

Fairbank ISLANDER

SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER 1, 2021

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 12

Fairbank Holiday Decorating Contest

Get out the Christmas lights and decorations!!! The Fairbank Community Club is again sponsoring a Holiday Decorating Contest. Judges will be out on Sunday, December 12th looking for the best outdoor decorations, so be sure to have your lights on that night.

Ten homes will be awarded prizes. The \$25 prizes will be awarded in Fairbank Bucks to be spent at local businesses. The Community Club will put a sign in front of the winning homes, so that your friends and neighbors will know that you were honored for your hard work. The signs will be picked up after New Year's.

We had a lot of beautiful decorations last year to choose from, and we look forward to seeing what's new this year! Happy Holidays!



Everyone welcome at the Community Christmas Party

Come and celebrate the holidays at a Community Christmas Party to be held at Parkview Assisted Living in Fairbank. The party is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, December 8th starting at

1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the Fairbank Community Churches.

Everyone is invited, both men & women. You'll enjoy the entertainment which will be provided by the Union Dicken's Christmas

Carolers. There will be refreshments and door prizes. Please join us for a fun afternoon!

Fairbank Community Club announcing visit from Santa

Santa is coming to town! He'll be visiting with children and handing out treats from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, December 8th at the Fairbank American Legion. Feel free to bring your cameras and take pictures!

Community Club members will be on hand serving hot chocolate and cookies in appreciation of the community support that we have received throughout the year. These festivities run in conjunction with the annual Holiday Hop, so hope to see you there!

SCAM ALERT!

The Fairbank Fire Department would like to alert area residents that there are so-called "limited edition Fairbank Fire Dept. T-shirts" for sale coming via a text message. THIS IS A SCAM! The FFD is NOT selling T-shirts online or through text messages. Do not order from Trendytees, as it was not initiated by our department.

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 22nd
FAIRBANK FIRE & EMS ASSOC.
ANNUAL DANCE

We are excited to announce that we are able to get back, face to face, for our annual Fireman's Dance. It's been a long year for everyone, including our FFD, and it's time to get together, do some dancing, and catch up with everyone! Thanks to all that supported our "virtual" dance last year, we have an awesome community and great support.

We are happy to bring Tyler Richton & The High Bank Boys to Fairbank. Our "Barn Dance" themed celebration will be JANUARY 22ND, FAIRBANK AMERICAN LEGION!! Mark your calendars! This real country music, all male singers and artists are coming from Deep River, Iowa to entertain us. (More about the band in next month's Islander.) Plan to have a great time and support your local Fire & EMS Association. Letters will be sent out soon as well.

See You There!!



Replacement of trees is in the works

In October 2021, the City of Fairbank was approved for two hundred free tree seedlings from the State Forest Nursery that were paid through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service. A mixture of oak trees which include Black Cherry, Bur Oak, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Shagbark Hickory, and Swamp White oak were ordered. The trees were delivered on November 15th and were planted at the ball park. In three or four years the city is hoping to be able to transfer some trees to residents.

Thank you to Nick Curley, Dean Mangrich, Dan Richards, and Ted Vorwald for your hard work and volunteering your time.

A MESSAGE FROM

Mayor Mike



By Mike Harter

Congratulations to Matthew Coffin on being elected to the City Council. Unfortunately, when we have a new member, it means saying good-bye to a current member. Thanks to Ted Vorwald for his 12 years of service on the City Council, plus many years working for the City. Also, thanks again to all of the candidates who ran for an office this year.

At the November 22 City Council Meeting, a resignation from Dakota Drisch was accepted as a part-time Police Officer. The City will be seeking applicants for the position.

The City has hired Jordan Cowell as a Public Works employee. He will start on December 2. We welcome him aboard.

A grant in the total amount of \$50,000 was awarded to the Little Island Day Care Center. This should be a big help in securing other grants for the needed addition.

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

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By Mary Bodensteiner

'Tis the most wonderful time of the year! It is always exciting to see the Christmas lights and decorations going up downtown and in the neighborhoods.

But, before we get too far, I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and got to enjoy time with family and friends! I know many of you start your Christmas season far in advance of Thanksgiving, but in the Bodensteiner household, it starts on the Friday after, when we head to Wapsie Pines to get our tree! My family has gotten our tree at Wapsie Pines every year since we moved to Fairbank in 2006. This is most definitely one of my favorite Christmas traditions and I hope to continue it for years to come!

Another tradition that I have now outgrown, and that I will not soon



My dad (Kevin), brothers (Adam and Jarod) and I at Wapsie Pines in 2007

forget, is the joy of seeing Santa at the Legion Hall every year! As Miss Fairbank, I am super excited to be able to be a part of the Santa festivities once again. I will be at the library on December 4th, along with Santa Claus himself, and I couldn't

be more excited! I can't wait to see all the kids just as excited to see Santa as I was years ago!

As we wrap up the 2021 year, I wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a happy New Year!

Congratulations to all the Wapsie Valley Fall Athletes on another great season!

~ SPECIAL HONORS ~



CROSS COUNTRY
13th Place Finish at
State Cross Country

VOLLEYBALL**NICL East 1st Team**

~ Lydia Imbrogno
~ Sydney Matthias

NICL East 2nd Team

~ Hannah Knight
~ Emma Jones

Honorable Mention

~ Becca Platte

FOOTBALL**Class 1A All-District Teams****1st Team**

~ Holten Robinson
~ Mason Harter
~ Hunter Kane
~ Braden Knight
~ Brady Weepie
~ Dawson Schmidt

2nd Team

~ Hunter Ackerman
~ Keegon Brown
~ Jaxson Kuhlman
~ Gavin Leistikow
~ Jacob Schoer
~ Casey O'Donnell

We love our Warriors!



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or Kathy Risse 319-635-2122

Merry Christmas

May the peace and blessings
of Christmas be yours;
And may the coming year
be filled with happiness.

FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CLUB

Editor's Note: "The October newsletter was mistakenly left out of our last issue. We apologize for the delay.

Warrior Way & More October 2021

Fall in Iowa brings a special feel to our rural communities. Friday night high school football games always provide a great family night out. Wapsie Valley Cross Country meets at area golf courses or running venues will increase your step count as you go from spot to spot to cheer on the runners. If you are looking for an inside event, Wapsie Valley volleyball will always give you an exciting night of action. Of course, the fall season in Iowa will provide numerous college-level sporting events every weekend. The sights and sounds of the ongoing harvest will round out that rural Iowa fall feeling.

We continue to progress with the new concession stand project at the JH/HS facility. Walls are up and a roof system will now safeguard the interior finishing projects. This new concession stand will be ready for spring activities and beyond. Another board-approved project will soon begin with the engineering of air quality improvements with heating/cooling options for rooms on the west side of the JH/HS building. This funding was received in part from the federal government, as part of the ESSER III Fund (Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund). This work will be completed during the summer of 2022. We are also working with two insurance companies for the replacement and repair work of damages during the storm on August 24, 2021.

Homecoming 2021 was a great time and a fun week of activities for staff and students! Thank you for the time spent preparing students for the theme days dur-

ing this week. The students and staff did a wonderful job with each of the theme days. Congratulations to the 2021 Homecoming Court: Ryan Schares, Brady Sauerbrei, Max Kayser, Holten Robinson, Gavin Leistikow, Gunner Meyer, Bridget Seemann, Ellie Neil, Syndie Martin, Lydia Imbrogno, Baylee McMahon, and Nollynn Silva. Ryan and Bridget were crowned Wapsie Valley 2021 Homecoming King and Queen.

We are excited to share progress reports for all students during the parent-teacher conferences on October 12th and 14th. Thank you in advance for attending these conferences, as the discussions provide reflections and insight into your child's academic progress. Please discuss with staff other times to meet if these two dates do not work into your schedule.

Please continue to have a great fall and come out to support the Warriors in any fashion possible.

Stay Warrior Strong and Safe,

Dave Larson - Wapsie Valley CSD Superintendent

Warrior Way & More November 2021

It was fantastic to see the outstanding turn-out of families at the fall parent/teacher conferences. All of the elementary and rural buildings were approaching 100% attendance for these conferences. Thank you for your investment in supporting our students' achievements and challenges. These conversations set a tone as the year develops on how best to support our students.

The fall season of athletics is coming to a conclusion. The Wapsie Valley girls' cross country team qualified to compete at the state-level event held in Fort Dodge. Congratulations to all individual runners who partici-

pated with the following results; Brylee Bellis (32nd), Ava VanDaele (40th) Sydnie Martin (58th), Jaylin May (127th), Hailey Eitzenhefer (141st), Dakota Ease (143rd) and Mary Bodenstener (146th). This WV team combined for a 13th place team finish in 1A. The WV football team advanced to the quarterfinal round of playoffs with a 7-6 win over North Linn. Our girls' volleyball team advanced to the regional championship game and fought hard in a 3-2 loss to Beckman Catholic. Congratulations to all of these student-athletes who represented WV this fall. Stay tuned for an exciting winter sports season with wrestling and basketball.

The winter season would not be complete without some concerts to get us in the groove for the holidays. Grade levels PK-3 will celebrate on Tuesday, December 7th with a concert at 6:30 pm. Grades 7-12 will perform on Thursday, December 9th, at 7:00 pm. Finally, Grades 4-6 will celebrate on Monday, December 13th, at 6:30 pm. All of the concerts take place at the high school gym. Another Fine Arts Department has announced that 'Aladdin' will be the spring play! I am sure there will be a little bit of magic with this production.

It is with a heavy heart that we had to say goodbye to a beloved WV staff member recently. Amy Bergmann passed away unexpectedly on Monday, October 18, 2021. Amy had worked at WVCSD for the past twelve years as a special education associate. Her keen sense of humor and commitment to all students will be forever missed at WV. In one of her last Facebook posts, she concluded with, "Hug Hard & Love Always". What a great way to think about life.

Stay Warrior Strong and Safe,

Dave Larson - Wapsie Valley CSD Superintendent

Former NIDA student performs in U of I Dance Gala

IOWA CITY - On October 13-16, 2021, the University of Iowa Department of Dance presented its 40th annual Dance Gala, a tradition that began in 1981. Dance Gala showcases the talent of the University of Iowa's faculty and students and introduces audiences to new artists not seen through other dance events, as well as guests artists that share the stage with UI talent, as a way for students to learn and grow in their chosen field of dance.

This year, Northeast Iowa Dance Academy's very own, Elsie VanDaele, performed as part of a company of dancers in On The Verge; one of four works by the Department of Dance faculty and The Moor's Pavane by Jose Limon, a 20th century modern dance masterwork.

Elsie is a sophomore at the University of Iowa double majoring in Business and Dance. She was a student at Northeast Iowa Dance Academy in Oelwein from 2009 through the Spring of 2020 under the instruction and guidance of Anna Kerns. She is currently on staff at NIDA and manages their social media content and assists in coaching the competition team. Elsie is the daughter of Chad and Amber VanDaele of Fairbank.



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Immaculate Conception Church

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Live Nativity

Go back to the First Christmas!!

Sunday, December 5

4:30 – 6:00 pm

(Guided Tours on the half-hour beginning at 4:30)

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall.



See
the Magic
*
Hear
the Angels
*
Feel
The Love

Important Notice

The deadline to submit articles or ads for the January issue of the Fairbank Islander is moved up two days. Deadline is Monday, December 27th.

Atom Bombers 4-H Club

The Atom Bombers 4-H Club met on Sunday, November 14th at the IC Parish Center. President Reese Peine called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Espyn Decker. Roll call was "What are you looking forward to during Thanksgiving break?"

The Secretary's report was given by Destry Peine. The Treasurer's report was given by Brody Kleitsch. Morgan Jipson's birthday was the only November birthday. Online member enrollment is now open and members are encouraged to get enrolled before January 1st.

Market beef weigh-in is December 11th at the Winthrop Vet Clinic. Sheep and goat weigh-in is April 9th at the fairgrounds. There's a rabbit workshop on November 20th in Ryan.

Club members signed a sympathy card for the family of Corbin Wilgenbusch and voted to send the family a memorial donation. Those who turned in record books were recognized. Members were thanked for their winter clothing donations which will be delivered to the Helping Hands Clothing Closet on November 16th. The club voted to give a donation to the IC Church for use of the hall for meetings and members selected committees they would like to serve on.

Officer elections were held and new officers are the following: President - Reese Peine; Vice-President - Brock Kleitsch; Secretary - Destry Peine; Treasurer - Brody Kleitsch; Reporter - Ava Auel; Flag Person - Kennly Happel; Vice-Flag Person - Rachel Kaufman.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 12th. The 4-H Pledge was led by Gentry Decker. Espyn and Gentry gave a presentation on how to choose the right pet for your family. Refreshments were served by the Decker family.



Atom Bombers 4-Hers Espyn and Gentry Decker give a presentation on "how to choose the right pet for your family".



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Independence Receives \$350,000 CDBG Grant

INDEPENDENCE - Buchanan County Economic Development (BCEDC), Independence Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Independence along with Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) and the Independence downtown building owners are pleased to announce that Independence has been chosen for the CDBG-CV façade grant. This façade program will include an additional 7 building facades. This is in addition to the regular CDBG façade grant just received for \$500,000 and eight facades. In total Independence will see 15 facades undergo renovation and revitalization through this program.

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities

(CARES) Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional CDBG funds were given to the State of Iowa to help communities respond to the pandemic. The City of Independence applied to the CDBG-CV program and received an additional \$350,000 to assist seven building facades. The buildings to undergo facade restoration under this program include Joe's Pizza (2 facades), Elm Tree Concepts (2 facades), and B & D Services (3 facades).

Eric and Lisa Mahr, owners of Elm Tree Concepts explained, "We are so excited to be a part of the downtown Independence revitalization project and to be awarded this grant. This will allow us to get started on some much-needed im-

provements to our building. We plan to update the front of our store with a new look to make it more inviting and incorporate some energy efficient options as well. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Independence community and we are grateful to be a part of it."

"This is an incredible opportunity for Independence! Buchanan County Economic Development (BCEDC) is excited to see this kind of commitment and investment by the state in Buchanan County," commented Lisa Kremer, BCEDC Executive Director. "This opportunity will only build momentum for the Independence downtown and Buchanan County!"

Living on the Edge

by Pat Pint

Gift-o-Mania

While I scoff at shoppers that wake extra early to get big bargains the day after Thanksgiving, deep down, I'm just jealous. Here they are. Lists and credit cards in hand, ready to sprint into the store and check out with Christmas gifts.

I like to shop, but want some idea of where I'm going and why.

I asked my college-grandson what he'd like for Christmas.

"Oh, whatever," he answered. (Thanks for the clues!)

I asked my oldest daughter what Santa should have on her list. "A leather coat and have my coat paid off." (Yeah, right!)

Quizzing my younger daughter, she replied, "Surprise me!" (Big help you are.)

And I asked my husband if there's anything in my price range he'd appreciate.

"No, not really." (That should be easy to find!)

I walked through stores full of tools, trinkets, towels and toys. I moseyed over to the novelty stores and checked out numerous kiosks.

At a recent get together, I asked my friend Ellen how she was faring. She claimed she bought gift cards on line.

(That had crossed my mind, but it just seemed too impersonal and entirely too easy.)

At one big discount store, I walked up and down each and every aisle and vowed I wouldn't leave the store until I found something. I self checked out a gallon of milk, a pack of buns and two candy bars that I ate on the drive home.

Since I had my fill of amazing store displays, and an empty car trunk, I called Ellen.

"Apparently, the gift cards are the way to go. Don't you miss the wrapping? Worrying about the correct size or style? Keeping track of the gift receipts?"

She confessed, "I wrap the gift cards in a big, big box. I also include something tacky like an ugly ornament or used kitchen utensils. Seems to keep them on their toes."

With that in mind, I went back to some of my favorite stores and bought a variety of gift cards. I've yet to decide who will get the used toaster and some chipped cups and saucers.



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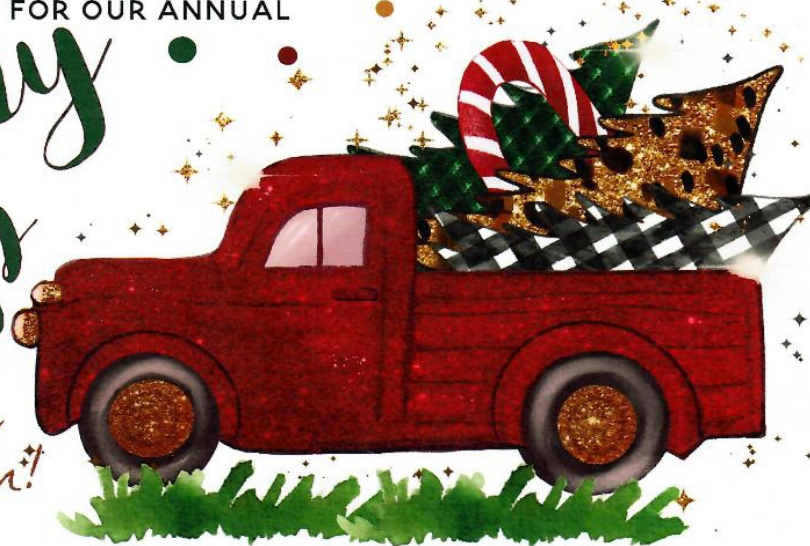


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Please Join Us
A Celebration
of Christmas



Community Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 8th at 1:30PM

At Parkview Assisted Living, Fairbank

Hosted by the Fairbank Community Churches

Entertainment by the Union Dicken's Christmas Carolers

Everyone Invited!! Both Men and Women!

Refreshments Door Prizes

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What's Happening

Community Events



- Dec. 1 Library Board Meeting, 4:00pm
 Dec. 4 Santa visits the Library, 9:00am
 Dec. 4 "The Chosen" Episodes 7 & 8, IC Parish Center, 6:30pm
 Dec. 5 Live Nativity, Immaculate Conception Church 4:00-6:00pm
 Dec. 6 City Council Meeting, 6:00pm at City Hall
 Dec. 7 **PEARL HARBOR DAY**
 Dec. 7 Grades PK-3 Christmas Concert, 6:30pm at the High School
 Dec. 8 Community Christmas Party, Parkview Assisted Living, 1:30pm – *Everyone Invited!!*
 Dec. 8 Holiday Hop, 4:00-8:00pm, (see ad for details.)
 Dec. 8 Santa visiting at American Legion, 6-7pm
 Dec. 8 Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction ends at Library at 8:00pm
 Dec. 9 Grades 7-12 Christmas Concert, 7:00pm at the High School
 Dec. 12 ... Holiday Decorating Contest Judging
 Dec. 13 ... Book Club at the Library, 2:00pm
 Dec. 13 Grades 4-6 Christmas Concert, 6:30pm at the High School
 Dec. 15 ... Community Potluck at I.C. Hall, 11:30am
 Dec. 16 ... Thirsty Thursday at the Legion, 4:00pm
 Dec. 20 ... City Council Meeting, 6:00pm at City Hall
 Dec. 20 .. Wapsie Valley School Board Meeting, 6:30pm
 Dec. 25 .. **CHRISTMAS**
 Dec. 31 .. **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

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FAIRBANK HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

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\$25 Cash Prizes
will be given to the
top 10 homes!

Judging will be done
Sunday, Dec. 12th

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November Book Club
"Winter Street"
A Novel by Elin Hilderbrand
December Book Club
"The Exiles"
A Novel by Christina Baker Kline
Please contact the library if you would like to join our book club!

Mark your Calendars!
Santa is coming to town
Saturday, Dec. 4th at 9:00 am

STORY HOUR
9:15am on the following dates
Dec. 8 Snowman
Dec. 15 Christmas

Holiday Gift Basket Fundraiser
SILENT AUCTION - Bidding has started and will run through Dec. 8th at 8pm following the Holiday Hop!
Great opportunity to support your library and do your holiday shopping!

In Loving Memory
Larry Lundry
The Jailhouse Lawyer
from Gary Fink
Marvin Matthias
Pony
from Randy & Jodi Woods family

Matt Schmitz
Ghost Army of WWII
from John & Susan Frost
The Stranger in the Lifeboat
from Mike & Sandy Tagtow family
Luke & Lottie Winter is Here
from Garry & Diane Damon

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“Christmas – 1931”

by Betty Brandt Passick

From *Gangster in Our Midst*, 2017

The neglected true story about an Italian American man who came to a small Iowa town in the 1920s—where he lived off and on for the next sixty years.

Photos: Howard Durham, Fairbank Historical Society

The churches advertised their Christmas Eve service in local newspapers and on marquees out front, when angelic children would recite Scripture and sing the age-old songs announcing the birth of the Christ Child and entrance of the Savior into the world. And each congregation diligently equipped for over-flow crowds, anticipating every seat in the house would be filled.

Two days before Christmas a soundless, steady wet snowfall began that dropped a thick, white coating onto frozen roads, barren trees, and steeped rooftops, turning the landscape into a brumous wonderland. Then, on Christmas Eve day, the temperature plummeted into the low teens.

Undeterred, townsfolk made plans for the trek to church for the midnight service by car or on foot. Several families in the countryside though, like ancestors of old, harnessed horses to a wooden sleigh or wagon, and climbed aboard, bundled in heavy coats, boots, scarves, hats and gloves, with heated bricks at their feet, and covered over by a thick horse blanket, to sing carols mile after mile to the rhythmic accompaniment of sleigh bells dangling from leather horse harnesses, the ringing intermingled with the crunch of horse hooves and wheels traversing snow-packed roads; the light from a crisp moon illuminating their way, enough that sightings of Santa could be called out.

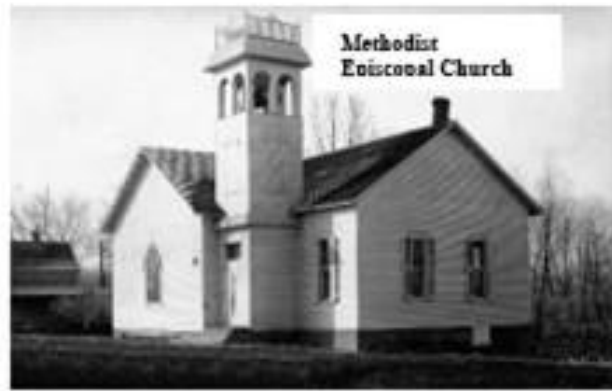
In town, the old gas lamps lit the way, as sweet-toned bells resonated from church bell towers, inviting one and all: “Come! Come! Come!”

One by one worshippers reached the front doors of the Lutheran, Methodist, and Baptist churches, where frozen faces, fingers and toes received proper attention by the membership. The Methodists had the biggest draw for any unchurched, as Dr. George Eickelberg, the town’s dentist, and a big man known for his booming bass voice, sang in the choir.

The nuns at the Catholic church cared for shivering arrivals for midnight Mass, which this year included Walter Bierkoff and his sons. Shoulder to shoulder sat the parishioners, an ocean of Roman Catholics huddled in candlelit pews in the frosty cathedral-like nave.

“Excuse me,” Josephine La Cava whispered, standing next to Walter in the wide center aisle. “Can you fit two more into this row?”

Walter and the boys stepped out into the aisle while worshippers in the pew bumped together, enough so the La Cavas could be seated. Finally, the three sat back



Methodist Episcopal Church



First Baptist Church and Parsonage



Lutherische St. Johannes Gemeinde Church, School, and Parsonage



I C Church, School, and Parsonage

down, with Louie’s shoulder smashed up against Walter’s, the smell of evergreen boughs in the windows now intermingled with Louie’s witch hazel.

“We’re late getting to church,” Walter overheard Josephine say to the woman next to her. “Lou has just recently come back to town. It is so good to have him home...one of God’s miracles on an evening of miracles.”

Walter finished reading the bulletin announcements, covertly folded the notation about member giving, and inserted it in an inside coat pocket.

Suddenly, everyone rose to their feet, except Walter, as the procession and entrance song began. Down the center aisle came the censer bearer, followed by the cross bearers, the readers, and deacon who carried the Book of the Gospels, slightly elevated—then the other concelebrants, and finally, the priest celebrant, the new priest, Father Torpey.

Nearing the reading of the passage from the Gospel of Luke, Leonard went forward to read from the Lectionary for Mass, where he spoke slowly, hardly stuttering at all.

Walter whispered, “Good job, son!” as Leonard returned to his seat.

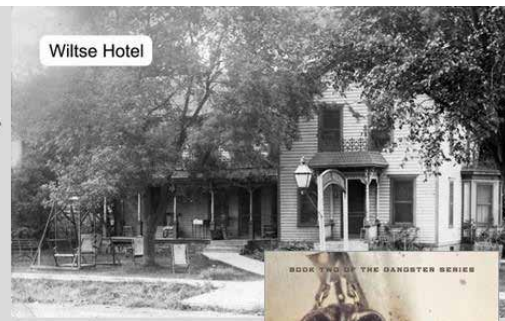
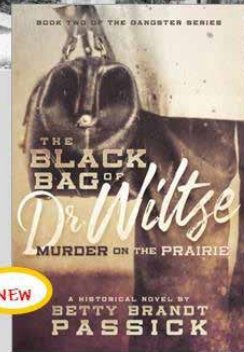
- Book Launch -

- **Sat., Dec. 4, 1-4 pm** (book signing), “Denver’s Old Fashioned Christmas,” Denver Public Library/City Center, 100 Washington St., Denver
- **Sat., Dec. 4, 6 pm** (author talk), “The Legacy of an Iowa Pioneer Physician,” Parkview Assisted Living, 114 Forest Street, Fairbank

Dr. Wiltse leaves behind his beloved Canada in the 1850s with his family to establish new roots in the Iowa. Only his wife Phebe knows of his attraction to murder... His well-oiled black canvas bag simply allows him into places where others may not go. Still, his fellow French Canadians called him *Guérisseur*, Healer. Perhaps, the Canadian is also running from entanglements of the past.



Book Two
‘Gangster Series’



Wiltse Hotel

The homily from the priest was about the unspeakable joy that comes from belief in God, delivered in its fulfillment at Christmas. And about the response of believers: living lives of gratitude for sending Jesus Christ to reconcile all in the world.

“Jesus Christ is the voice of the poor,” the priest declared. “God is merciful and calls us to obedience. Ours is a covenant of kinship. With God and neighbors, we must live in love. It is our calling, in this time of shared sorrow with so many.”

After Holy Communion, the priest began the litany of prayers: Prayers for the Saints. Prayers of Thanksgiving. Prayers of Supplication. And Prayers of the Faithful, naming them one by one, and finally...

“We pray for Emma Bierkoff. May God give her the strength to endure her illness, bring her once more to full health, and return her home to Walter and the boys, Leonard and Samuel.”

Walter didn’t know how much of what the Christian Church had preached throughout the ages was true about the Creator God, or which parts were hope disguised as truth. He still had questions. What he knew for certain was the feeling of warmth that came over him during the prayer for Emma. And he felt swaddled in the love and kindness of these people.



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Live for Today. Plan for Tomorrow.

“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 ESV)

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

This month is another exciting one in the Church Year, as we pass through the season of Advent and into the celebration of Christmas. Christmas, of course, is the time where we celebrate the birth of Jesus. He who was God from all eternity entered into His creation. He was born like us so that He might die for us, to save us from our sins. That is what the name Jesus means – “The Lord saves.” Before we get to Christmas, though, we must pass through the Advent season, which sometimes gets the short end of the stick. So, let’s talk about it.

Advent, as a word, comes to us from the Latin and means, “Coming.” During this season we sometimes speak about a three-fold coming or Christ (or advents). The first was when Jesus came in the flesh for us. By His birth, His fulfillment of the Commandments, and His sacrificial death for us, Jesus secured for us forgiveness and eternal life. His second coming will be when He returns in glory to raise the dead, render judgment, and bring us and all believers in Christ into the New Heaven and the New Earth. Even as we await our Lord’s return on the clouds, as Christians we confess that He comes to us now in His Word and in His Sacraments. Through these, we receive the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Advent, as a season, celebrates all these things. It is a penitential season, which means we are little more reflective than usual on our need for salvation in Christ, even as we know our hope will come.

In the Lutheran Church we also gather more frequently during Advent than we might otherwise, adding Wednesday services to our normal Sunday ones. Services at St. John’s will be held on December 8th and 22nd, both at 7pm. You are welcome to join us! The services on the 1st and the 15th will be at our sister congregation, Grace Lutheran, in Jesup. If you would like to join us for our Christmas Eve service, which includes our children’s program, that will also be at 7pm here in Fairbank. I invite to join me in prayer this month, that the Lord would grant to us and to His whole Church on earth, a blessed and hopeful Advent season and a joyful Christmastide.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Jacob Swenson
St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran,
Fairbank



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Church + Services



United Methodist Church

107 N. 2nd Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
319-635-2932

Worship Service: 9:15 AM



St. John Lutheran Church

(MISSOURI SYNOD)

208 N. 4th Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
319-635-2181

Pastor Jacob Swenson

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:00 AM



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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

Father Ray Atwood

Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM
Wednesday Mass: 8:30 AM
1st Saturday Mass: 8:30 AM



Lord of the Harvest

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

Rev. Scott Jans

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

If there are any changes or corrections, call Kathy Risse (319) 635-2122.



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Fairbank Fall UTV Ride & Poker Run a huge success

The Fairbank Fall UTV Ride & Poker Run was held on Saturday, November 6th. The bi-annual fund raising event is organized by JJ Little, Matthew Myers and Austin Kane. This ride raised almost \$13,000 which included a generous donation from the Carson McGrane Memorial Foundation, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Little Island Day Care in Fairbank to help out with their expansion and remodeling project.

There were approximately 180 units and over 500 people that took part in the ride. The event started at the Fairbank American Legion with stops at Boyd's Bar, Costa's Sports Bar & Grill, the Oran Tap, The Bank in Westgate, Fat Boys Saloon in Hazelton, Arlington Community Center, Leroy's in Aurora, Barney's in Wadena, and Rod & Cal's in Strawberry Point.

The group ended up back at the Fairbank Legion around 5 p.m. There were prizes handed out for the best 5 poker hands, thanks to all of the bars along the route that donated gift cards and other items. There was also a 50/50 drawing and approximately 30 items donated for the Silent Auction. The Little Island Day Care held a walking taco stand and later there was DJ music provided by "Little Acoustics and Sounds."

The Silent Auction items were donated by several local businesses and individuals, including: Poet, Little Property Management, Etringer Electric, Fairbank Plumbing & Heating, Visions Salon, Refuel, Steve & Linda Myers, WCI Trucking, Ken & Lamar Little, Root, Jeff & Mary Gann, Matthew & Kali Myers, Gavin Marine, Fat Boy's Saloon, Brien & Diann Cross, Doug Cue, Modern Building Products, Dean & Karen French and AK Farms.

The organizers of the event expressed special thanks to the American Legion for allowing them to use their facility, to those who donated items for the auction, and also to all the bars along the route that donated items for prizes that were given away after the ride. "Raising almost \$13,000 in an afternoon is something our community should be proud of," said J.J. Little. "We want to again say thanks to everyone who attended."

The organizers also held the annual "Festive in Fairbank Ugly Sweater Party" on November 27th with all of the proceeds going towards updating the Legion. The results of this project were too late to get in this issue, so we'll update you next month.

"We are always looking for ideas to benefit the future of Fairbank" commented Little. "We want to ensure safety is everyone's top priority when partaking in the rides. These events benefit not only Fairbank, but many communities in the surrounding area. We look forward to seeing everyone on April 2nd for the Spring Ride, we will again be accepting silent auction items as the date gets closer."



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FIELD TRIP

The 4th Graders at Fairbank Elementary had a fantastic day at Ingawanis Woodland near Janesville. They heard Cherokee folktales, help set up the hunting lodge, and learned about various Native American structures and customs, and learned how the Native Americans used the parts of the bison for their everyday living.



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What's Cookin'



From the kitchen of Arnola Siggelkow

December, the month with the shortest day and the longest night, is always a busy time preparing for the holiday season. There is gift shopping, decorating, cookie baking, and candy making.

This Rocky Road Fudge is simple and can be made ahead of time to have ready for gift giving, entertaining, and perhaps let the kids make it for gifts or treats for their teachers and friends.

Rocky Road Fudge

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 - 12 oz. pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips | 2 tsps. vanilla |
| 1 - 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk | 2 c. dry roasted peanuts |
| 2 tsps. butter | 2-3 cups miniature marshmallows |



Melt chips with butter and sweetened condensed milk over low heat, stirring until melted. Remove from heat and add peanuts; stir until mixed. Let cool slightly and then add the marshmallows. Press into a 9"x13" parchment lined pan. Cool and cut into pieces. Keep tightly sealed in containers at room temperature.

Christmas morning is usually family time around the Christmas tree opening gifts and enjoying togetherness. It is also the time many enjoy a brunch to satisfy their appetite until the Christmas dinner later in the day.

Cindy Wood's Breakfast Omelet makes for a welcoming brunch dish.



Breakfast Omelet

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 16 oz. pkg. hash brown potatoes, thawed | 6 eggs beaten |
| ¼ c. butter | Salt & pepper to taste |
| ½ to 1 cup cubed ham, bacon, or sausage | ¼ c. milk |
| | ¼ to ½ c. grated cheese |

In skillet, brown hash browns with the butter. Place in 1½ quart greased casserole. Spread cubed meat on the top. Mix eggs, milk, salt and pepper, and pour over the meat and hash browns. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes. Serve with a bowl of fresh fruit cubed and a plate of favorite muffins, coffee and hot chocolate.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with Love, Joy and Peace!

HELEN MARIE MCSWEENEY

June 4, 1919 ~ November 25, 2021

Helen M. McSweeney, 102, of Oelwein, Iowa, died peacefully on Thursday morning, November 25, 2021, at Grandview Health Care Center, Oelwein, surrounded by her family. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Final Resting Place: Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Fairbank, Iowa.

A Memorial Fund has been established for Grandview Health Care Center. Condolences may be directed to: Mary Jo Stenger, 718 15th St., Santa Monica, CA 90402-2938. Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Helen Marie Chase was born on June 4, 1919, at the family home in Fairbank, Iowa, the daughter of Earl & Mary (Mannion) Chase. Helen received her education at Immaculate Conception High School in Fairbank where she graduated in the class of 1937. She worked at John Deere in Waterloo before her marriage. Helen was united in marriage to Joseph Lawrence McSweeney on June 4, 1941, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Fairbank. They were blessed with four children, Mary Jo, Diane, Ed and Jack. Helen raised her children and later worked at Montgomery Wards and at OCCO as the lead accountant, retiring in 1981.

Helen was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Rosary Society, formerly a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Rita #321, was a volunteer at Sacred Heart School, took Holy Communion to the homebound and lead communion services at Grandview Health-care Center. She was an avid volunteer in the community with the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary, Grandview Care Review Committee, Meals on Wheels program and various other volunteer organizations.

Left to cherish Helen's memory are her four Children: Mary Jo (Tony) Stenger of Santa Monica, California, Ed (Jeanna) McSweeney of Penn Valley, California, Diane (Bob) Nied of Irvine, California, Jack (Janet) McSweeney of Rancho Mirage, California; and 10 Grandchildren & 15 Great Grandchildren.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband Joe on March 3, 2003; two sisters: Loretta Nauholz & Marian Welter; an three brothers: Edward Chase, Lawrence Chase and Ralph Chase.



MARTIN L. MATTHIAS

May 12, 1939 ~ November 7, 2021

Martin Louis Matthias, age 82 of rural Readlyn, passed away at his home Sunday, November 7, 2021. He was born May 12, 1939 in Waterloo, the son of Arnold and Dora (Eickelberg) Matthias. Martin grew up in rural Denver and graduated from the Denver Community School. He then enrolled at Wartburg College in Waverly where he received his teaching degree.

After college, Martin proudly served his country in the United States Army. While in the Army he met the love of his life, Sandy Michelson. They were married on February 10, 1963 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Fairbank. After returning home from the service, he was a Junior High English teacher for the Dunkerton Community School District. Martin was also an auctioneer for a period of time as well as being a lifelong farmer. He was a very active member in his church and served in various positions such as Elder, Deacon and Treasurer. Martin was involved with the Gideon's by helping to pass out bibles and sharing the gospel. He was a lifelong learner, he loved history, antiques and all kinds of different inventions, as well as being an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. Martin never met a stranger, he had the ability to strike up a conversation with anyone. Above all he loved the time spent with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Martin is survived by his wife, Sandy; one son, Jeff (Veronica) Matthias of Olathe, Kansas; two daughters, Kim (Noel) Alcantara of Denver and Candi (Gary) DiLoreto of Redondo Beach, California; 10 grandchildren, Caden, Catelyn, Cali, Kasandra (Rodrigue), Ruby, Alyssa, Mia, Kingston, Sadie and Everly; one brother, Bill (Barb) Matthias; Sandy's sister Donna and her husband Roger Donaldson; a sister-in-law, Angie Matthias (Dr. Allan); along with many nieces and nephews. Martin was preceded in death by his parents and one brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Allan (Sharon) Matthias.

Funeral services were held Friday, November 12, 2021 at the Crossroads Assembly of God, Waterloo. Interment was in Fairbank Cemetery, Fairbank, Iowa. Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation.



DECEMBER

Community

Potluck

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!

Please Join Us!!!

December 15, 2021 @ 11:30 AM

Tableware and beverages provided.

Sponsored by IC Parish Life Committee



FAIRBANK FIRE DEPARTMENT

October 1-31, 2021 Report

Ambulance Calls: 6

Carbon Monoxide Calls: 0

Car Accidents With Injuries: 3

Fire Calls: 0

Operation Edith Fire Prevention Week
Fire Prevention activities at
Fairbank Elementary and 6 Rural Schools
in our fire district

EMS training hours: Approximately 20

Fire training hours: Approximately 40

~ EMS Training was "blunt and penetrating abdominal trauma"

~ Fire Training was class B foam operations and foam appliances.

Membership: Matthew Johnson and Ben Riordan completed their 6 month probationary period and were voted into membership then approved by the city council. Thank you for approving our recommendations.

Brad Gordon, Chief
Fairbank Fire Department



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WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wapsie Valley CSD Annual, Organizational & Regular School Board Mtg November 15, 2021
Pledge of Allegiance
 1. President Sauerbrei called the Final Meeting of the Board to order at 6:50 PM
 A. Directors: Sauerbrei, Wolfe, Aiello (6:57), and Van Daele. Kane Excused. Declare a quorum.
 B. Administration: Dave Larson, TJ Murphy, Jayme Hurley, Lindsay Fox (virtual)
 C. Board Secretary: Kim Arndt, Others: Angie Auel, Vaughn Gross, Brenda Coffin, Brody Adair, Erin Adamson, Katie F Foelske & four-5th grade students, Roger Wilcox, Bridget Seeman, Elle Voy, and eight virtual viewers
 2. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Van Daele to amend the agenda to move up Mrs. Foelske and the 5th-grade students from the public comment of the regular board meeting agenda to the public comment in the annual meeting of the retiring board as presented. Motion carried 3-0
 3. Public comment - Mrs. Foelske and the 5th-grade students presented their coin war service project. Proceeds will be donated to the Stead Family Children's Hospital. The students are hoping to raise \$375.
 4. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to accept FY21 reconciliation financial report as presented. Motion carried 3-0
 5. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Van Daele to approve the minutes of October 18, 2021, as presented. Motion carried 3-0
 6. Mr. Larson would like to thank Rustie Kane for his 4 years of service on the board. Jerry Van Daele confirmed that Larry Sigel and Travis Squires will attend the December board meeting to talk about our financial position
 7. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn the Annual meeting at 6:57 PM Motion carried 3-0
 1. Secretary Arndt called the Organizational meeting to order at 6:57 PM.
 2. No changes to the agenda
 3. Arndt reported the abstract of votes - District 2 - Brent Sauerbrei, 68 - Scattering - 6 District 3 - Angie Auel, 177- Jamie Buhr - 51 Scattering -3 & District 5 - Jeannie Wolfe - 159, Scattering - 5, Public Measure BY - PPEL - 375-Yes, 267-No votes, and Public Measure BZ - Change of Election Method - 377-Yes & 261-No votes. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Sauerbrei to accept the abstract of votes as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Angie Auel joined the board table and Arndt administered

the Oath of Office as a board member to her. Arndt took nominations for President. Van Daele nominated Auel & Wolfe nominated Sauerbrei. Nominations ceased. Sauerbrei was named board president with a roll call vote as follows: Aiello, Auel, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe voted for Sauerbrei; Van Daele voted for Auel. Arndt took nominations for Vice President. Sauerbrei nominated Wolfe. Nominations ceased. Wolfe was named Vice President with a roll call vote as follows: Aiello, Auel, Sauerbrei, Van Daele & Wolfe voted for Wolfe. Mrs. Arndt administered the Oath of Office to Brent Sauerbrei (President) and Jeannie Wolfe (Vice President). President Sauerbrei led the meeting from this point on
 4. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to appoint Kim Arndt as Board Secretary & Treasurer for the 21-22 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 5. No Delegate appointed.
 6. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Van Daele to approve Waterloo Courier as our official publication carrier for the 21-22 school year as presented. Minutes will also be sent to the Readlyn Chronicle and Fairbank Islander for publication. Motion carried 5-0
 7. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Aiello to approve Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. as the legal counsel for the 21-22 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 8. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Van Daele to approve our financial depositories as Northeast Security Bank (\$5,000,000 limit) and Readlyn Savings Bank (\$2,000,000 limit) as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 9. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to approve Level I Investigator - Guidance Counselor or Lead Teacher, Level II Investigator - Building Principal opposite the incident & Level III Investigator - Bremer County Sheriff's Office, Fairbank Police Department, or Readlyn Police Department as presented. Motion carried 5-0.
 10. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Aiello to approve Homeless Liaison-Brett Bergman, Equity Coordinator-Jayne Hurley, Migrant Liaison & Foster Care Contact - Katelyn Nitz as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 11. Moved by Van Dale, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn the annual organizational meeting at 7:11 PM. Motion carried 5-0
 1. President Sauerbrei called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 7:11
 2. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Aiello to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 3. Public Comment - Vaughn Gross talked about

plumbing and electrical issues, heating & cooling, staffing, CAPS, Perkins 5 and Robotics tournament.
 Student Ambassadors Bridget Seeman & Elle Voy received approval for the Seniors to host a vendor fair December 11, 2021, at the JH/HS including baked items in the Commons and ornaments from the Juniors. Sophomores will be selling World's Finest Chocolates
 4. Consent Items - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Jeannie Wolfe with no open enrollments. Motion carried 5-0
 5. Board - Mr. Larson discussed the handout from Ahlers & Cooney regarding the OSHA COVID19 Vaccination mandate.
 Superintendent - Mr. Larson: Discussed concession stand updates, expanding the CAPS program, financial presentation from Travis Squires and Larry Sigel, track materials, baseball posts have been installed, and OSHA Mandatory Policy on Employee Vaccination.
 PK-6 Principal Hurley reported on Joe Beckman assemblies, Leader In Me, WVEF fall dinner and auction, Professional Development, PTO donations, and Veteran's Day program.
 7-12 Principal Murphy: Joe Beckman assemblies, Professional Development, Veteran's Day program, Invention Time, and Activity Updates.
 6. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve the resignation of Megan Blaylock - Special Ed Associate, Rachel Jacque - Van Instructional Associate, & Cameron O'Donnell - JH Boys Basketball and thank them for their service to WV as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Contracts: Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the following contracts: Katelyn Nitz- Winter Cheerleading Sponsor-Base2/Year 5 - \$1,649, Katelyn Nitz - adjust Fall Cheerleading Sponsor contract by \$145 due to incorrect base and year on contract previously issued. Wyatt Forsyth - Junior High Wrestling Coach-Base 1/Year 4 - \$1,955, Kaleb Krall - High School Assistant Wrestling Coach-Base 1/Year1 - \$2,707, Brett Studebaker - Special Ed Associate - \$12.40 P/H, Abigail Sullivan - Special Ed Associate - \$12.40 P/H, Jennifer Gross - Co-Prom Advisor - Base 1/Year 0 \$977.50, Katelyn Nitz - Co-Prom Advisor - Base1/Year 0 - \$977.50, Brenda Roberts - Co-Head B/G Golf - Base 5/Year 21 - \$3,588, & Haley Tiedt - Co-Head B/G Golf - Base 1/Year 0 - \$3,008 as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 7. New Business-Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve the bid from Grundmeyer Leader Servic-

es to conduct our Superintendent's search including a reduction in cost due to certain information not needing presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Van Daele to approve the SBRC request for Modified Supplemental Amount Open Enrollment Out not in Fall 2020 (\$49,336) as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the SBRC request for Modified Supplemental Amount for ELL Beyond 5 Years (\$4,563.09) as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve the SBRC Special Education Administrative Costs (\$2,079.98) associated with the River Hills Consortium Program for the 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Wolfe Seconded by Aiello to approve the SBRC Special Education Administrative Costs(\$1,955.39) associated with the LIED Center Consortium Program for the 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Jerry Van Daele was appointed to the Black Hawk County Conference Board, Jeannie Wolfe to the Buchanan County Conference Board, Aiello to the Bremer County Conference Board, and Angie Auel to the Fayette County Conference Board
 Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Aiello to vote for Debra Rich to the Central Rivers AEA Agency Board of Directors as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Auel to approve increasing the Substitute Teaching rate to \$120 per day as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to approve hiring 2 - full-time Teacher Substitutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve hiring a full-time Special Education Teacher as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Wolfe to approve hiring a Special Education Van Route Associate/Special Education Classroom Associate as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the agreement with Josten's to provide a yearbook from 2023 to 2025 as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 8. Board Talking Points- None
 9. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn at 8:47 pm. Motion carried 5-0 Respectfully, Kim Arndt

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in special session on Friday, November 12, 2021. Mayor Harter called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Vorwald, and Erickson. Absent: T. Woods. Also, present at City Hall: Brian Delagardelle, Wastewater Operator; Ben Delagardelle, Public Works; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.
 Erickson/Vorwald to approve the agenda. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.
 Updating the personnel policy was discussed.

Changes to the cell phone reimbursement section and the telephone usage section were made and rearranged for clearer interpretations. The health insurance benefits section was discussed. Councilwoman Erickson passed out paperwork and stated that she had met with the city's insurance provider and had some updated numbers on what the renewal will look like for February 1st. This topic was tabled for later in the meeting due to running out of time.
 Vorwald/R. Woods to enter in to closed session at 4:10 PM pursuant to Iowa code chapter 21.5 (1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent need-

less and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Ayes: Four. Nays: None. Williams/Erickson to close the closed session at 4:26 PM. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.
 A few more minutes were used in between closed sessions to discuss more about the possible amendments to the personnel policy regarding health insurance benefits while waiting for the next individual to arrive. No final decision was made so the resolution for amending the personnel policy will be at the next regular scheduled meeting.
 Williams/R. Woods to enter in to closed session at 4:36 PM pursuant to Iowa code chapter 21.5 (1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual

whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent need-less and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Ayes: Four. Nays: None. Councilman Williams left the meeting at 4:49 PM. Erickson/R. Woods to close the closed session at 5:24 PM. Ayes: Three. Nays: None.
 Erickson/R. Woods to offer the position of the open public works position as discussed in closed session. Ayes: Three. Nays: None.
 Vorwald/R. Woods to adjourn at 5:31 PM. Ayes: Three. Nays: None.
 Mike Harter, Mayor
 Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

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COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 8, 2021. Mayor Harter called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Vorwald, T. Woods, and Erickson. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Mike Everding, Part-Time Police Chief; Brittany Fuller, City Clerk; and Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk.

T. Woods/Williams to approve the agenda. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Matt Coffin was present to let the council know that he was confronted at a tree root that caused a safety issue on a sidewalk since the root raised it up. The property owners next to the sidewalk will be contacted.

Williams/T. Woods to approve the minutes of October 25th Regular Meeting. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

R. Woods/Williams to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Receipts for the month of October were: General, \$132,586.78; Special Revenue, \$43,639.54; TIF, \$16,891.86; Capital Projects, \$21.84; Permanent Funds, \$6.23; Proprietary, \$154,208.16; and Transfers In, \$24,555.00. Disbursements for the month of October were: General, \$33,210.51; Special Revenue, \$30,501.45; Proprietary, \$149,088.72; and Transfers Out, \$24,555.00. Balance on hand at close of business on October 31, 2021, was \$4,998,295.17.

Jon Biederman with Fehr Graham was present for project updates. He said that the preconstruction meeting for the 2021 Water Improvements Project had been done about a month ago and that Donlon Brothers hadn't been able to start yet but currently planning for next week. They are starting with Grove Street then they'll have to see how far they get before winter hits on whether they can complete the West Main portion this year yet. The city staff will get information out to residents directly affected as soon as they know anything. Biederman also updated the council on the meeting he had with the DOT staff and DOT sidewalk consultant about the downtown/Main Street project with a projected start time of spring of 2023. He presented a quote for the project with the city's portion estimated at around \$1.95 million. The DOT also wanted the drainage ditches on the south side of West Main Street to be included in with their project so that they can just plan to do everything at once instead of the city trying to get that done before they start the work. If the council chooses to do the side streets off the downtown area it would more than likely need to be a separate project done later to keep the side streets still usable.

Jon Biederman presented an agreement for professional services on work needing to be completed by the end of 2021 for a topographic survey of IA Hwy 281 from Fairbank Street to the west side of the railroad tracks at the intersection of Fifth Street. This is needed for the project they are hoping to start in the spring of 2023 which consists of the reconstruction of IA Hwy 281 from just east of the bridge to Grove Street, new storm sewer and ditch filling on the south side of West Main Street from the river to Walnut Street, and asphalt overlay on all the remaining project areas. R. Woods/T. Woods to approve the agreement with an estimate of \$11,500 after changing the liability of the consultant to \$150,000 per the City Attorney's suggestion. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Janece Silva was present on behalf of the Little Island Child Care Center along with Juliann Woods who is helping the staff at the daycare apply for grants that could help them reach their daycare expansion financial goals. They currently have an opportunity for a grant through the Iowa Workforce that would allow up to \$250,000.00 for the exterior expenses part of the expansion. They need to secure matching funds for the amount they are requesting with that grant. They would love to see if the city could possibly commit money for the expansion. More information will be investigated on that, and it will be on the next meeting. Juliann is also working on a grant for help with the interior portion of the daycare center that would be for up

to \$750,000.00. This expansion is needed as they have had a back log of families waiting to join for the last five years and they are currently not accepting any new babies until the summer of 2023.

Our current safety program utilized by the city for their employees and training is being change to a new Iowa Safety Education Program (ISEP). R. Woods/Williams to approve Resolution - 2021-32 - A Resolution of the City of Fairbank, Iowa Agreeing to Become a Member of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities Iowa Safety Education Program (ISEP). Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Erickson/T. Woods to approve the Annual Financial Report and to submit the report to the state. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Williams/T. Woods to approve the Beer and Liquor License Renewals for the Fairbank Food Center. Chief Everding stated they had had no issues there. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

T. Woods/Erickson to approve the snow removal helpers from last year. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

T. Woods/Vorwald to approve the bills as presented. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

ADVANTAGE ADMINISTRATORS, POP Services	\$300.00
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY, Supplies	\$41.95
BLACK HAWK WASTE DISPOSAL, Services/Bin	\$5,885.04
BROWN SUPPLY CO., INC., Supplies	\$915.00
BUTLER COUNTY REC, Electric	\$48,280.99
CASEY'S GENERAL STORE, Gas	\$699.92
CEDAR FALLS UTILITIES, Services	\$280.65
CLAYTON ENERGY CORPORATION, Natural Gas	\$7,829.73
CLAYTON ENERGY CORPORATION, Reservation	\$4,321.56
KEITH & TAMMY CURLEY, Rebate	\$325.00
BEN DELAGARDELLE, Cell Phone Reimbursement/Meals	\$102.32
BRIAN DELAGARDELLE, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
DES MOINES STAMP MANUFACTURING, Supplies	\$25.67
DON'S TRUCK SALES, Supplies	\$300.29
FAIRBANK FIREMEN'S FUND, Reimbursement	\$69.00
FAIRBANK PLUMBING & HEATING, Services/Supplies	\$556.90
FAIRBANK POSTMASTER, Postage Nov.	\$112.00
CITY OF FAIRBANK, Electric & Gas	\$4,160.55
CITY OF FAIRBANK, Utility Deposit Applied	\$200.00
FARM WIN CO-OP, Diesel	\$1,556.80
FEHR GRAHAM, Engineering Fees	\$605.25
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU, Services	\$456.13
BRITTANY FULLER, Mileage	\$184.80
GALL'S INC., Supplies	\$44.14
GWORX, License & Support	\$4,213.79
IAMU, Services/Training	\$2,806.40
IOWA ONE CALL, Locates	\$27.00
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES, Supplies	\$105.40
IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES ASSOC., Water	\$7,019.71
IOWA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATE, Membership	\$275.00
IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, Unemployment Benefits Paid	\$5,603.63
IPERS, Benefits	\$5,516.27
KEYSTONE LABORATORIES, INC., Testing	\$549.10
MELISSA KLENZMAN, Utility Deposit Refund	\$200.00
PATRICIA KLENZMAN, Utility Deposit Refund	\$200.00
MARC, Supplies	\$158.98
MEDIACOM, Internet	\$400.59
MERCYONE WATERLOO MEDICAL CENTER, Testing	\$72.00
METERING & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION, Meters	\$2,670.46
MIDWEST UNDERGROUND SUPPLY, LLC, Supplies	\$73.49

MODERN BUILDING PRODUCTS, Supplies	\$32.13
NSB/HSA - H S A Contributions	\$150.00
NSB/HSA- H S A Payroll Deductions	\$290.00
OELWEIN PUBLISHING, Publishings	\$354.94
PRATT'S PEST CONTROL, Services	\$40.00
PREMIER TECHNOLOGY, Web Hosting	\$439.64
QUICK MED CLAIMS, Billing Services	\$82.11
RANDY'S LAWN CARE, Services	\$2,100.00
ROBERT GIPPER, Reimbursement	\$324.52
ROBERTS, STEVENS,PRENDERGAST, Attorney Fees	\$1,625.00
PAUL SCHULTZ & HEATHER HANSEN, Rebate	\$325.00
NE SECURITY BANK, Payroll Processing Fee 10/1/2021	\$10.00
NE SECURITY BANK, Payroll Processing Fee 10/15/2021	\$8.00
NE SECURITY BANK, ACH Closed Account	\$1,597.01
NE SECURITY BANK, Utility ACH Service Charge	\$10.00
SPEER FINANCIAL, INC., Bond Services	\$5,350.00
SUPERIOR WELDING SUPPLY CO., Supplies	\$267.77
TREASURER-STATE OF IOWA, Oct. Sales Tax	\$2,023.55
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA, Oct. Excise Tax	\$1,148.29
TURF & LANDSCAPE, INC., Services	\$395.00
U. S. TREASURY, 941 Taxes	\$10,483.64
U.S. BANK, PEFA Gas	\$1,955.34
UNITYPOINT CLINIC-OCCUPATIONAL, Testing	\$42.00
USA BLUEBOOK, Equipment	\$653.98
UTILITY EQUIPMENT CO., Supplies	\$250.00
UTILITY SAFETY & DESIGN INC., Mailing	\$585.00
VERIZON WIRELESS, Cell Phones	\$158.00
VISA, Phones/Fall Conference	\$905.20
THEODORE J. VORWALD, Reimbursement	\$159.96
WELLMARK, Nov Premium	\$1,157.01
WINDSTREAM ENTERPRISE, Phone	\$67.55
KATHIE WOLFGRAM, Rebate	\$325.00
ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION, Equipment	\$5,624.14
The Library Board approved the following bills on November 3, 2021:	
SYNCB/AMAZON, Book	\$8.18
BAKER & TAYLOR INC., Books	\$415.88
CITY OF FAIRBANK, Electric & Gas	\$126.89
PRATT'S PEST CONTROL, Services	\$40.00
NE SECURITY BANK, Payroll Processing Fee 10/15/2021	\$2.00
VISA, Santa Visit	\$100.00

Brian Delagardelle stated that the yard waste location had been relocated with keys available at city hall due to trying to get a handle on the area so it would be ready for snow removal piles. They put a new service on the cemetery light pole, and it appeared to be working again. They are still waiting on the electric panel for the island lights. The public bathrooms were winterized, and the tree seedlings might be coming on Monday the 15th. Councilwoman Erickson stated that Todd Kaufman wants to donate a tree in memory of his parents. Mayor Harter offered information on the Municipal Leadership Academy that begins in December that provides training and technical support to elected and appointed officials. The city is still waiting to hear back from insurance on what all will be covered from the storm in August of 2021 and Amy Rechkemmer is hoping to attend the meeting on November 22nd to start discussing the options the city has for health insurance for their employees.

T. Woods/Erickson to adjourn at 6:47 PM. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Mike Harter, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 25, 2021. Mayor Harter called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Vorwald, T. Woods, and Erickson. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, Attorney; Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Ben Delagardelle, Public Works; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

T. Woods/Williams to approve the agenda. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

There were no public comments during the public comment section.

Vorwald/Erickson to approve the minutes of October 11th Regular Meeting. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Brad Gordon, the Fairbank Fire Chief, was present to inform the council that they had two new members ready for approval after completing their six months of training. Matt Johnson and Ben Rordan were sworn in with a short swearing in ceremony. Williams/T. Woods to approve the two new members to the Fairbank Fire Department. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The council welcomed them to the department.

Further discussions took place regarding the topic of a land exchange with privately owned property next to West Bentley Park and a portion of City owned river front. Attorney Prendergast updated the council that the city couldn't just do an exchange, that it would be a disposal of city owned property and a purchase of the land that John Woods

owns. If someone was interested in purchasing the city owned land, they could draft a purchase agreement and the council could meet in closed session to discuss the agreement. Then if the council wanted to move forward with the agreement, they would have to schedule a public hearing to start the process of disposing of the land. Dean Mangrich and Jared Kane spoke from the public. A petition was submitted to the mayor. John Woods said that he was no longer interested in selling or exchanging the property next to West Bentley Park. Councilman T. Woods motioned that he was not interested in the deal now because there was no deal to be made since the land owned by John Woods would not be exchanged. Motion died for lack of a second. No other motions were made. Agenda item died for lack of a motion.

Vorwald/Erickson to approve the third reading of Ordinance 351 - Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances by Adding a New Section Pertaining to the Fairbank Dam. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Erickson/Williams to approve Ordinance 351 - Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances by Adding a New Section Pertaining to the Fairbank Dam. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

A resolution was recommended to help with the process of tracking what the American Rescue Plan Act Funds are being spent on. Erickson/R. Woods to approve Resolution - 2021-31 - A Resolution Establishing a Project Using the First Portion of the American Res-

cue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. The resolution stated that the first half of the funds received of \$84,421.91 will be used towards the 2021 Water Improvements Project for water main replacements in two locations on West Main Street and Grove Street. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

The FY21 City Street Finance Report was presented to the council. It is required that all cities submit the report to the DOT by December 1st of each year. In previous years it was required to be approved by resolution but now it is just required to have proof that it was shown to the council. R. Woods/Vorwald to acknowledge the presentation of the documents for the city's FY21 City Street Finance Report. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Brian Delagardelle stated that they had just finished up the last of the storm damage repairs with Butler County REC fixing the last two poles that needed replaced. Councilman Vorwald said that him, Brian Delagardelle, and Ben Delagardelle met with Matt Mahoney about putting in some electrical cut outs to different areas in town to help isolate any possible future electrical outage issues. He was going to work on a quote for that. There will be a meeting on Thursday at 10 AM with the IA DOT to start discussions on the upcoming Main Street project that is planned to start in Spring of 2023. The council is interested in increasing the width of the sidewalks in the downtown by two feet. 200 tree seedlings will be coming in the middle of November from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources State Forest Nursery.

Williams/T. Woods to adjourn at 6:40 PM. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Mike Harter, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

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4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080
6	\$71,160
7	\$80,240
8	\$89,320

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Municipal

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Fairbank, Iowa
(319) 635-2869

Fairbank Fire Department
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Fairbank, Iowa
(319) 635-2981
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Fairbank Police Department
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(319) 269-1020
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Water, Electric & Natural Gas**
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Fairbank Post Office
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Fairbank, Iowa
(319) 635-2772

Fairbank Aquatic Center
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(319) 635-2533

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814 S. Frederick Avenue
Oelwein, Iowa 50662
(319) 283-2242
advancedrealtors@qwestoffice.net

Woods Agency
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RON & CHRIS WOODS
Fairbank, IA
(319) 240-3212

Recreation

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(319) 404-6475
ajscamperrentals@gmail.com

Gavin Marine
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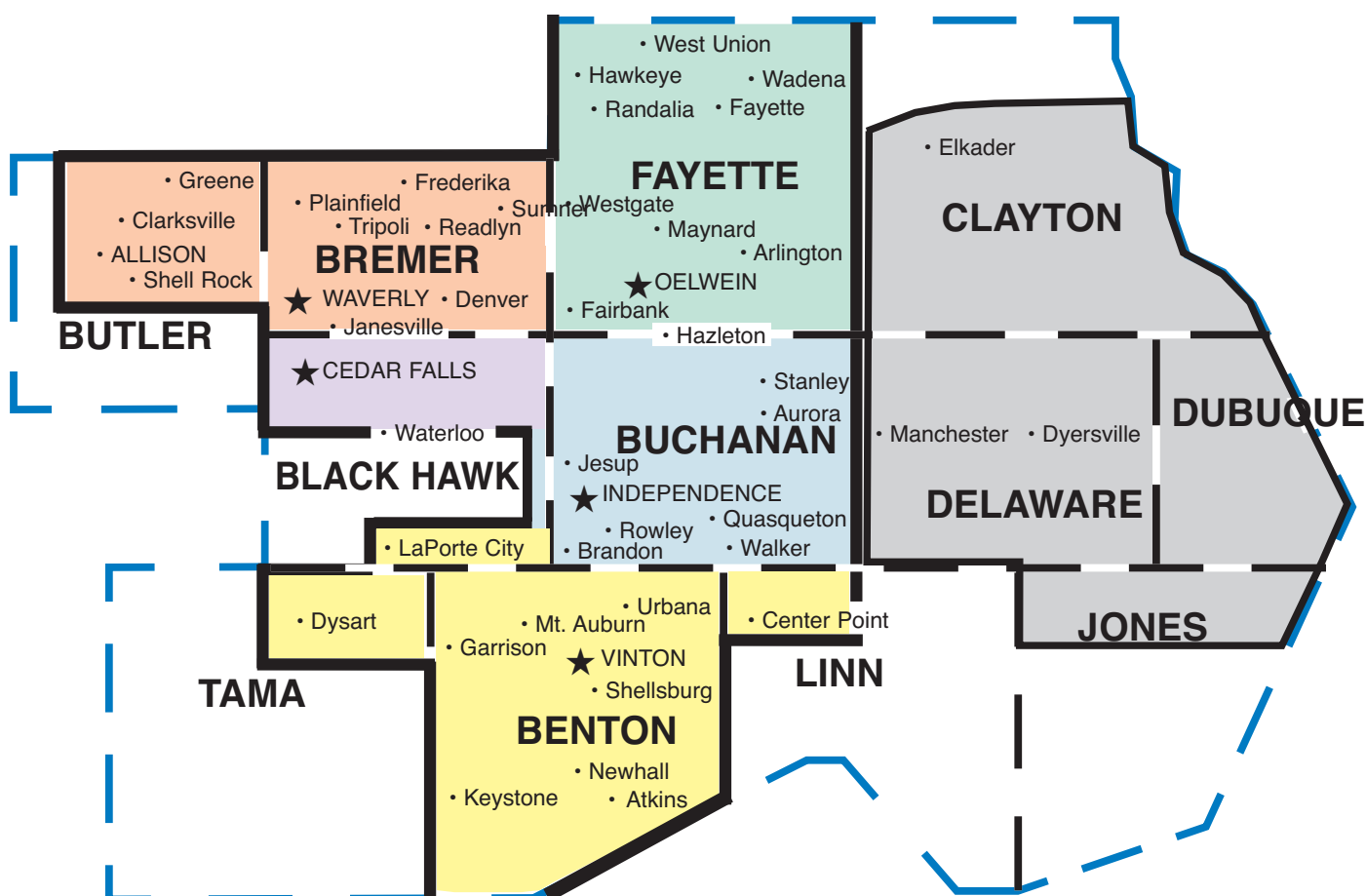
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Fridays 9 A.M. - 12 Noon

I HAVE SEVERAL BUYERS IN NE IOWA READY TO PURCHASE A HOME



OELWEIN,
INDEPENDENCE,
FAIRBANK,
SUMNER,
HAZLETON,
FAYETTE

*** WE NEED MORE LISTINGS *** CALL US TO SELL YOURS ***



102 Hoover St., Waterloo
Perfect Starter, Retirement or Investment Home! 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, wood floors, freshly painted, roof 2014, furnace & A/C 2018!
Priced to Sell! Call Today!

PENDING



135 2nd St. S., Maynard

PENDING



4 9th Ave. SE, Oelwein



**532 6th St. NW
Oelwein**
2.29 Acres M/L



**419 4th Ave. NW
Oelwein**
110 x 150 Lot



**22 4th Ave. NE
Oelwein**
2-3 bedrooms, 1 bath up,
2 car det. garage.



40 4th Ave. SE, Oelwein
2 story 3 bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths,
2 car garage, character woodwork,
appliances & recent updates Ready
for Cash or Conventional Buyers!!



18234 60TH ST., OELWEIN



New Acreage Listing on paved road, 15 acres M/L. Many updates to this 1 bedroom ranch, 1 co-joined bath, newer kitchen, open floor plan, steel roof, rear deck, outbuildings, 4 min. to Oelwein, 25 min. to Waverly, 40 min. to Waterloo.
\$210,000



114 7th Ave. SW, Oelwein
3 bedroom, 1.5 baths, main floor laundry, new kitchen, new furnace, large corner lot with trees, newer roof, 2 car garage, deck.

ADVANCED, REALTORS® , LLC

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Lori Beierschmitt
Broker/Owner
Cell: 319-238-1700



Bonnie Schulz
Broker/Assoc.
319-269-9591

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