Mount Ayr Record News

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Local boy saves family from fire

By Jeff Snyder

Mount Ayr, Iowa — Tragedy struck a Mount Ayr family on November 29 as fire ripped through their two story home at 601 Madison Street.

While there were no human casualties, the family, nonetheless, suffered the loss of three of their beloved pets, with one still missing.

The fire struck at approximately 12:45 Saturday morning and alarms went out to all the regional fire departments as is required when the call involves a structure fire.

Ed Rotert, of the Mount Aye department, explained that

"Structural fires demand the maximum responses possible, so that's why all companies in the area are signaled at once," Mount Ayr firefighter Ed Rotert said.

Mount Ayr's company was first on the scene as the fire occurred literally in their back yard. Multiple trucks were dispatched from Mount Ayr, followed by trucks from near by communities.

"The house was fully engaged even as quickly as the department responded," Rotert said.

Upon arrival, Rotert said that crews including nine members of the local company immediately engaged the blaze.

Ventilation holes were chopped through the roofs exterior to allow for smoke dissipation and better access to the upper reaches of the blaze.

"The fire was extremely smoky." Rotert said, making it hard if not impossible to pinpoint the exact location of the fires origin.

The fire remains under investigation as to its cause.

The family owes their survival to the true hero of this tragedy, 5-year-old Kyro Kissinger.

Young Kyro detected the fire and warned his grandpa, who was upstairs at the time, "Grandma said she smelled something."

Ed Corum initially didn't respond to his young grandson's plea but eventually reacted as Kyro was insistent that he come check. Once Corum realized the seriousness of

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Kyro Kissinger
Local Hero

Christmas in the Ayr - Lighted Parade entertains

West Plumbing & Heating wins Best Float in Christmas Parade *photos by Jeff Snyder*

Mount Ayr holds soggy Christmas parade

By Jeff Snyder

Mount Ayr, Iowa — The weather finally cooperated on Saturday enabling the "Very Vintage" Lighted Christmas Parade and most activities to proceed as planned.

Although the weather threatened to wipe out the festivities, clearing finally arrived at about 6:15 p.m. paving the way for the first of the evening's activities; the Lighted Parade.

Engines from the local fire department along with a number of colorful lighted floats made their way up Taylor Street and eventually onto the square. The parade did a lap of the square rewarding those who braved the cold rainy conditions.

Upon completion of the parade,

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Christmas comes to the square

City sells lot for housing expansion

By Jeff Snyder

Mount Ayr, Iowa — The city council of Mount Ayr held it's regularly scheduled meeting Monday December 8.

The council had a relatively quiet agenda mostly related to issues that had been tabled from the last meeting on November 24.

Among the issues presented, was the sale of the city owned property at 104 North Webster street.

The lot was opened to public bidding and only received one bid. The council reviewed the bid and the intended use statement provider by the bidder, Amanda Jackson.

While the bid offer was considered under the market rate for a lot in the city, the council considered the ongoing legal and administrative expenses related to the clearing and maintenance of the land.

The winning bidder presented plans for a three bedroom home that would be constructed on the cleared lot and put up for sale in the $175,000-$200,000 range.

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Updates from the MACS board

Board discusses CTE building timelines for the coming month

By Dalton Shadle

MOUNT AYR, Iowa — The Mount Ayr Board of Education received an update on the CTE building during its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday.

The board was informed that utility connections have been made and that a storm sewer was installed. Although construction faces weather challenges during the winter months there are many aspects which are scheduled to take place this month.

Some of those include having foundation rebar delivered this week with concrete foundations to begin hopefully next week. A sanitary sewer is also slated to be installed in the parking lot.

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Christmas home tour raises funds for women battling breast cancer

By Ken Garner

MOUNT AYR, Iowa — When it comes to women's health, especially breast cancer, the mantra "Nobody fights alone" is often used as a rallying cry. In the past few years several local women have helped to start a movement to help those specifically battling cancer in Ringgold, Union and Decatur counties.

This year that movement has led to a Christmas Home Tour to be held on Saturday, December 13 hosted by the Mount Ayr First Christian Church. The event will start at the church at 4 p.m. with sweet confections and holiday music before heading out to various area homes for Christmas tours.

This year's holiday event has been a few years in the making and was in part inspired by the cancer battle of Cindy Glazebrook and her granddaughter. Glazebrook is a cancer survivor and in 2023 her then 29-year-old granddaughter began her own battle against breast cancer.

"Of course it just touched my heart because what I've seen people go through, and what could we do that would just bring a little more easement to them, a little more joy?" Glazebrook said. "So it all started with myself having it, and then saying, what can I do? And then when my granddaughter had it, it's like, what can we do for ladies? What could we do that would help them out? So with that, we decided, okay, let's go ahead.

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Miss Amazing visits Mount Ayr

By Jeff Snyder

Mount Ayr, Iowa — The city of Mount Ayr was paid a visit on December 4, by an independent film crew (Greenstone TV) who traveled all the way from New Zealand to film a number of local residents going about their pageant preparation for The Miss Amazing Pageant held exclusively for developmentally challenged people.

Greenstone TV is producing a series of one-hour specials in conjunction with the Miss Amazing organization hoping to marketing the miniseries to a major media outlet in the upcoming year.

Kelly Jo Bjustrom hosted the film crew at her MODA 106 Salon on the courthouse square.

The stars of the filming event were Tessa Kniep and Amber Golliday, two special girls who need no introductions in Mount Ayr.

The two girls we pampered with a custom nail makeover provided by the skilled hands of owner Kelly Jo herself in preparation of the impending pageant festivities.

The Miss Amazing franchise is a 501C-3 non for profit orga-

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