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Presenting: Greenbelt EMS

Ackley, Eldora's roundtable on emergency service merger

BY SHAWN DIGITY | sdigity@iafalls.com

Both the Ackley and Eldora city councils met on Wednesday, Jan. 25 for a special, dual session to discuss and hammer out the finer details of the Ackley Volunteer Ambulance Service (AVAS) and Eldora EMS consolidation.

As reported from January's Ackley council meeting, AVAS president Joan Frazier and Eldora EMS Director Maile Carter were working on a new name for the combined service, which had appropriately been dubbed "New Service" for the sake of the detail report. And on Wednesday, they revealed the new moniker: (City of Eldora, doing business as) Greenbelt EMS.

They both believed it made sense for the area, with a greater focus on the eastern portion of Hardin County. According to the project overview, the merger would have the following benefits for the communities within the Greenbelt radius: paramedic services, 24-hour coverage in each community, "better utilization" of resources, greater stability in the service areas, additional CPR courses, and more school visits and sporting event standbys.

As explained by Frazier and Carter, the consolidation would lead to one unified crew with the new Greenbelt name and only one service director (Carter, in this case). More so, Frazier and Carter were working toward a Greenbelt EMS start date of July 1, 2023; at that point, all calls would come through the new Greenbelt service. Until that point and starting Feb. 1, the two EMSes would operate under a dual-paging system leading up to the merger.

As AVAS assimilates into Eldora's EMS and becomes Greenbelt, its contracts under the Ackley-centric name would just expire without renewal, essentially dissolving the entity bit by bit as the agreements incrementally exhaust. Then the new contracts would be made through Greenbelt EMS.

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Alison Swanson of North Central Iowa Ag in the Classroom visited Hubbard-Radcliffe Elementary this week.

Growing Lessons

H-R welcomes Ag in the Classroom

BY MARISSA VANWINGEN | mvanwingen@iafalls.com

In a state like Iowa, it is never too early to start talking about agriculture.

Alison Swanson of North Central Iowa Ag in the Classroom spent three days at Hubbard-Radcliffe Elementary speaking with preschool through fifth-graders about a variety of different topics.

North Central Iowa Ag in the Classroom is a non-profit organization that makes up 10 different counties in the north-central Iowa region, including Hardin County.

Swanson has been on staff since 2020 and lives on a farm in Webster County. She helps her husband farm and was looking for something to do when her kids went to school.

"Agriculture has always been my passion," she said. "I work from home doing their website and social media and then also coming into the classroom and teaching lessons too."

There are five instructors total and they travel around to different schools in their vicinity. They will go in to classrooms up to eighth grade teaching different tutorials.

"We have a variety of lessons available that we send to the teachers ahead of time and they can choose which one fits their needs," Swanson said. "If they are doing a certain unit on math or science, they will look and see which standards will fit into their teaching concepts and choose the lessons based on that."

This past week, she did five different lessons at H-R. On Monday, there were two sessions in preschool and two in second grade. The youngest students took part in "Is This My Home?" a habitat lesson with the preschoolers with the difference between zoo and farm animals. Then there was "Second



Preschooler Walter Jeske shows the classroom his animal during their Ag in the Classroom lesson on Monday.



Second graders Aquinnah Roberts and Alieah Oelschlager show their classmates their invention.

PHOTOS BY MARISSA VANWINGEN / TIMES CITIZEN



Vance Henricks and Tilly Williams work together during their "Second Grade Engineers" lesson.

Grade Engineers" where they talked about corn and soybeans as well as the machines that are now used on farms. Students had the opportunity to make their own apparatus.

Tuesday there was farmers and gardeners with the kindergarten class, cultures and food with third, and dairy cows

and milk production with first grade. On Wednesday there was ethanol production, where does my supper come from, and more farmers/gardeners and dairy production.

The length of lectures vary slightly with kindergarten through eighth grade having 40 minutes and 20 minutes for the preschoolers.

"The little ones really like talking about the animals, but you can kind of see third and fourth graders, they are starting to connect the dots about their food comes from a farm. Their clothing, the materials that make their clothing come from a farm. They are starting to notice the different businesses around their homes that have to do with agriculture," said Swanson. "You say you want to be in agriculture, you don't just have to be a farmer. You can be a truck driver, you can be a teacher, you can be a banker and you can see at that age level, they are starting to connect the dots." ■

Fundraising for After-Prom

Committee, students planning for April 29 event

BY JUSTIN ITES | ites@iafalls.com

While high school prom season is still months away, a group of Iowa Falls-Alden students and parents have been hard at work fundraising to offer the best entertainment they hope will increase interest in attending the after-prom event.

In the past, high school classes would utilize their class funds to help pay for after-prom entertainment and raffle prizes. That is no longer allowed, which has led to a heightened interest in fundraising.

This year's IF-A prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, and a small group of parents have been hard at work to plan for the event.

Shawna Beaubien and Courtney DeNio are the co-chairs of the IF-A After-Prom Committee, which has set up a Facebook page: Senior Parents/Students: IF-A After-Prom 2023, as well as a GoFundMe Page.

There is also a high school student group consisting of seniors who meet from time to time to help plan for the event.

Seniors Teah Miller and Martin Beisel explained that getting students to be engaged in the three-and-a-half hour after-prom activity has been a challenge.

"Everyone seems to be interested in the prizes, but once those are handed out, then many leave the event," Miller said. "So we are constantly trying to come up with things that will keep them more engaged in the entire event."

Beisel referenced a recent after-prom two years ago that featured a mechanical bull. Many self-conscious students did not want to take a stab at riding the bull in front of their peers, which led to a lot of students not participating.

"Last year, they did the dodgeball and the bags. Kept people up and doing stuff. We are doing a game show theme, so competitions between people. That's how



JUSTIN ITES / TIMES CITIZEN

IFAHS students met last week to discuss a variety of options for the after-prom event scheduled for Saturday, April 29.

they stay engaged. It's a wide variety of students and it's hard to find something everyone is going to like," Beisel said.

Baubien said the parent committee's goal is to keep the students involved with

as much planning/participation as possible. That includes teaching them life lessons along the way.

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