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IF IT'S PILSON IT'S POSSIBLE

Local teen found dead in downtown Atwood

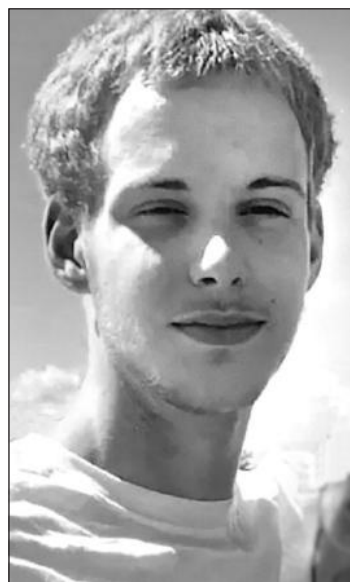
By Doris Elmore

The Village of Atwood has had two tragedies of young people recently, Karen Fennessy on Dec. 23, 2022, and Eian Urban on Jan. 20. The loss of these residents, one 20 years old and one 19, is upsetting to everyone. Whether you knew them or not, it is difficult to understand.

People continue to think that nothing ever happens in a small town. This proves there is no small town USA anymore. Bad things happen, just not as often as a larger town.

According to Atwood Police Chief Rob Bross, on Friday morning, January 20, the body of Eian Urban, 19, was found lying in the 100 block of West Central by the backdoor of former business, Things Forgotten. A passerby saw the body and called 911.

There were no obvious signs of trauma. Final cause of death depends on the toxicology report, which will take between 30-45 days, authorities said. Rumors are false that another dead person was found at the ceme-



Eian Urban

tery, or the body was found by a youth on their way to school.

Eian's mother is Anna Urban of Michigan. When in Atwood, he lived with his grandfather, Art Urban, who passed away on Dec. 17, 2020.

This incident is being investigated by the Atwood Police Department and Piatt County Coroner's Office. Additional information will be forthcoming as it is available.

Fishel

From page 1

football and three years in basketball.

"He was a natural athlete in all sports," said Larry Bushu, another classmate. "It was unusual to have a freshman dress and start at linebacker in the 1950s. We had good teams. I can't say enough about him. The last few years (and previously) we enjoyed playing cribbage and gin rummy. I have a lot of good memories of Jack."

One memory that Bushu has is when he ran the Drug Store and he would be busy filling prescriptions while people waited for their cup of coffee.

"Jack would step in and pour the coffee until I got back," said Bushu, who compared Fishel to the Tanner Thomas of those days.

Fishel and Bushu were also on the same bowling team for years and the Bushu and Fishel friendship goes back to their fathers.

Bushu fondly remembers when he was with Ted Shields and Coon Sanders (all class of 1956) and how it was a nice experience to be together again.

"He was very loyal to Arcola," said Randy Rothrock. "He was always positive. One thing I always noticed about him was that he always respected the teams in the conference. He had a lot of good relationships with people in other towns. It also didn't matter who we were playing, Jack always thought we were going to win."

Jack Fishel was the spotter in the press box for football games for decades, including many with Bob Miller.

"Some would say outside of the family Lou Baker was a big influence," said Rothrock of the former Arcola football and basketball coach. "He would refer to Baker in a number of situations saying Baker would have done it this way."

Fishel was voted into the Arcola Distinguished Alumni in 2020, but due to COVID, the banquet has not been held.

Fishel was a founding member of the Arcola Alumni Board of Directors.

"Jack and Lynda did things for the school, the community and individuals," said Rothrock. "They were really good about taking a spouse, whose other half was sick, to do things with them. They are kind people that took care of others."

John and Florence Mary Fishel moved to Arcola where Dr. J.V. Fishel opened a practice and had two daughters, Mary and Carol (former Miss Arcola 1938). On Jan 20, 1938 John Virgil Fishel, Jr. was born.

"Many called Jack the Golden Child," said Jeff Fishel. "On Jan. 6, 1960 history repeated itself as another golden child was born in John Fishel (III). Little Johnny could do no wrong and that lasted almost 85 years of Jack's life."

Jeff Fishel went on to say, "During the end of a quarter of his life mom in a weak moment, and Jack keeps smiling about this, decided yes, I will marry this man."

Jack and Lynda Fishel were married Dec. 27, 1958. They had three sons (John, Jeff and Jim) and two daughters (Amy (Fishel) Mueller and Allison (Fishel) Keller).

"He was a mighty, mighty guy," said Chrisagis. "Jack cared about everybody. If it needed done Jack was always there. I just think Jack Fishel was almost bigger than life type of guy. Always made you feel welcomed and always willing to help."

Jack Fishel was a two term alderman on the city council and was elected mayor in April of 1989, but resigned in November due to a potential conflict of interest because he owned some land that was being looked at for a potential factory outlet mall.

"In the 1970s there were a lot of great times," said Jeff Fishel. "The No. 1 fan wearing the purple hat, purple pants, purple t-shirt, purple coat-you could see him (Jack Fishel) in the stands or up in the booth."

Chrisagis said Byron and



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(217) 253-5086

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ArcolaRecordHerald

Greg Hoskins, Publisher
ghoskins@heraldpubs.com

David Porter, Regional Managing Editor
presseditor1@gmail.com
217.991.0935

Stephanie Wierman, Regional Manager/Advertising Director
swierman@consolidated.net

Nancy Rairden, Composing Room Manager
arcolarecordherald@gmail.com

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Fishel in 1956

Jean Bradford would go on the Monahan Bus with Jack and Lynda and Tim and Joan Monahan and others to a Notre Dame game.

"They (Byron and Jack) were friends in high school and they stayed that way," said Chrisagis. "Jack never knew a stranger and he touched so many lives. His legacy on this community was amazing."

Jeff Fishel added humor to the service as in the eulogy he talked about Jack saying " If cats had nine lives then he literally would have used up a dozen cats."

He listed several instances where Jack Fishel was in trouble, like he was shot in the back while hunting despite wearing an orange vest and took in a jolt of electricity.

"Has your boat in the Pacific Ocean ever drifted into forbidden territory and the Mexican Navy drops down an Anti Aircraft with machine guns pointed at you; have you ever liked music from a band so much you were dancing on the ceiling rafters?," said Jeff Fishel. "Have you ever been cooking hamburgers over an open flame in the mountains and a grizzly bear comes within 75-100 yards."

Jeff Fishel said, "My dad had several businesses and had rental property with Pat Monahan as they were in business together. I knew I was never going to get in the rental business because they had me clean the apartments when people left. The Monahans meant the world to him."

Jack Fishel loved playing cards with Tim Monahan and during the holiday would have huge card games. He liked fishing in New Orleans and hunting. He missed his good golfing buddy Dee Lindenmeyer and he loved

Tim and Joan Monahan. With Tim anything goes."

Jeff Fishel said in the last decade Jack was more interested in hanging out in the cabin near Charleston where he would have a few bears and chew the fat.

Jack Fishel became a catholic in 2018.

"For Jack that was the day for him that he was very proud of," said Fr. Angel Siera of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. "Now he felt fully connected with his family."

Jeff Fishel said, "My dad worked hard. My dad played hard. He was a great provider. He was a good samaritan. My dad was not perfect, but he was a good compassionate man. He also strongly believed in Jesus."

Mueller said he was a gentleman first and foremost and he didn't complain.

"When I was in high school and even grade school he told me numerous times if anything happened to me and I am not here tomorrow I had a great life," said Mueller. "I was the luckiest man in the world. The thought of him not being here was hard for a young girl. You never wanted to consider the thought that my dad would not be with me. He repeated that statement so many times. He was the luckiest man in the world because he let us know that at every opportunity."

Mueller talked about not only Jack's love for Arcola, but all of the Fishel's.

"Arcola you are amazing," said Mueller. "There is something special about this community and what an amazing community this is. When aunt Mary (Jack's sister) died, cousin Kevin read a poem called the dash. Dash as in born —death. Your life is in the dash. It would be impossible for us to tell you everything that we are thinking about in the dash, but he lived it. In the past years I feel like we have learned so much and the grandkids have earned so much. I feel like they are learning what is so special. What is important—that would family; give of yourself; it doesn't matter if you are tired; there is never a moment when it is okay not to be friends with someone. There is never a moment not to help someone and dad was all that person. If you needed something, call Jack."

John Fishel raised the purple box, which had Jack's ashes in it and Jeff Fishel said, "A life well lived."

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