANDY, EGGS AND/OR FUNDS

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SHARON WOODS	JULIE DELAGARDELLE	NEAL & JENNA BECK
JULIANN WOODS	MARY & RONNIE JANS	TAMMY & KEVIN ERICKSON
KAT CRIPE	KAREN PINT	MARILYN STEGGALL
JENNY & TYLER WOODS	JILLIAN RATZLAFF	MIKE & KATHY MILLER
MARLA HARTER	RICK & JEANETTE JONES	
ANDREW & ABBY MITCHELL	DAVE & DIANE MUDDERMAN	

BACHMAN PLUMBING & HEATING - BRAD & KATHY BACHMAN  
 LITTLE PROPERTY MGMT - EMILY & JJ LITTLE  
 WOODS CONSTRUCTION - RON & CAROL WOODS  
 MODERN BUILDING PRODUCTS - RICK & CINDY WOODS  
 AJ'S CAMPER RENTALS / SANDEE'S - RANDY & AMANDA JIPSON  
 WOODS FUNERAL HOME - RANDY & JODI WOODS

ALSO A THANK YOU TO AUDRA KANE FOR HANDLING THE EASTER BUNNY DUTIES

A NOTE FROM: THE FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CLUB

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# SPORTS & RECREATION

## Wapsie Valley Boys and Girls Track Teams

PHOTOS BY COLE NEGEN





# Fairbank Elementary Student News

## Meet Mrs. Hayward

Hi! We want to tell you about our awesome teacher, Mrs. Hayward! Mrs. Hayward teaches 2nd grade right now, but she has also taught 1st grade and 3rd grade before. She went to the University of Iowa for college, and she grew up in Independence. Mrs. Hayward loves helping kids learn and do their best. She wants us to know that it's okay to not know something yet—because we can always learn and grow! She says the BEST part about teach-

ing at Fairbank Elementary is the students (that's us!). Mrs. Hayward has a family she loves very much. She has two sons named Emmerson, who is 5, and Elliot, who is 1. She also has a cute Boston Terrier dog named Winston. When Mrs. Hayward was in school, her favorite subjects were social studies and psychology. Now, in her free time, she likes to go on walks, read, and spend time with her family. She also likes listening to audiobooks while

she drives to work. Her favorite foods are desserts (yum!). If she wasn't a teacher, she would want to be a psychologist or a social worker. Here's a fun fact: Mrs. Hayward has LOTS of teachers in her family—her mom, sister, grandpa, uncle, great aunts, and even a cousin! Mrs. Hayward thinks Fairbank Elementary is a great place to work, and she says it's because of the amazing students and staff. We are so lucky to have Mrs. Hayward at our school!



Kasen

## Meet Ms. Rumelhart



Meet Ms. Rumelhart, our PK-6 general music teacher at Fairbank Elementary! She attended Wartburg College and is from Guthrie Center, Iowa. Ms. Rumelhart has been teaching at our school for two and a half years. One thing she loves about teaching is that there is always something new to learn. She hopes her students learn resilience from her and keep trying, even when things

get challenging. Ms. Rumelhart has a cat named Hank. When she was a student, her favorite subjects were music and Spanish. Right now, she can't stop listening to the song "Free" from K Pop Demon Hunters! When she's not at school, Ms. Rumelhart enjoys walking, doing yoga, crocheting, reading, and working on small projects. Her favorite snack is Garrett Caramel and Ched-

dar Popcorn Mix—she says it's her secret obsession! If she weren't a teacher, she might be a yoga instructor or a massage therapist. Here's a fun fact you might not know: she has a tooth implant and likes to look back at old pictures to see her original smile. Ms. Rumelhart says she really enjoys being part of the Wapsie family!

**Wapsie Valley  
LAST DAY  
OF SCHOOL  
IS MAY 21  
with a special  
1:18 p.m. dismissal**

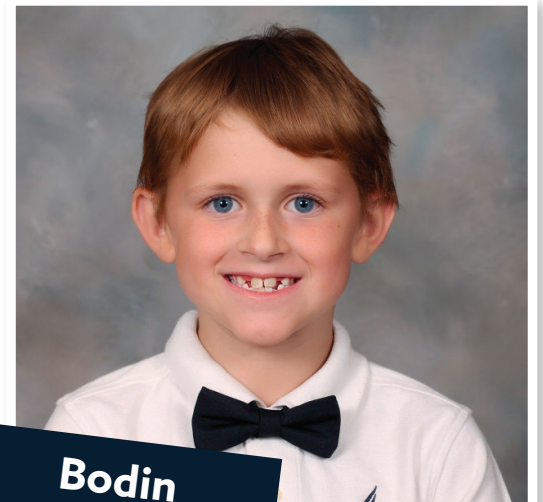
## RECIPES WITH BODIN

### RASPBERRY FLUFF

All you need is 32 oz of vanilla Greek yogurt  
1 5.1 oz. package of instant Vanilla or cheesecake pudding.  
1 regular size Cool Whip (thawed)  
1 12 oz bag of frozen raspberries

In a large bowl, whisk together the pudding mix and vanilla yogurt. Fold in the Cool Whip, and mix until well combined. Gently fold in the raspberries until evenly mixed in. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

So easy and delicious! Mrs. B.'s family favorite!



Bodin

## JACE'S JOKES

**Which crime-fighter does May like the most? Robin**

**What season is it when you are on a trampoline in May? Spring-time**

**What did spring say when it was in trouble? May Day!**



Jace

# Fairbank Public Library



### LIBRARY STAFF

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

212 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 426, Fairbank, IA 50629  
Phone: 319-635-2487 Fax: 319-635-2487  
Email: [library@fairbank-ia.org](mailto:library@fairbank-ia.org) Website: [Fairbank-ia.org](http://Fairbank-ia.org)

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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



## THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to Michelle Rourke, Ted Vorwald, Sue Frost, Thomas Brown, Erin Hill, Sophia Hill, and Spencer Hill for their hard work in tidying up the Library area on Saturday. It looks fantastic!



FAIRBANK LIBRARY  
**SPRING BOOK SALE**  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
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## In Loving Memory

- Lonnie Ross**  
Cross & Sampson ..... from Gary Fink  
Greatness Code ..... from Ron & Carol Woods  
Firestorm ..... from Rick & Jeanette Jones  
Private Rome ..... from Randy, Jodi & Carson Woods  
The Viper ..... from Collin, Sydney & Scottie Woods  
Photograph ..... from Rick & Cindy Woods  
The Couch Potato ..... from Chris & Leah Woods Family  
The Bad Seed ..... from Juliann Woods

**Patty Bentley**  
We All Live Here ..... from Randy, Jodi & Carson Woods

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SAVE THE DATES:  
6/4/2026 Magic Show  
6/11/2026 Fontana Visit  
6/18/2026 Rock Plant  
7/2/2026 Fontana Visit  
7/9/2026 Blank Park Zoo  
7/16/2026 Pinwheels

FAIRBANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

**NEW BOOKS**

# Family Fun Night draws big crowd at Red Rock Farms

CONTINUED FROM A1

stant laughter and dirty socks for children of all ages.

We are so grateful to Landon Kane for generously allowing the event to be held at Red Rock Farms, helping create a welcoming and fun-filled atmosphere for the community.

The evening was made possible by the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes and throughout the event to ensure everything ran smoothly. Everyone was able to enjoy an affordable meal thanks to support from Casey's and Kwik Star.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, Sweet Spin Cotton Candy and Snowcones, provided by FCCLA, were a crowd favorite.

Family Fun Night continues to be a highlight for the Fairbank community, offering an affordable evening of entertainment while supporting important initiatives. Proceeds from the event help fund the school's art program, playground improvements, and field trips for students.

With strong attendance and smiling faces throughout the night, this year's event was once again a great success.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students enjoyed visiting with a wide range of different animals at Red Rock Farms.

# Wapsie Valley 2026 American Red Cross Red Cord recipients



COURTESY PHOTO

Front Row, L to R: Ava Auel, Austin Franck, Norah Oldfather, Kalle Voy and Maya Barnes. Back Row, L to R: Cameron Szurley, Emerie Parkes, Ella Schares, Ella Morarend, Haley Stuber, Emily Trueg, Callie Collins, Layla Thompson and Ari Behnke. Not Pictured: Claire O'Donnell.

## Deadline for the June publication is May 22

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

Little Wapsie Communications began serving the Fairbank community over 5 years ago. When LWC was formed, we wanted to embed ourselves in the community and look for opportunities to serve current and future customers. Below are just a few examples of how we have been doing just that!



- Free Wi-Fi for Island Days
- Over \$16,000 donated to local groups
- Internet connection to WV Elementary free of charge (\$6,000+ value)
- Internet connection to 5 City of Fairbank locations free of charge (\$17,000+ value)
- Additional 8 rural Fairbank addresses added in 2025 and 32 more planned for 2026!
- Free meal at the park for Music in the Park since 2024

LWC is continuously looking for ways to improve our service. If you have any questions, suggestions or issues please call us at our Readlyn (319-279-3375) or Oran (319-638-6006) offices.



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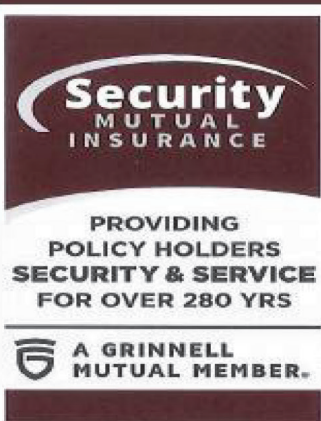


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# Wapsie Valley FFA excels at the 98th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference



COURTESY PHOTO

Front Row L-R: Brinley Schellhorn, Miriam Rulapaugh, Kylie Strottmann and Addilyn Fuller. Middle Row L-R: Martha Rulapaugh, Clare Murphy, Jack Munk, Destry Peine, Tripp Gissel, Cole Munk and Easton Diers. Back Row L-R: Ella Schares, Evan Wedemeier, Eric Bryan, Tate Wilkinson, Ryker Oberle, Clare O'Donnell, Ashlyn Storttmann and Mae Wedemeier.

**SUBMITTED BY: BRINELY SCHELLHORN,**  
Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Reporter

Wapsie Valley attended the 98th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa April 19-21st, 2026. This year's convention was nothing short of incredible, as each of our members pushed themselves to new heights and achieved goals they've been working toward since the very start of their FFA journey.

Ashlyn Strottmann competed in FFA Creed Speaking LDE and was recognized on stage for her placing 5th at state and a Gold Rating.

Kylie Strottmann presented in the Chapter Website LDE and was recognized on stage for placing 4th at state and a Gold Rating. Gwen Forsyth also played a key role in the creation of the chapter website.

Evan Wedemeier was recognized on stage for placing 4th at state and a Gold Rating in the Secretary's Book LDE.

Jack Munk was recognized during the Teach Ag Day Signing with the IAAE. Jack will be attending Iowa State University, majoring in Agricultural Education with the plans of becoming an Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor after graduation.

Mae Wedemeier was honored on stage as the State Runner-Up in the area of Dairy Production Placement during Proficiency Award Recognition.

The Ag Biotechnology Team made up of Addilyn Fuller, Clare Murphy, Ryker Oberle, and Clare O'Donnell, placed 16th in the state and received a Silver Rating.

The Poultry Evaluation Team with Eric Bryan, Easton Diers, Tripp Gissel and Tate Wilkinson placed 23rd overall in the state

and received a Gold Rating while ranking 3rd in the live poultry portion of the CDE.

Farm Business Management Team members Cole Munk, Jack Munk, Destry Peine and Evan Wedemeier placed 23rd overall in the state and received a Gold Rating.

Martha Rulapaugh and Brinley Schellhorn competed in the Chapter Quiz and both received a Gold Rating.

Ryker Oberle and Ella Schares represented the chapter as voting delegates during the business session.

Eric Bryan, Miriam Rulapaugh and Kalle Voy earned their Iowa FFA Degree, which is the highest individual honor that the Iowa FFA Association can bestow upon a member.

Mae Wedemeier ran as a state officer candidate, a rigorous process involving two days of interviews, exams, and speeches. In the largest candidate class in history, Mae made the State Reporter ballot. While not elected, we are incredibly proud of her growth, leadership, and passion for FFA.

The 98th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference was a memorable experience that showcased the hard work, dedication, and passion of our members. From competitive events to leadership workshops, our chapter represented itself with pride and professionalism. While awards and recognitions are worth celebrating, the true impact of convention lies in the growth, connections, and memories made along the way. As we return home, we are motivated to apply what we've learned, continue building our chapter, and strive for even greater success in the year ahead.

## Church Services



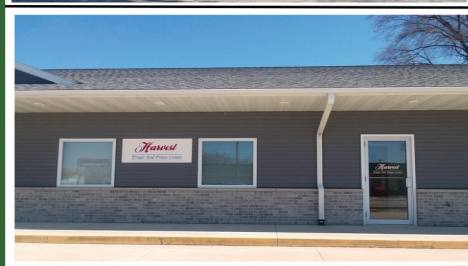
**United Methodist Church**  
107 2nd Street  
Fairbank, Iowa 50629  
904-505-5230  
**Pastor Daniel Search**  
Worship Service: 9:15 AM



**St. John Lutheran Church**  
(MISSOURI SYNOD)  
208 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fairbank, Iowa 50629  
319-635-2181  
**Pastor Grant Tapken**  
Worship Service: 10:00 AM



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



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



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



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



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**Adam Schaufenbuel**  
Vice President, Waverly



**Megan Niewoehner**  
Loan Officer, Oelwein

# Spinning up something sweet

CONTINUED FROM A1

Cortney Matthias of Fairbank and are the masterminds and makers behind the operation "Sweet Spinning Cotton Candy Co." What was first a small cotton candy spinner gifted at Christmas turned into a large scale operation when they realized just how fun the candy craft could be.

"It started when we purchased a small machine for Christmas. We had so much fun, and it was so yummy that we decided we needed a larger machine," Lauren and Caden said. "The next step was finding the right machine, and we had to do some homework on it."

"It took a lot of research to find the right equipment for our needs. We decided to go to the commercial manufacturer called Gold Metal," grandma and business partner Melaine Buzynski said. "There is a lot of history we found out about the company and how they started with only a small amount of money."

"Just like us," Caden added. Through YouTube tutorials and learning about the history of the first-ever cotton candy machine crafted by dentist William J. Morrison of Nashville, Tenn., in 1897, the cotton candy spinners required the assistance of their grandmother, Melaine Buzynski, who has a background in sales and fundraising. The idea to raise money to help their community just felt natural.

"We watched a lot of YouTube videos and saw that cotton candy could be a good thing to sell and with Grandma's help with fundraising, we could help our school and other groups," they said.

Thus "Cotton Candy with a Cause" was born.

Caden set a high goal of raising \$1,000 and donating half of the sales to the school as they were raising money for new playground equipment. Their first event for Sweet Spinning was at Red Rock Farms on April 10, where they sold about \$500 worth of product from their new mobile cart. The two also sat at



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MELAINE BUZYNSKI

**Above: Pictured is Sweet Spinning owners Caden and Lauren of Fairbank with their \$500 donation to Fairbank Elementary's playground project. Right: Friend Spencer Hill helps out the two spinners with packaging, customer service and spinning.**



to do.

The Sweet Spinning crew makes cotton candy of many flavors to provide a variety for their audience.

"Blue raspberry is our top seller, followed by pink vanilla," they said. "We also offer birthday cake (Caden's favorite), pink vanilla, sassy green apple (Lauren's favorite), bubble gum, lime, pina colada, and banana."

While the kids truly do have fun making the candy and meeting new people that stop by, they are learning about a true business and how to work customer service at a young age.

"The kids are learning so much about customer service and running a business. They are learning it's more than just about making money," Buzynski said. "It's about pride and do-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MELAINE BUZYNSKI

**Sweet Spinning Cotton Candy Co. has a mobile cart for events, which can be seen in Fairbank's parks or outside their grandparent's house in the driveway.**

ing something worth the effort and helping others. They helped name the company, design the labels, and choose the brand characters."

Sweet Spinning purchased a mobile cart to be able to travel to events, and the kids were part of the process of getting a city permit for their cart to sell at Fairbank parks.

The group is also part of the Fairbank Community Club as some of the youngest members to join.

Anyone looking to have Sweet Spinning at an event can contact them at 319-404-7116 or email sales@sweetspinning.com. Along with personalized packaging for family events, reunions, weddings, graduations and more, they will be at Sumner's Community Memorial Hospital Family Fun Fair May 7 from 5-8 p.m.

"Teaching life lessons are important and inviting your friend along for the ride makes it so much sweeter," Buzynski said. "The kids enjoy inviting their friends who are interested in

making cotton candy by making them part of the crew. It has been a great experience and we're looking forward to helping other groups raise money."



**Caden stands with their pre-made containers of Sweet Spinning cotton candy.**

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# WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL CORNER



**CHRIS HOOVER**  
SUPERINTENDENT

A huge thank you and shout out to the WV Athletic Booster Club as they embark on a fundraising effort to provide some necessities and extras at the new track and football field. Please see the kick-off notice below from the WV Athletic Booster Club:

**Wapsie Nation:**

We're officially kicking off fundraising for the Wapsie Valley Athletic Complex Improvements and this is our chance to build something truly special for our school and our community.

The foundation is being put in place. Now it's time to bring the experience to life.

**We're raising funds for:**

- Video scoreboard
- Audio & camera upgrades
- Track & meet equipment
- Storage facility
- Entrance improvements
- Concessions seating & tables
- Waste receptacles

And the details that make this facility something we're proud of

**MATCH ALERT**

The Wapsie Valley Athletic Booster Club is matching the first \$50,000 raised dollar for dollar. That means your impact is doubled right out of the gate.

**LEAVE YOUR LEGACY**

Donations of \$500+ will leave a permanent mark on the new complex. Thinking about a larger contribution of \$25,000+

Checks can be dropped off at Readlyn Savings Bank or Northeast Security Bank (Fairbank) under the Wapsie Valley Athletic Complex account.

If donating by check, please still complete the online form so your legacy recognition is captured correctly.

**Donate or learn more**

<https://givebutter.com/WapsieValleyAthletic-Complex>

The Wapsie Valley Booster Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all donations are

tax-deductible as allowed by law.

This is more than a project. It's an investment in our kids, our community, and the future of Wapsie Valley.

Let's build something special together.

Any questions please reach out to WVabooster@gmail.com or Brett Bergman.

**Mr. Murphy named next WV Superintendent**

I want to congratulate Mr. TJ Murphy for being named the next Superintendent of Schools at Wapsie Valley. Mr. Murphy is currently the High School Principal at Wapsie Valley and will be taking the next step up. I have no doubts that TJ will continue with the excellence in education that we have been building. Good luck Mr. Murphy!

Please let me know if you have any questions! Take care and Go Warriors!

*Chris Hoover, Superintendent*







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**Wapsie Valley CSD  
Special Board Meeting Minutes**

March 31, 2026  
President Aiello called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 2:37PM.  
A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman. Declared a quorum  
B. Secretary-Kim Arndt, Tara Sullivan & Tina Kaufman(7:25PM)  
Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the updated agenda to reference a start time of 2:37PM due to Superintendent interviews as presented. Motion carried 5-0  
Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Becker to go into Closed Session 21.5(i) at 2:38PM with a Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to exit closed session at 3:34 PM with a Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0  
Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker to go into Closed Session 21.5(i) at 3:48PM-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0  
Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to exit Closed Session at 4:44PM-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to go into Closed Session 21.5(i) at 5:07PM-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to extend a one year Superintendent contract to Timothy (TJ) Murphy \$130,000 effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 as presented-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to adjourn at 8:54PM. Motion carried 5-0

**Wapsie Valley CSD  
Public Hearing & Special School Board Meeting**

March 30, 2026  
Pledge of Allegiance  
1. President Aiello called the Public Hearing on the 26-27 Property Tax Statement to order at 6:01 PM.  
Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman-Aye Motion carried 5-0  
A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman  
B. Secretary Arndt, Supt. Hoover (excused)  
2. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0  
3. President Aiello read opening statements regarding public hearing requirements and property tax statement.  
Secretary Arndt stated the property tax statement was published at a tax rate of \$14.00 for the 2026-2027 school year decreasing from the 25-26 tax rate of \$14.02. The proposed budget for 2026-2027 will also be published at the tax rate of \$14.00.  
4. Public comment-No written or verbal comments  
5. Closed the Public Hearing and adjourned at 6:05 PM-Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman-Aye Motion carried 5-0  
1. President Aiello called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 6:06 PM.  
A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman  
B. Secretary Arndt, & Supt. Hoover (excused)  
2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0  
3. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr.-Roll call-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 to approve the Resolution Appointing Paying Agent, Note Registrar, and Transfer Agent, Approving the Paying Agent, Note Registrar and Transfer Agent Agreement, and Authorizing the Execution of Same as presented  
4. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 to approve the form of Tax Exemption Certificate as presented.  
5. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr.-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 to approve Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$530,000 General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026, Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof, and Authorizing the Execution of a Loan Agreement as presented.  
6. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr.-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Aiello-Aye-Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1 to approve the Resolution Appointing Paying Agent, Bond Registrar, and Transfer Agent, Approving the Paying Agent, Bond Registrar and Transfer Agent Agreement and Authorizing the Execution of Same as presented.  
7. Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Becker-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Aiello-Aye-Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1 to approve the form of Tax Exemption Certificate as presented.  
8. Moved by Becker, Seconded by Auel-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Aiello-Aye-Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1 to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Terms of Issuance and Providing for and Securing the Payment of School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2026A, and the Taxable School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2026B.  
9. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker to approve board policies-704.02R1-Post-Issuance Compliance Regulation, 704.07-Post-Issuance Compliance Policy for Tax-Exempt Obligations, 704.07E(1)-Bond Disclosure Policy-Key Participants & Responsibilities, 704.07E(2) Bond Disclosure Agreement Inventory as presented. Motion carried 5-0  
10. Board Talking Points - Make sure we have a schedule of board policy review dates to keep our policies compliant.  
Tara Sullivan will begin training approximately June 1, 2026 with Kim Arndt to learn the role of a School Business Official.  
11. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 6:33 PM Motion carried 5-0

**PUBLIC RECORDS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday March 23, 2026. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Nick Kuker, Public Works Director; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.  
R. Woods/T. Woods to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Gruetzmacher/Erickson to open the public hearing on the rezoning request for the property located along the 700 Block of Fairbank Street from R-1 to R-2. Motion carried. There were no comments received. Gruetzmacher/Williams to close the public hearing at 6:10 pm. Motion carried.

Williams/T. Woods to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: March 9th Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Matt Graham with Kinetic was present during informal public comment. He introduced himself and stated that Kinetic is interested in installing fiber services in Fairbank. He provided a map showing the proposed right-of-way areas for conduit installation and noted that the infrastructure would be buried at a depth of approximately 18 inches. Council member R. Woods expressed concern that placing fiber at that depth within the right-of-way could create conflicts during water main repairs. Attorney Prendergast stated that she has experience working on right-of-way agreements for other communities and noted that the city's authority over the use of right-of-way may be limited. The council indicated they wanted to seek community input regarding the addition of another fiber provider and consider the scope of work and its impact of additional right-of-way work following similar infrastructure improvements completed in recent years.

Erickson/Gruetzmacher to approve sending Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the construction of a park shelter at Veteran's Park. Proposals will be due by 4:30 pm on April 10, 2026, with review and possible action at the April 13, 2026 council meeting. Abstain: R. Woods. Motion carried.

At the last meeting, Chief Robinson asked the council about hiring another part-time officer for the police department. He asked the council to consider hiring Katelyn Christensen. Mayor Kayser, Councilman R. Woods and Councilman Williams met with her and Chief Robinson for an interview. Williams/R. Woods to approve Resolution 2026 - 11 - Resolution Hiring Part-Time Police Officer. Katelyn Christensen was hired at \$30.39 per hour and will be available as needed starting March 24, 2026. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.  
Williams/T. Woods to approve requesting an intersection study from the Iowa Department of Transportation for the intersection of Grove Street and South Fifth Street, due to ongoing traffic safety concerns, including pedestrian activity related to school traffic, as well as challenges with maintaining temporary traffic control measures. Motion carried.  
An ordinance needed to be read regarding amending the official zoning map after the public hearing had been completed for the rezoning of the property located

along the 700 Block of Fairbank Street from R-1 to R-2. T. Woods/Williams to approve the first reading of Ordinance 380 - Ordinance Amending Official Zoning Map. Ayes: Four. Abstain: R. Woods. Nays: None.  
The waiver of the second and third readings and adoption of Ordinance No. 380 failed due to lack of a motion. Those items will be placed on a future agenda.

Gruetzmacher/Erickson to approve the first reading of Ordinance 367 - An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Rates for Collection of Solid Waste. The ordinance provides for a \$1.00 increase for each single-person household residence and each residence with two or more persons. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

The council needed to set a public hearing to finalize the city budget for this next budget year. Williams/Gruetzmacher to Approve Resolution 2026-12 Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing for the City's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The public hearing was set for Monday April 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Councilman R. Woods asked Nick when they had planned on doing hydrant flushing and Nick said they were planning to do that in April.  
During the department reports, Nick talked about how strange the weather has been and that he is still working on getting some quotes for the sewer lining around Roxanne Drive. Gruetzmacher stated that there are 118 kids signed up for little league so far. Mayor Kayser stated that Costas Market was planning for a ribbon cutting on April 8, 2026 and he also stated that he was looking into redoing the city logo.

The council had some discussion on what to require when listing the property at 506 Patterson Street. They finalized verbiage needed for the sealed bid packet that included stipulations for the lot and information on how to submit a sealed bid. All sealed bids will be due Thursday April 23rd by 4:30 pm and must be on the bid sheet provided by the city and the council will open them at the council meeting on April 27th at 6:00 pm. Williams/T. Woods to approve the posting of the sale of 506 Patterson Street by sealed bid. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Williams/Gruetzmacher to enter into closed session at 7:16 pm pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j) to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Gruetzmacher/R. Woods to come out of closed session at 7:26 pm. Motion carried.

Erickson/Gruetzmacher to list the minimum bid amount for 506 Patterson Street at \$15,000.00. Following the opening of all bids, bidders may choose to increase their bidding price by a minimum of \$500.00 per increase in order to obtain the winning bid. However, the council reserves the right to reject bids even if they are the highest bidder. Any decision regarding awarding the bid will be made at the next council meeting on May 11, 2026. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.  
Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Motion carried.

**Wapsie Valley CSD  
Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

April 20, 2026  
Pledge of Allegiance  
1. President Aiello called the Public Hearing on the 26-27 Budget and FY 26 Amendment to order at 6:02 PM. Roll call-Auel-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye, Motion carried 4-0 Becker (excused)  
A. Directors: Auel, Broten Jr., Kaufman, & Aiello-Aye Declared a quorum  
B. Secretary Arndt & Principals Forsyth, Murphy, & Myers-Supt Hoover (virtual)  
C. Others: Tina Kaufman, Elaine, Kyle, Krayton, & Tim Zimmerman, Tara Sullivan, Zach Boevers, Jordan Cusick, Mitzi Peterson, Tony Russell, Ronnie, Duane, & Brandy Wilcox, Vaughn & Jenni Gross, Katie Foelske & Readlyn 4th-grade students, Hailey Broten, Vince, Dylan, & Daniel Matthias, Jeannie Wolfe, Nathan & Jessica Kelly, Justin and Kanen Decker, Dawson Schmit, Drake Russell & virtual participants.  
2. Mrs. Arndt presented FY27 Budget overview and FY26 Amendment - Discussion was held on proposed tax rate of \$14.00087 due to supplemental state aid being set at 2%, decreasing the tax rate \$.02 from FY26.  
3. No public comment on the FY27 Budget or the FY26 Amendment.  
4. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to close the Public Hearing at 6:07 PM-Roll call-Auel-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye Motion carried 4-0  
1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:07 PM.  
2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
3. Spotlight on Education-Readlyn Elementary students conducted a service learning coin war project to raise money for the Readlyn Fire Department. The students raised \$2,591.28 with help from Readlyn Savings, TruServ, RTC, & Weeds on Fire.  
4. Central Rivers AEA - CAPS - Internships-Mr. Cusick, Zach Boevers, & Mitzi Peterson presented on Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) & Internships. These programs empower students, associates them with innovation, problem solving, public speaking, and helps them explore careers while obtaining durable skills.  
5. Booster Club Track/Football Field Project fundraising-Representing the Booster Club, Hailey Broten introduced a fundraising initiative aimed at enhancing the Track/Football Project. She detailed a tiered giving structure to define the various donation categories.  
6. Public Comment: Community members, students, & past students voiced concerns regarding the Robotic, Lego, and Wrestling Programs. Jeannie Wolfe expressed appreciation for the board's efforts and emphasized their decision-making is not taken lightly.  
7. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the Engagement Letter with Ahlers & Cooney-School Infrastructure Sales, Service & Use Tax Revenue Bonds 2026A and Taxable School Infrastructure Sales, Services & Use Tax Revenue Bonds Series 2026B as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
8. Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Auel to approve the Engagement Letter with Ahlers & Cooney-General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026 as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
9. Consent Items: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Auel including the open enrollment of Alirio Behnke request to open enroll his 10th grade daughter to Cedar Falls High school effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
10. Communication & Reports: Board: Scott & Angie will be on stage at graduation. HVAC units will be installed in the two rooms north of the board room this summer. Prom went well.  
Superintendent: Report included: Track/Football field project, HVAC, Summer Projects, & Booster Club fundraising

District, PK-12 Principals: Report included DARE program, PTO sponsored field trip to Nat'l Mississippi River Museum, PK, TK, & Kindergarten open house, PTO Family Fun Night, leader night, FFA & FCCLA state convention, & Activities.  
11. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the resignations of Chris Hoover-Assistant Boys Track Coach, & Beau Sorenson-Assistant Wrestling Coach effective immediately and thank them for their service to the students and staff at Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 4-0  
Contracts: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the following contracts: Dan Nuss-Special Education Associate-\$12.67 P/H for the 25-26 school year, 26-27 Teaching contracts with an increase of 2.78% total package. Since moving away from the traditional salary indexed schedule, please see Danny Adams, Amanda Bockholt, or Katie Foelske with any questions regarding increases, & a 3% increase for 26-27 Support staff contracts as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
12. New Business: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve FY27 Budget with a tax rate of \$14.00087 & amended budget for FY26 increasing Total Support Service due to increased expenditures as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the Budget Guarantee that will levy property tax for FY27 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the purchase of football helmets (\$6,810.39) from general fund for the 26 season as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the audit for fiscal year 2025 as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the District Career & Academic Plan as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Sharing Human Resource Director as Resource Only with Sumner-Fredricksburg for the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the increase from \$24 P/H to \$30 P/H for Extended School Year teachers as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the amended 28E agreement effective June 1, 2026subject to any additional edits required by the Iowa Insurance Division in connection with the Trust's certificate of registration application as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded Kaufman to go into Closed Session 21.5 (i) at 7:48 PM Roll Call-Auel, Kaufman, Broten Jr., & Aiello-ALL-AYES-Motion Carried 4-0 To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to exit closed session at 8:35 PM-Roll Call-Auel, Kaufman, Broten Jr., & Aiello-ALL-AYES-Motion Carried 4-0  
Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve a 3% increase effective the 26-27 school year for Principals Alyson Forsyth & Holly Myers, Maintenance Director-David Dennler, School Business Official-Kim Arndt along with July 3, 2026 being a paid holiday due to moving to a letter of assignment contract effective July 1, 2026 since retiring August 31, 2026, and Human Resources Director-Tina Kaufman with adding to her 26-27 contract-The DISTRICT shall pay the premiums for single coverage or family coverage. If family coverage is not utilized you will receive the cash value of the difference between single and family coverage in additional salary based on the FTE of the position for the sole purpose of providing health and dental insurance for the Human Resource Director and family at the deductible level under the health/medical programs adopted for the DISTRICT as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
13. Board Talking Points - Discussed Principal interview procedures  
14. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Motion carried 4-0 Respectfully submitted-Kim Arndt

April 20, 2026 WV Board Bills  
AGVANTAGE FS, INC. \$4,895.21 AHLERS & COONEY, P.C. \$524.00 ALLIANT ENERGY \$410.91 Amazon \$389.94 Arndt, Kim \$109.78 ARNOLD MOTOR \$16.10 AUDIBLE \$16.00 BEACHY, RACHEL \$63.00 BLACK HAWK SPRINKLERS \$375.00 BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$307.80 BREMER COUNTY DARE \$521.25 BURGART, REYCE \$125.00 BUTLER COUNTY REC \$4,299.02 CASEY'S \$3.90 CB INNOVATIONS \$3,651.78 CENTRAL IA DISTRIB \$1,082.00 Central Rivers AEA \$900.00 CENTRAL RIVERS AEA \$18,913.90 CHEMSEARCH \$235.36 CITY LAUNDRY \$1,476.88 CITY OF FAIRBANK \$7,958.28 CITY OF READLYN \$2,794.97 COLUMN SOFTWARE \$470.12 COURIER COMM \$92.25 DON'S TRUCK SALES \$208.96 EAST-CENTRAL IA REC \$1,081.17 Employee Benefit Systems \$76,880.45 FAREWAY \$158.74 FERGUSON \$214.65 GODADDY \$22.19 Gordon, Jenn \$10.97 HAMPTON INN \$1,426.00 Hawkeye Alarm \$380.00 HAWKEYE CC \$68,941.21 HERSHBERGER, MARY BETH \$87.75 HOOVER, CHRIS \$424.85 IA REGIONAL UTILITIES \$467.23 IA TESTING PROGRAMS \$1,612.00 Keyston AEA \$1,189.98 KLUESNER SANITATION \$640.00 LITTLE WAPSIE COMM \$175.08 LOCKSPERTS \$44.70 Menards \$193.23 MILLER, CATHERINE \$112.50 MODERN BUILDING \$82.32 OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE \$625.00 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$161.00 RABER, EDNA \$85.50 RAISA A HALLELUJAH, LLC \$1,400.00 READLYN TELEPHONE \$190.48 RELAYHUB LLC \$808.97 RIVERSIDE INSIGHTS \$419.75 ROTO-ROOTER \$275.00 SCHOOL BUS SALES \$384.47 SONOVA USA \$2,124.82 STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS \$524.06 STELLER TEACHER \$29.00 SULLIVAN, HEATHER \$40.60 SUPERIOR WELDING \$45.00 TAYLOR PHYSICAL THERAPY \$2,595.00 UBIQUITI STORE \$6.00 UNIFORMS TODAY \$228.00 UNI \$150.00 Walmart \$336.21 WAVERLY CSD \$33,311.25 WEEDS ON FIRE \$5,472.50 WILLIAM PENN \$2,000.00 WILSON RESTAURANT SUPPLY, INC. \$19.98 GENERAL TOTAL \$254,219.02 Employee Benefit Systems \$5,578.86 MANAGEMENT TOTAL \$5,578.86 CARDINAL CNSTRCTN \$83,831.94 UMB BANK, N.A. \$2,250.00 CAPITAL PROJECTS \$86,081.94 EMERGENT \$21,457.55 WILSON RESTAURANT SUPPLY, INC. \$761.25 YOUNG PLUMBING & HEATING \$1,891.10 SAVE TOTAL \$24,109.90 ACCESS SYSTEMS \$1,569.00 Central Rivers AEA \$2,862.52 FM CONTROLS \$1,200.00 GIGFIRE \$70.00 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$100.00 RESILITE SPORTS \$13,902.48 SHIVEHATTERY \$9,050.00 STICKFORT ELECTRIC \$1,030.45 PPEL TOTAL \$29,784.45 SCHWARTZ, KAYLA \$53.68 BEFORE/AFTER CARE TOTAL \$53.68 SAM'S CLUB \$46.76 HOT STUFF COFFEE CART \$46.76 Amazon \$375.94 Gopher Sport \$2,712.77 J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC. \$21.50 REALITY WORKS \$594.74 SIMPLY FUN \$45.80 Teacher Synergy LLC \$3.95 WVEF TOTAL \$3,754.70 ALLISON, GAIL \$100.00 J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC. \$229.48 RUMELHART, MALENA \$145.50 WEST MUSIC \$89.10 GALLUP TRUST TOTAL \$564.08 4 SEASONS FUND RAISING \$1,017.90 Amazon \$573.73 ATLANTIC COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY \$169.90 Behn, Scott \$140.00 BERGMAN, BRETT \$261.06 BSN SPORTS \$4,125.00 Buzynski, Melaine \$225.00 CASEY'S \$39.31 CONVENTION CNTR \$12.35 DANCEWEAR SOLUTIONS \$317.43 Dollar Tree \$53.25 Drury Inn & Suites West Des Moines \$497.91 EAST MARSHALL CSD \$100.00 EDGEWOOD LOCKER \$5,535.00 ELITE SPORTS \$1,646.46 ELITE SPORTSWEAR \$59.97 FCCLA \$414.00 GATEWAY HOTEL \$266.56 HOBBY LOBBY \$127.68 HOME DEPOT \$669.80 INDEPENDENCE CSD \$150.00 IA FFA ASSOC \$160.00 IA GIRLS H.S. ATH. UNION \$432.00 IA SPORTS SUPPLY \$302.00 KELLY, TIM \$338.25 KODIAK GOLF \$199.99 LAQUINTA INN \$370.44 MAPLE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB \$500.00 MICHELL'S \$1,120.93 Mount Vernon Community Schools \$80.00 NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION \$1,586.00 NE IA FOOD BANK \$250.00 PANTHER LANES \$540.00 PIZZA RANCH \$184.67 Ratchford, Rob \$140.00 SAM'S CLUB \$241.64 SARIN SYSTEMS \$1,250.00 Signs and More \$38.75 STEEGE'S MEAT MARKET \$262.50 SULLIVAN, BRENDAN \$140.00 SUMNER-FREDRICKSBURG CSD \$700.00 TREERING CORP \$456.12 USA WRESTLING \$185.00 Walmart \$286.89 WAVERLY CSD \$125.00 WAYZATA RESULTS \$806.50 WEEPIE, ELLA \$500.00 WEST HIGH SCHOOL \$20.00 XTREAM ARENA \$65.90 Yant, Evan \$400.00 ACTIVITY TOTAL \$28,084.89 ATLANTIC COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY \$244.92 BRUNSCHEON, KELLI \$8.95 EMS DETERGENT SERVICES, CO. \$288.25 KWIK TRIP \$31.74 MARTIN BROS. \$15,367.75 PRAIRIE FARMS \$3,167.62 LUNCH TOTAL \$19,109.23

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## Lifting and Investing: The Power of Time, Consistency... and a Good Spotter

I’ve been interested in lifting weights for years, but it wasn’t until recently when I started training with a few other stronger and smarter women that I finally started seeing real results and actually enjoying the process. Before that, my routine looked pretty typical: I’d find a free program on YouTube, follow it as consistently as life allowed, and eventually hit a wall. My confidence would waiver with questions like:

- Am I doing this correctly?
- Should I be adding more weight?
- What if it’s too heavy and I hurt myself?
- Why am I feeling this in my back when the YouTube lady says I should feel it in my legs?

Without clear answers, I’d eventually lose momentum and quit. I see the exact same pattern in my work as a financial and wealth advisor.

One of the best approaches I’ve learned in the gym is the concept of a progressive overload: the practice of gradually increasing the weight, reps, or intensity over time to keep making progress and avoid plateaus.

It sounds simple, but trying to push your limits is a lot easier (and safer) when you have a spotter. A spotter is someone watching out for you, encouraging you, and making sure you don’t get stuck or hurt. Building wealth is also about consistent effort over time and it never hurts to have someone there to keep you accountable and on track when life tugs at you to go off-plan.

The truth is, there are levels to both lifting and investing just like the well-known “stages of competence”:

- **Unconscious Incompetence:** You don’t know what you don’t know... and you don’t really care. Ignorance feels like bliss... until it doesn’t.
- **Conscious Incompetence:** You realize there’s a gap between where you are and where you want to be. You see the potential, and you’re ready to do something about it.
- **Conscious Competence:** You’re actively working to close that gap whether by learning on your own or partnering with a professional who can guide you.
- **Unconscious Competence:** You’ve either mastered the skill yourself or you’ve found someone you trust to handle it for you. You can finally relax and stop losing sleep over it.

I’m still very much in stages 2 and 3 with my lifting journey, but I’ve discovered something powerful: training with the two women who are stronger and more experienced than me is not only more fun, it’s dramatically more effective.

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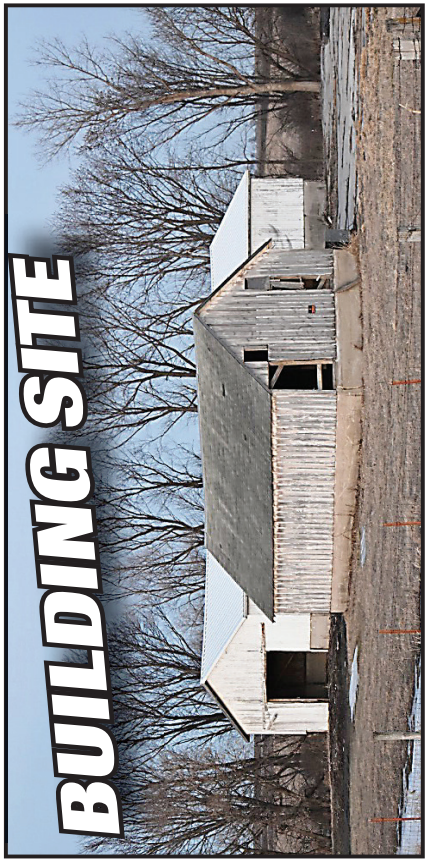
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Approx. 7.35 acres m/l, Out Buildings, Pasture w/Creek, Septic & Rural Water is Available.  
**\$150,000**



**SOLD**  
**203 & 205 GROVE ST.  
FAIRBANK**



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