Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

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Volume 19, No. 10, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Robin Harms, Tripoli, IA, October 28, 2026

Bents Smokehouse & Pub

1st Place Winners: Tasha (left) and Sheila Bents proudly accept their first place check for the lamp pole contest.

FCCLA

3rd Place Winners: Brittany Kemper and her son, Corbin, gladly accept their check for third place at 2nd Hand Boutique.

2nd Place Winners: left to right, Reagan Szurley, Olivia Suhr, Arizona Frank and Addison Frank, Wapsie Valley FCCLA officers.

2nd Hand Boutique

Santa is coming to town!

Saturday, November 28, will be an exciting day in Readlyn! Santa will actually be at Bents Smokehouse and Pub from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Santa has requested that we once again include these events:

• Treat bags furnished by the former Grumps.

• Hot chocolate donated by John and Wendy Galyean.

• Cookies served by Readlyn Royalty.

• S'mores professionally toasted and donated by Readlyn's firemen.

• Free-will donation to ensure more celebrations.

New

• Decorate your own cookie.

• Coloring station.

5:00 p.m. at Bents

• Ham drawing (Register by Santa; must be present to win.)

• Christmas Light Pole winners announced.

6:00 p.m.

• Lighted Parade - No sign-up, just line-up by TruServe at 5:45 p.m.

• Lighting of the Christmas tree at City Park.

• Fireworks, thanks to your donations, behind TruServe to follow.

This is a great way to culminate your Thanksgiving celebration and begin the Christmas season.

Congratulations to all of the contestants who did a wonderful job sprucing up the downtown.

Be sure to visit Readlyn's Main Street at night to see these beautiful lamp poles lit up!

See the rest of the lamp poles on page 8.

Christmas light pole decorating contest

Sponsored by Readlyn Community Club (RCC)

Let's dress up Readlyn's Main Street for Christmas! Now is your chance to use your creativity to personally decorate a light pole on Main Street.

Sign up for the Light Pole Decorating Contest at Readlyn City Hall, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., or email cityhallreadlyn@rtc279.com. You will be assigned a pole with a magnetic number attached. It is what the judges need to see when they vote. Feel free to relocate the number, but please make sure it is easily visible from the street.

• Please decorate November 8 - November 18. All poles have an electrical outlet. (Remember to allow room for snow plows.)

• 1st prize, $75; 2nd prize, $50; 3rd prize, $30.

• Each RCC member can cast one vote from November 19 – November 25.

• Winners will be announced November 28 after the ham drawing at Bents around 5:15.

• Please remove decorations by January 9, 2027.

We hope to see everyone November 28 to welcome Santa and celebrate Christmas. (See Santa article above for details.)

Lois Peters earns 2026 Iowa Master Farm Homemaker Award

By JoAnn Alumbaugh, Monroe, IA

A dirt lane winds through tall grasses that gently undulate in the breeze, revealing a lovely log cabin flanked by a tranquil pond. The quiet, serene location mirrors the personality of Lois Peters, who comes here to relax, reflect and share special moments with her family.

Lois, a 2026 Iowa Master Farm Homemaker, and her husband, Jim, built the cabin in 2008 and did much of the work themselves. In 2021, after 47 years of marriage, Jim passed away, but Lois loves being surrounded by nature and finds solace in the many memories created at the cabin.

It's a favorite spot for her three grandchildren, too. She watches Emma, 8, Russell, 5, and Henry, 3½, every day after daycare and enjoys teaching them how to bake.

"They like to help me," Lois said. "They put on their chef hats, pull their chairs up to the counter and pitch in."

She also teaches them to appreciate nature. They like to fish for largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie in the pond, which had formerly been a sandpit. They watch for animals, too, including rabbits, deer, otters, beavers, muskrats, squirrels, raccoons, coyotes and woodchucks. A pair of eagles built a nest close to the cabin,

Lois Peters is shown at her farm north of Readlyn.

and they enjoyed seeing the birds care for their young.

Conservation focus

Conservation has long been a priority for the Peters family. The last two pieces of land Lois and Jim bought were Conservation Reserve Program acres and wetlands.

Jim was an avid outdoorsman, and Lois makes sure their land is used as it was intended. She utilizes no-till, incorporates grass waterways and maintains wetlands, among other conservation practices. She supports the Bremer County Conservation Board — for which Jim served as president — and Pheasants Forever.

Lois owns and operates the farm now, after a 34-year career teaching physical education and science in the Denver, Iowa, school district. She grows mostly corn and, "once in a while, soybeans" on the 375 tillable acres.

She has a similar number of acres in the CRP or wetlands program. The homeplace, where her husband grew up — and

Continued on Page 5

Grump's Grumblings

By Ed Traeger, 2026 Grump

Fresh air, football, the rush of the harvest, Halloween, and Thanksgiving! A hike through the colorful leaves of the beautiful woodlands! Fall is this Grump's favorite time of the year!

There are so many fun fall activities to look forward to. Be prepared, for soon your town will be filled with "Trick or Treaters." And don't miss any of the community's delicious fall church dinners. These old-fashioned hearty Thanksgiving meals are a must! All of the above are required to complete this Grump's autumn season!

My wife and I recently attended the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation (WVEF) annual fundraising dinner, at the reminder of Ron and Judy Leistikow. We were honored to be invited to sit at their table. All the donation-reserved tables were arranged around the Dueling Pianos on middle stage. We were fortunately seated right next to the piano players, who played requests all night long. We sang along with all the other lively attendees in the Bents Smokehouse dance hall. The Bents should be recognized for their generous donation of the event center for this fundraiser! Please thank them. Also, be sure to tell them that the Old Grump said, "The meal was outstanding!" As a founding member of the WVEF, I am very proud to see that the WVEF Committee is strong and successful, after all these years.

And the season would not be complete, for me, without the Readlyn Savings Bank Community Grumptoberfest! This is an event that I have enjoyed for many, many years! The complimentary bratwurst supper is open to everyone. The meal is followed by music and a costume contest. The contest has monetary prizes for numerous age categories from the youngest, to and including, the adults. Judging the event will be community dignitaries; Mayor Dan Wedemeier, Miss Readlyn Ava Meyer and as a great honor to myself, Thee Old Grump!

Quote of the Month

The best way to predict your future is to create it. – *Abraham Lincoln*

Miss Readlyn Comments

By Ava Meyer

Hello, Readlyn!

As fall comes to a close, I want to take a moment to congratulate all of our fall athletes on a wonderful season! It is always so special to see our community come together to support and encourage our local athletes. The time, dedication, and hard work that go into each season deserve to be celebrated, and I am so thankful to be part of a community that shows up for one another.

For me, this fall has been especially bittersweet as I experienced my first "last" of the year. After six years of participating in cross country, I have officially closed this chapter of my life. Cross country has been such a rewarding sport, teaching me lessons about perseverance, teamwork, determination, and pushing through even when things get tough. While I am sad to say goodbye to something that has been such a big part of my life, I am incredibly grateful for all the memories and friendships I have made along the way.

I also want to give a huge thank-you to all the families and friends who came out to support my team and me throughout the season. Seeing familiar faces cheering along the course makes such a difference, especially during those challenging miles. Your encouragement never goes unnoticed, and I truly appreciate everyone who took the time to come support us!

For those who may not be familiar with cross country, it is definitely a challenging sport, but it is also one filled with positivity, encouragement, and friendly competition. Even when we are competing against one another, there is so much respect and support among athletes. It is a sport that has helped shape me into the person I am today, and I will always look back on these six years with appreciation.

Now that cross country has wrapped up, I have been keeping myself busy with work at Warrior Watch and Waverly Tire, along with attending dance three days a week. I have always enjoyed having a full schedule and finding ways to stay involved in the things I love. When I have free time, I also enjoy getting outside and making the most of the beautiful fall weather!

As I move into the next season, I am excited to see what new opportunities and experiences come my way. Although it is hard to say goodbye to certain traditions and activities, I know that every ending brings the chance for a new beginning. I am looking forward to continuing to grow, staying involved in my community, and making the most of the time I have left in this chapter of my life.

Thank you, Readlyn, for always showing up, cheering us on, and making our community such a special place to call home. Your support means more than you know!

Send news to the *Chronicle*: **ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com**

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Help Us Celebrate Marjorie Macken's 100th Birthday on November 15!

Guess who's turning 100 years young on November 12? None other than our very own Marjorie Macken!

Born near Fayette, Iowa, Marjorie Skinner graduated from Ossian High School. She began her teaching career in 1949 at a country school near Highland, Iowa, and married Jim Macken in 1951. Marjorie went on to dedicate an incredible 42½ years to teaching, including 36 wonderful years educating the children of Readlyn.

Today, Marjorie continues to call Readlyn home, residing at 240 Main Street.

Marjorie's sons, Jerry and Joel, and their family extend an invitation to celebrate this amazing milestone and honor a century of memories. Stop by and wish Marjorie a very Happy 100th Birthday on Sunday, November 15, from 2–4 p.m. at the Readlyn Community Library.

Come share in the celebration, enjoy some cake and ice cream, and help make Marjorie's 100th birthday extra special!

Marjorie Macken

Pat Davis' 90th Birthday Nov. 7

There will be an open house for Pat Davis' 90th birthday on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Ledges II Commons Room, 1501 3rd St. SW, Waverly.

A light luncheon will be served by her family.

Please join us to help this beautiful lady celebrate. Your presence is a gift.

If you are unable to attend, a card may be sent to Apt. 218 - 1501 3rd St. SW, Waverly, IA 50677.

Pat Davis

Thank You

The family of Esther Poock would like to send out a thank you for the flowers, cards, calls, texts, and visits during the time of Esther's death. Your kindness has been greatly appreciated.

Steve and Liz Poock
Sandy and Matthew Wells

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Memorial Donations

In Memory of Don Billhorn
Kim Brown

Book Donations

In Memory of Derek Phillips
given by the Wehling and Blaylock families
Marching Band – Kate Hindley
Stifled – Jennifer Gennari

HOURS

Mon - 10am - 7pm
Tue - 10am - 5 pm
Wed - 10am - 5pm
Thurs - 10am - 7pm
Fri - 10am - 5 pm
Sat - 9am - 12pm
Sun - Closed

happy thanksgiving

THE BREMER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS DISCONTINUED THE FOOT CLINICS. PLEASE CONTACT THEM FOR ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS IF YOU NEED THIS CARE.

Looking for a Puzzle?

If you're one of the many people who love jigsaw puzzles, don't forget that the library has quite a few available for checkout! We usually also have one ongoing in the library as well. Stop in, warm up, put a few pieces in our puzzle and then take one home to enjoy!

"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man."
— T.S. Eliot

UPCOMING EVENTS

"No School Day" Youth Program
SCURRYING SQUIRRELS
Wed. Nov. 4
1:30 pm
Please join us!

LIBRARY COOKIE WALK & BAKE SALE

SATURDAY DEC. 5

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

free will donation & quilt raffle!

Wasn't it Yesterday?

A Gas Jockey

By J.D. Francis

I pulled into the station last week to fill my truck with gas. As I parked my truck, I glanced over to see an elderly lady (looking to be around 80 years old) pumping her own gas. She was dressed to the "nines" with a fancy scarf around her neck. The weather was cold, windy, and snowy. The fringed ends of her scarf were whipping across her shoulders, and occasionally slapping her in the face. The wet snowflakes piled on her meticulous hairstyle and melted off of her silver-studded glasses. I knew that had to be difficult for her, but I also knew, there once was a time ...

My first employment began in 1973 at Bob's Standard in Waverly as a "gas jockey" pumping gas. I was a 15-year-old school kid determined to make money, with designs on buying my first car. Everything was typical back then in '73, in the "gas pumper" business in terms of filling the cars, washing the windshields, checking the oil, tires, and so on. Things began to change when the calendar turned its final page and rolled in 1974. They started talking about an oil crisis, as well as shortages of gasoline. The price of fuel began to increase dramatically from its typical 38 cents per gallon. I was in charge of posting the current fuel prices on the tall post sign on the drive. I remember posting on the sign the latest spike in the current price in '74 of 56 cents per gallon. The new price was so dramatic back then that, after posting it, I parked my car (the one I had recently purchased from working) under the sign and snapped a picture of the car, as well as the outrageous price per gallon. To this day, I still have that picture on my bedroom dresser mirror.

So much was changing so fast in '74. There was a point where we could only sell as much as 8 gallons per vehicle, based on the fuel shortage. Eight gallons of gas in some of those big Cadillacs was only enough fuel to get them to the next gas station. We started hearing things about Regular and Ethyl gas (some called it premium) becoming a gas called "unleaded." This was a normal leaded gas, with the lead removed for a cleaner environment and emissions and, of course, it would cost a little more per gallon. And wait just a minute here, there was talk about a "self-serve" pump? A pump where the customer got out of their cars in their Sunday clothes and pumped it themselves. As I recall, they got a small discount per gallon if they pumped it themselves. It goes without saying how that program was accepted at the time. As they pulled up to the self-service pump (by mistake), I remember more than once explaining to a customer that they had to get out of their car and pump the gas themselves. The language used by some of those elders would make a coal miner blush. It begs to be mentioned at the way they could handle their cars though ... Parnelli Jones would have been impressed. They would leave the drive with gravel flying and rubber squealing. The general consensus was this was unheard of, and destined to fail. I saw it as a way of running us young "gas jockeys" out of a job.

All of these years, without fail, the calendar has turned its new year page another 50-some times. My gas pumping days are long gone, as is that entire job title for a teenager looking for that kind of job. As I see it now, in "fast forward" from those old days, you could say that self-service has caught on very well, and, after 50 years, has become the norm. But today, as I sit in my truck and watch an elderly lady pumping her own gas in a weather storm, I never would have believed all those years ago that it would come to this. I never believed an older person would leave the comforts of their car to pump their own gas. Though she never had the red "grease rag" in her back pocket, she did come through like a professional "gas jockey."

After filling her car, she returned the pump handle back to its cradle, took a step back, and flipped a middle finger at the gas pump. She got in her car and drove away with gravel flying and rubber squealing. She had me wondering if maybe we had already met at Bob's Standard, some 50 years ago.

jdfranpaint@msn.com

Obituary

Esther Elizabeth Poock

Esther Poock

Esther Elizabeth Poock, 101, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at the Denver Sunset Home.

Esther was born to Ernest and Ida (Pape) Moeller on August 5, 1925. The fourth of five children. She was baptized on September 6, 1925, at Zion Lutheran Church and was confirmed by Rev. Pastor A.H. Landgrebe on April 21, 1940.

Esther attended Readlyn Elementary School through the eighth grade, at which time she worked on her parents' farm. She was united in marriage to Herold L. Poock on April 4, 1946, at Zion Lutheran Church with Pastor A. H. Langrebe officiating. The couple farmed several places in the Readlyn area until 1961, when they moved to Esther's childhood home. Esther remained on the farm after Herold's death, April 18, 1994, until her 100th birthday.

Esther was a member of Zion Lutheran Church her entire life and was a founding member of the Evening Circle where she held several different offices and was active in the circle's many activities. Esther's daily ritual was to sit down with her Bible and *Portals of Prayer* to read scripture. She also enjoyed working outside, helping her son work on the farm.

Esther is survived by a son, Steven L. (Elizabeth) Poock of rural Readlyn and a daughter, Sandra (Matthew) Wells of Ocala, Florida, along with many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Herold Poock, one daughter in infancy, brothers, Carl and Erwald Moeller, and sisters, Olinda Klemp and Edna Kuhlmann.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn, with Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary officiating. A visitation was from 9:00 a.m. until service time on Saturday. Esther will be laid to rest at Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery outside of Readlyn, Iowa.

Memorials may directed towards Zion Lutheran Church or a Zion Church fund of your choice.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

Obituary

Stanley Arnold Otto

Stan Otto

Stanley Arnold Otto passed away in the early hours of March 14, 2026, at his home in Elberta, Michigan, with his wife and son by his side.

Stan Otto was always looking outward. Born on May 14, 1949, in Waverly, Iowa, and growing up in the small farming community of Readlyn, he would ride his bike as far as he could down the endless farm roads of his youth. He saved up his own money and bought a telescope, directing it towards the stars and dreaming of one day exploring the cosmos. When it came time for him to leave home for college, he set off on a journey that would last the rest of his days.

Stan started at Harvard in 1967, beginning as a physics major and soon switching to Romance Languages. His passion for immersing himself in other cultures was ignited during his junior year abroad in Paris. He returned to the States long enough to graduate magna cum laude before joining the Peace Corps in 1971.

Stan served as a teacher in rural Morocco starting in 1971, learning Arabic and devising a curriculum with minimal support, and then served in Cameroon through 1974. His interest in language led him to pursue a Master's in Applied Linguistics at the American University in Cairo from 1975 to 1977, and from there he went on to teach around the world: at a technical school in Iran (1977-1979); as a Fulbright English and drama teacher in Tainan, Taiwan (1979-1982); at a language school in Tokyo, while he lived in a house in the mountains and awaited security clearance to join the Foreign Service (1982-1984).

It was the very grand moments, but also the very quiet ones, that Stan would tell stories about. He might tell of traversing Isfahan after curfew, or fleeing Iran with nothing but a Persian rug as the revolution intensified. But he would also speak with reverence about a sleepless bus ride crossing the Sahara, crammed together with so many other souls. Both told him something about the human experience. He wanted to know what people were about.

Liz and Stan met in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1984. She was visiting her parents, who were stationed there, and was working on the visa line at the consulate; he was there on his first Foreign Service assignment. They embarked on a series of adventures that gave them a taste for what life could be like together, from bush camping in West Africa to hiking Kilimanjaro, and were married in Iowa, on April 5, 1987. Their son, Nicholas, was born in 1992, in Fukuoka, Japan, and would be along for their remaining postings: Paris (1995-1999), Tokyo (2001-2005), Bern (2006-2007), and Berlin (2007-2011), with stints in D.C. (1999-2001, 2005-2006) and Connecticut (1994-1995) in between.

With Stan's retirement in 2011, he and Liz moved to Northern Michigan, where Liz's family has deep ties. Stan focused his attention on singing, particularly with the Benzie Community Chorus; fostering understanding of global issues through the International Affairs Forum; promoting culture as a chair of the Oliver Arts Center; and enjoying the wonders of the area.

Stan had a fearlessness that came from a certainty about the goodness of people and his place among them. He took lessons from each of the cultures he inhabited, took inspiration from Liz's sense of poetry and aesthetics, and experienced the sublime in music and in conversation. He felt a great harmony with others in his singing, in coming together to share stories over a glass of wine, in having his "Kaffee and Kuchen" and watching the world go by on some old town square. Stan loved his life, and he lived it deliberately.

Stan was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Norma (nee Huebner) Otto, and by his brother, Loren. Besides his wife, Liz (Elizabeth Buck), and son, Nicholas, he is survived by four siblings, Nelson Otto (partner Thelma), Kathy Behnke (Daryl - deceased), Denny Otto (Deb), and Carol Schaffner (Mike - divorced), by his two sisters, many children and grandchildren, by his brother, Denny's, stepdaughters, and by his in-laws, Janet Buck (Bill - deceased), Liz's sister, Kristina Buck, and brother, Nathaniel (Megumi Eda), and their two children.

A memorial service was held at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Beulah, on October 24, at 4:00 p.m. The family asks that donations in his memory be made to the International Affairs Forum or the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. For a link to the live stream of the service, donation links, Liz's beautiful tribute to Stan's life, and a place to share memories, please visit online-tribute.com/StanleyOtto.

Lois Peters earns Homemaker Award

Continued from Page 1

where her daughter, Patty, and son-in-law, Kyle Spowart, now live with their children — was recognized as a Century Farm three years ago.

Although Kyle wasn't raised on a farm, he loves agriculture, and Lois' goal is to turn the farm over to her daughter and son-in-law in the future. Kyle has learned how to run the combine and planter, and has used the ripper and finisher. He worked for Kinze Manufacturing and is now a manufacturing engineer at John Deere, while Patty is an architect in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

"He likes the challenge of farming and is driven to try new things," Lois said of Kyle.

Resiliency and loyalty

Lois isn't afraid to face challenges, either. Like the eagles at the cabin last winter, she is resilient and loyal to her family and friends.

"I've known Lois for over 60 years," said Judy Leistikow, who nominated Lois for the Iowa Master Farm Homemaker award. "As a friend and neighbor, Lois is the best. She's always ready to help if needed."

By nurturing her family, sharing traditions and protecting the land, Lois is ensuring that her legacy will continue for generations to come.

Deadline for the Nov. 25 *Readlyn Chronicle* is Thursday, Nov. 12 at 5 PM

Readlyn Emergency Services Building Shares Funding Update as Year End Approaches

As 2026 comes to a close, the Readlyn Emergency Services Building (RESB) Committee continues making progress toward its goal of constructing a new facility to serve Readlyn's firefighters and emergency responders. With the current fire station over 100 years old and no longer meeting the space and operational needs of today's emergency services, this project represents an important investment in the safety and future of our community.

The estimated cost of the project currently falls between $2 million and $2.2 million, depending on final building plans and the timing of construction. Thanks to generous community support, the RESB fundraising account now holds just over $800,000, with an additional $60,000 held by the City of Readlyn, bringing total available funds to approximately $860,000.

In addition to local fundraising, the committee continues pursuing two significant government funding opportunities. Earlier this year, Congresswoman Ashley Hinson's office helped sponsor a request for $750,000 in congressional funding. According to the committee's current understanding, the request has advanced through the U.S. House of Representatives and is awaiting Senate action. If approved through the legislative process, the final appropriations legislation would proceed to the President for signature. The committee remains hopeful for progress ahead of the December 11 federal funding deadline. This request is associated with federal agriculture appropriations legislation.

The committee is also pursuing $360,000 in USDA funding in partnership with RTC Communications. If awarded, these funds would be held by the City of Readlyn until needed for the project. Both government funding opportunities remain pending and are not guaranteed. If both awards are received in full, the project would have approximately $1.97 million in total funding, leaving roughly $230,000 still needed if construction costs reach the higher end of current estimates. These figures remain subject to change as plans and funding decisions are finalized.

Recognizing Our Recent Donors

The RESB Committee would like to recognize the following individuals, businesses, organizations, and families for their recent contributions. Every donation brings us one step closer to making this project a reality. We are especially grateful to those who have chosen to honor loved ones through memorial contributions, creating a lasting legacy within our community.

Individuals and Community Donors

Allen & Judy Harms
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Shell Rock Hay Auction

Memorial Gifts

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In Memory of Fred Bast
In Memory of Joyce Schmidt
In Memory of Keith Fettkether
In Memory of Mel Bergmann
In Memory of Rhonda Schutte
In Memory of Rich Kuker
In Memory of Wilma Franzen

Year End Giving Can Make a Difference

As we approach the end of 2026, now is an important time for individuals, families, and businesses to consider supporting the project through year end charitable giving. Individuals age 70½ or older may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from an IRA to an eligible charitable organization. For those required to take annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), a qualifying donation may count toward that requirement while offering potential tax advantages. Those interested in supporting the RESB project through a QCD are encouraged to consult their financial advisor or IRA custodian to confirm the receiving organization's eligibility and ensure proper processing before December 31.

Donations can be mailed to Readlyn Emergency Services Building, P.O. Box 276, Readlyn, IA 50668, or dropped off in person at Readlyn Savings Bank. Fundraising efforts will continue into 2027 as the committee works toward its overall goal and awaits final decisions on government funding.

The progress made so far would not have been possible without the generosity of our community, local businesses, organizations, and countless supporters. Every contribution brings us closer to providing our emergency responders with a facility that will serve and protect Readlyn for generations to come.

Readlyn Emergency Services Building Committee

Donation to RESB

There are 3 payment options: Make checks payable to: RESB
1) Mail to: RESB P.O. Box 276, Readlyn, IA 50668
2) Venmo: @ReadlynFire
3) Drop off donations at Readlyn Savings Bank

Please print the name or names that you wish to have listed on the plaque.

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

All donation tiers are tax deductible

Readlyn Calendar of Events

Oct. 28 @ 10-11AM Ladies' Coffee @ Readlyn Community Library. All ladies are invited!

Oct. 29 @ 10-11AM Cribbage Club @ Readlyn Community Library. Everyone is invited!

Oct. 29 @ 6-7:30PM Book Talk @ Readlyn Community Library (309 Main St.).

Nov. 1 @ 3-6PM St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fall Dinner @ St. Matthew Lutheran Church (2649 230th St.) Adults $15, Ages 5-10 $10 and 4 & under Free. Dine in or carry outs available. Menu includes roast beef, turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, sweet corn, sauerkraut, orange fluff salad, cranberry salad, rolls, pies & bars.

Nov. 2 @ 4-5PM Novel Knitters @ Readlyn Community Library. Weekly knitting program held every Monday (4-5PM). Whether you are an experienced knitter or just getting started, they are a welcoming group!

Nov. 4 @ 10-11AM Ladies' Coffee @ Readlyn Community Library. All ladies are invited!

Nov. 4 @ 1:30PM Scurrying Squirrels! No-School Day Youth Program @ Readlyn Community Library (309 Main St.). Learn all about squirrels! These furry little creatures are cute and mischievous, and lots of fun. Join Emma from Bremer County Extension at the Readlyn Library for this fun event! We'll listen to a story and make a simple craft. All children, including visitors, are welcome!

Nov. 14 @ 6PM Early Bird BINGO/630PM Regular BINGO @ Bent's Smokehouse and Pub Event Center (209 Main St) The Readlyn Community Club will have BINGO the second Saturday of every month. Players must be 18 years old or older to play and there will be cash prizes.

Nov. 15 @ 9AM-3PM Holiday Vendor Fair @ Bent's Smokehouse Event Center (209 Main St) Vendors may call 319-279-3839 to reserve a table.

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Events!

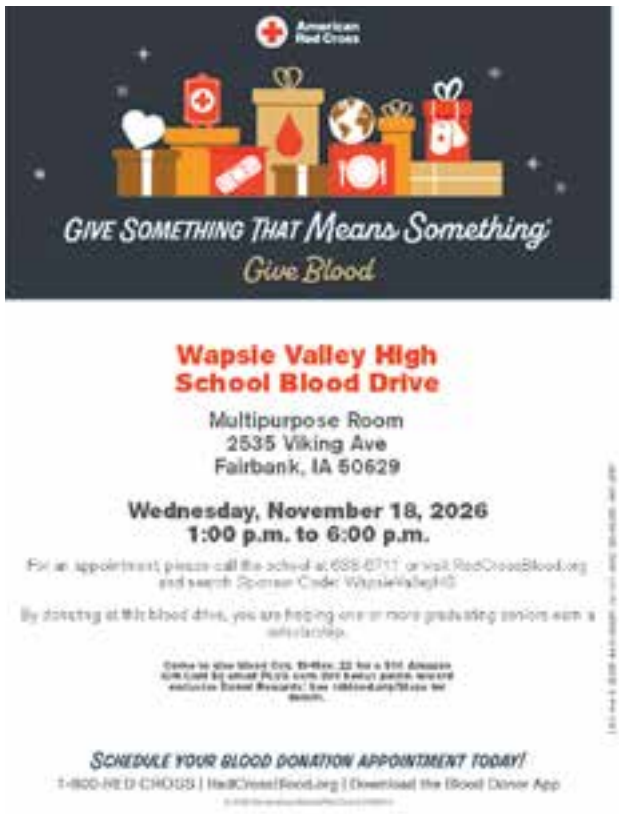
Make plans now for Pepper on Sat., Nov. 7!

The first pepper tournament for 2026-2027 started on October 3 at the Readlyn Library. There were 12 players participating. Prizes were awarded to:

1st - Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 186
2nd - Roger and Connie Buhr - 170
3rd - Ron and Judy Leistikow - 139
4th - Doris Hagenow and Therese Hoffhines - 138

The next tournament will be Saturday, November 7, 1:00 p.m. at the Readlyn Library. Park in the back and use that entrance. Entry fee is $3.00. Bring a partner. Thanks for playing! See you next month!

Shirley Kuker & Judy Henn



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Election Year Reminder: Your Voice Matters As we move through this election season, we want to encourage all CLS families to make their voices heard and vote. Local and state elections have a meaningful impact on education, families, and the future of programs that support school choice in Iowa.

Why ESAs Matter to Families: ESAs allow families to seek schools that align with their values, mission, and faith, helping children grow into responsible, Christ-centered citizens who strengthen their communities. When families have the ability to choose a Christ-centered education, it creates:

Stronger families • Thriving schools • Vibrant communities
Brighter tomorrows for generations to come

We encourage all parents to stay informed, understand how ESAs support educational choice, and participate in the upcoming elections. Your vote helps shape the future for Iowa families.

Mrs. Ambrose's class kicked off the year of field trips with a visit to the Cattlemen's Congress — always a favorite. Students loved seeing the animals, learning about agriculture, and experiencing a day outside the classroom that connects learning to real-world experiences. From joyful fellowship in the gym to meaningful safety lessons, lively Wildcat Wednesdays, and memorable field trips, CLS continues to offer students a rich, community-centered school experience.

October brings Fire Safety Month, and our students are diving into hands-on learning about how to stay safe. They're practicing safe exits, learning what to do in case of a fire, and talking about how firefighters serve and protect our communities. Students are especially engaged as they explore fire safety plans and learn how to respond calmly and responsibly in emergencies.

We have welcomed our kindergarteners out for Wildcat Wednesdays, and they have adjusted wonderfully. Their bright enthusiasm and extra laughs fill the halls, adding a joyful mid-week boost to our school community.

Community Lutheran School kicked off October with a night full of energy, laughter, and fellowship at our first Open Gym Night & CLS Gear Swap. Kids ran, played, and enjoyed time together while parents connected, swapped gear, and shared plenty of smiles. It was the perfect reminder of how strong and joyful our CLS community is. We are excited to welcome families back for our next Open Gym Night on November 17 from 5–6 p.m. — another great opportunity for students to play and for families to gather in community.

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Deadline for the Nov. 25 Chronicle is Thurs., Nov. 12 at 5 p.m.
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Wapsie Valley FFA busy the month of September with various events

By Brinley Schellhorn, Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Reporter

Throughout the month of September, Wapsie Valley FFA was very busy with local volunteer activities, leadership events, and contests.

Starting off on September 15, Wapsie Valley FFA had 10 members attend Tri-State Dairy at North Iowa Community College. Members participated in Records Management, Technology, and Grain Bin Safety/Rescue events. Members also placed four different classes of dairy cattle and applied concepts of animal evaluation and selection that they have learned in their agricultural education courses.

Following that, on September 22, Wapsie Valley FFA had four members participate in Rural Safety Day at Heartland Acres in Independence in conjunction with Buchanan County Extension. During the day, members taught a lesson about hidden hazards on the farm to students from rural schools.

On Friday, September 25, Wapsie Valley FFA had 12 members volunteer at National Cattle Congress Discovery Day, which was held on congress grounds in Waterloo. Members served as group leaders for second graders from surrounding schools, guiding them throughout the fairgrounds and assisting wherever they could.

Also on September 25, members from our chapter who are working toward their Greenhand Degree attended Greenhand Fire-Up at Waverly-Shell Rock High School for the Northeast District. Throughout the day, 14 members worked with students from surrounding chapters to build communication and leadership skills and learn more about being a successful FFA member.

Lastly, on September 30, Wapsie Valley FFA had seven students enrolled in Conservation/Natural Resources class participate in District Soils Evaluation at Hawkeye Community College's farm in Waterloo, Iowa. Students worked through different soil pits and determined the productivity and management needs of each soil.

Wapsie Valley FFA had two teams compete. Wapsie Valley Gold consisted of Daniel Mathias, Cole Munk, and Tate Wilkinson and received a gold rating. Wapsie Valley Black consisted of Zach Bovers, Ryker Oberle, and Zane Larson and received a silver rating.

Greenhand Fire-Up Participants Left to right: Layla Arthaud, Elena Kemps, Pierson Davie, Harper Destival, Rilyn Buhman, Lei'ana Berinobis, Drew Destival, Easton Diers, Jay Schmitz, Joshua Rulapaugh, Henry Geerts, Dylan Matthias, Dustry Brunscheon, Gabe Meyer.

Northeast District Soils Participants Left to right: Zane Larson, Daniel Matthias, Ryker Oberle, Zachary Boevers, Cole Munk, Tate Wilkinson.

Wapsie Valley FFA is very proud of each and every member who participated and volunteered throughout the month. Our chapter is excited to see what else our members can accomplish throughout the rest of the year!

Tri-State Dairy Participants Left to right: Henry Geerts, Drew Destival, Easton Diers, Evan Wedemeier, Tate Wilkinson, Joshua Rulapaugh, Tripp Gissel, Cole Munk, Gabe Meyer, Dusty Brunscheon.

Wapsie Valley FCCLA is incredibly proud to share that we are one of only three FCCLA chapters in the entire State of Iowa to receive the Ultimate Chapter Award! This incredible honor recognizes the accomplishments, achievements, dedication, and hard work of our FCCLA chapter throughout the year. This is truly an amazing accomplishment and a testament to our outstanding members, their commitment, and all of the time and effort they have put into making Wapsie Valley FCCLA successful. We could not be more proud of everything they have accomplished!

Deadline for the November 25 *Chronicle* is Thursday, November 12 at 5 p.m.
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Readlyn Senior Citizens look forward to Christmas on Main

On September 16, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., 20 Readlyn Senior Citizens met at the Bents Event Center in Readlyn for their meeting, a delicious meal and bingo.

Ron Leistikow led us in prayer and called the meeting to order.

Birthdays celebrated for the month of September were Millie Crawford and Larry Ladage. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to them.

An anniversary celebrated for the month of September was for Ron and Judy Leistikow as they celebrated 62 years together. Congratulations! We all sang "Happy Anniversary" to them.

We welcomed a new member today and she is new also to Readlyn. We all welcomed Karen Warneke!

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was read by Lois Thacher from the notes of August 19, 2026. Mary Chapin made a motion to approve the secretary's report and Judy Leistikow seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Albrecht stated that the balance in the account last month for August should have been $169.00 and not $184.00. A motion was made by Janet Ladage to correct the August 19, 2026 balance to reflect the $169.00 and Wilda Albrecht seconded it. Motion carried. With a deposit today and paying bingo it should correctly state now a balance of $189.00. Marlys Deterding made a motion to approve and reflect the correct balance as of today and Judy Leistikow seconded it. Motion carried.

Old Business:

The Poor Farm Foundation held a Pie/History Day on Sunday, September 13, 2026 from noon to 2 p.m. Charlie Albrecht reported that about 44 people attended and 22 pies were sold.

Tickets can still be purchased and tables reserved for the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation's Fundraiser at Bents Event Center on September 26, 2026. Tickets can still be purchased on the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation's Facebook page as of today, September 16, 2026.

New Business:

A motion was made by Mary Chapin and seconded by Joyce Heineman to have a donation given to the Education Foundation for $100.00. Motion carried.

October 3 will start the first pepper tournament of the fall. It will be at the Readlyn Library starting at 1 p.m. Entry fee is $3.00 per person and please utilize the rear entrance of the Readlyn Library.

October 22 will be the Poor Farms October Fest starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $20.00 per person for the meal and entertainment. Charlie Albrecht or Ron Leistikow will have tickets for sale. More details will follow.

October 22 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. will be the 20th Annual Readlyn Savings Bank's Grumptoberfest at Bent's Smokehouse & Pub. The meal will be free. Music, raffles, prizes and a costume contest at 6:30 p.m. for all ages!

October 25 will be the fall dinner at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn from 11 to 1. It is a free-will offering and there is a quilt raffle. They will be having the same delicious menu as last year. Dine-in or drive through. The information will be in the *Chronicle*.

November 1 will be the St. Matthew Dinner. The dinner will be served from 3 to 6 p.m. and there will be dine-in or carry-out. There will be a quilt raffle. More details to come out in the *Chronicle*.

On November 28, Readlyn will have their Christmas on Main. More details to follow.

The Readlyn Community Club will discuss having a couple benches purchased for people to sit on at the Freedom Rock location in Readlyn. More details to follow.

Shirley Kuker made a motion to adjourn and Marlys Deterding seconded it. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

The group played bingo and the bingo winners were as follows: Karen Warneke (our new member), Larry Ladage, Marylou Billhorn and Shirley Kuker.

Congratulations to all who played and won!

The next meeting will be at Bents Event Center in Readlyn, Iowa at 11:30 a.m. on October 21, 2026. We will be playing bingo. Come join the fun!

Lois Thacher, Secretary

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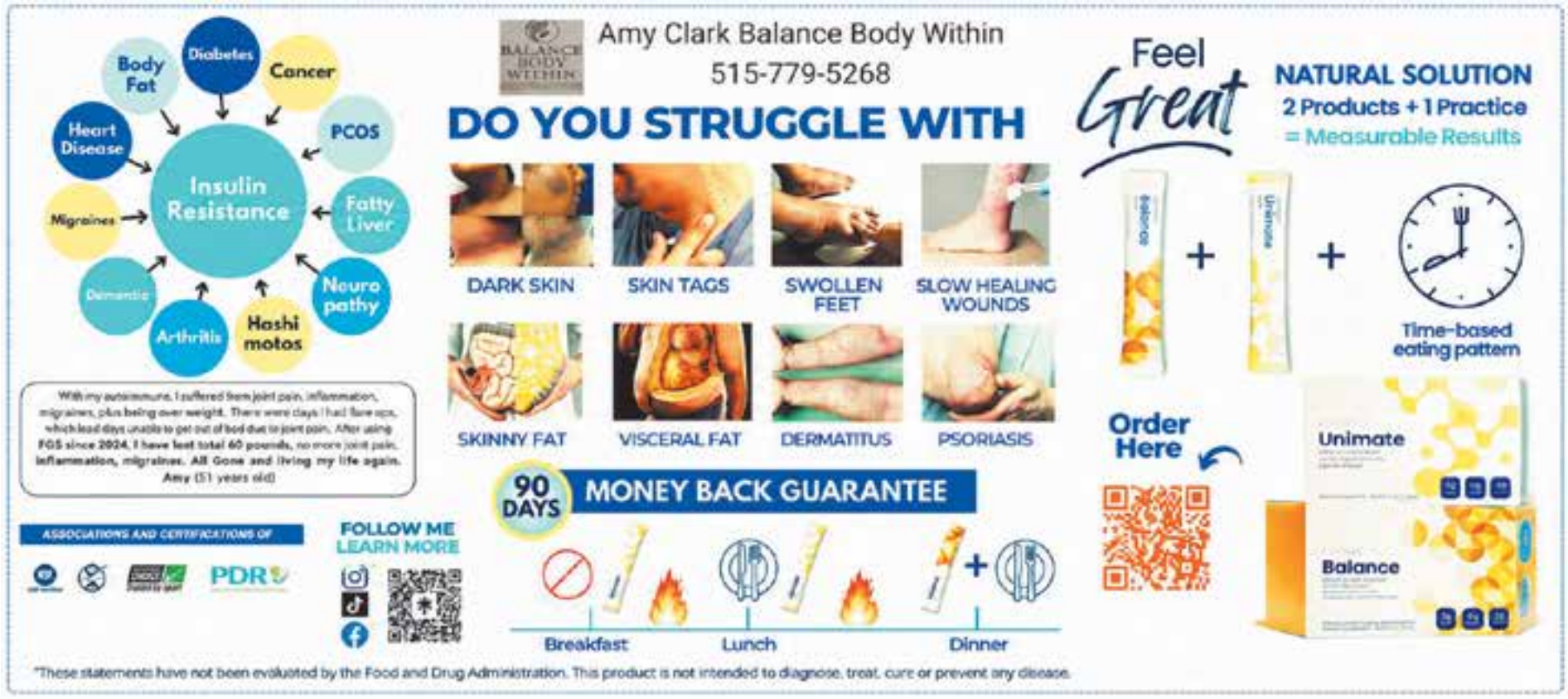

Buzynski honored at Hawkeyes game

A hometown boy from Fairbank, Iowa, was honored on one of the biggest stages in the state over the weekend when Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Peter H. Buzynski was recognized as the Veteran Hero of the Game during the University of Iowa Hawkeyes football game against Ohio State.

For Buzynski, the honor was especially meaningful. He is a lifelong, die-hard Hawkeye fan, a graduate of Wapsie Valley High School and, above all, a proud American who devoted 30 years of his life to serving his country in the United States Air Force.

Buzynski grew up in Fairbank in a large family of 13. His parents, Henry and Shirley Buzynski, siblings and friends helped shape the strong work ethic and moral values that would guide him throughout his life. In January 1985, Peter made the decision to join the Air Force — despite his mother's initial wishes.

As Colonel Mike Marsicek noted in his recommendation letter to the University of Iowa, "It only took 30 years, but she was finally okay with that decision."

Buzynski also married his high school sweetheart, Lori Kuker, and throughout his military career, his family remained a source of love, strength and encouragement.

Colonel Marsicek described Buzynski as, "one of the greatest men and greatest Americans you have ever had the pleasure to meet."

Reaching the rank of Chief Master Sergeant is an extraordinary accomplishment. Only a small percentage of enlisted Airmen rise to the highest enlisted rank and Buzynski went even further by dedicating three decades of service to the nation.

Throughout his career, Buzynski served in a variety of positions supporting Army, Air Force and presidential operations. He played an important role in wartime training, contributed his expertise to research and development efforts involving the next generation of military equipment and tactics and was trusted to support some of the military's most critical missions.

He also directly supported the President of the United States, a responsibility entrusted to highly qualified and trusted Air Force personnel.

Buzynski was deployed twice to the Middle East in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, serving during conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also served in South Korea, helping maintain America's commitment to the defense of the region.

His career was marked by achievement and recognition. He was repeatedly selected by his peers as one of the best performers in the military and received numerous awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal four times.

But while Buzynski's military record is impressive, those who know him say the true measure of the man is found in the way he treated people.

Colonel Marsicek described Chief Buzynski as a tough but fair leader — someone who held his Airmen accountable while also standing firmly behind them. He celebrated their accomplishments, provided mentorship and helped countless Airmen navigate important decisions about their careers and their lives.

Sometimes, Buzynski delivered the tough-love speech an Airman needed to hear. Other times, he became the father figure who was there when an Airman's own father could not be.

When the news was good, Buzynski was genuinely happy for the people he served. When the news was difficult, he shared their concern and offered support.

That combination of leadership, compassion and accountability became one of the hallmarks of his career.

Colonel Marsicek said Buzynski consistently demonstrated the Air Force core values of integrity, service before self and excellence in all he did.

Thirty years of military service does not happen by accident. It requires dedication, sacrifice, perseverance and the support of family and friends.

For Buzynski, that support was always there.

And so was Iowa football.

His love for the Hawkeyes became another thread woven throughout his life — a connection to the Iowa roots he never left behind, even as his military career took him around the world.

From the small town of Fairbank to assignments across the United States and overseas, Buzynski carried with him the values he learned growing up: work hard, take care of people, keep your word and always give your best.

Now, decades after leaving his hometown to begin his military journey, Buzynski returned to Iowa City to stand on the field at Kinnick Stadium as the University of Iowa honors him as its Veteran Hero of the Game.

It was a moment that brought together so many parts of Buzynski's life — his hometown, his family, his military service and his love for the Hawkeyes.

Colonel Marsicek's recommendation perhaps says it best:

"You will not find a better American to emulate, a better leader and mentor to Airmen, a better husband, a better father to his children, or a better friend than he has been to so many."

For the people of Fairbank, Buzynski has always been one of their own.

For the Air Force, he was a trusted leader.

For his family, he is a husband, father and friend.

And on October 3, 2026, in front of thousands of Hawkeye fans, he was recognized for a lifetime of service and sacrifice.

Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Peter H. Buzynski — Fairbank hometown boy, proud Airman, devoted family man and lifelong Hawkeye.

A true Veteran Hero of the Game.

Chief Master Sergeant Peter Buzynski was honored at the Iowa Hawkeyes game.

Family: Back row: (L to R) Blake Buzynski, Aarika (Buzynski) Konsdorf, Ryan Konsdorf. Middle row: Lori (Kuker) Buzynski, Peter Buzynski. Front: Lylah Konsdorf, Logan Konsdorf.

Peter Buzynski 1985

Chief Master Sergeant Peter H. Buzynski.

The Hawkeyes rolled out the yellow and black carpet for Chief Master Sergeant Peter H. Buzynski (second from left).

In 1993, Peter Buzynski won Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year for Elgin Air Force Base and Air Force Material Command. They gave him an incentive flight in an F-15 fighter jet (inset photo) which they let him fly.

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WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

The midterms and the market...Trick or treat?

By the time this prints, the midterm elections will be just a few short days away. You may have your mind made up on your vote, you may still be researching, or you may have decided not to vote at all. The world is full of opinions on whichever category you fall into so I find it best to research on my own, cast my vote, (don’t forget to get my sticker!), then move on with my day regardless of the outcome. Personally, I will research and vote, but I actually don’t like to get involved in politics very deeply. Growing up, we were taught not to talk about religion, politics, or money... It rarely ends well so I certainly won’t be spewing any religious opinions in this article but my job as an advisor does require that I know a little bit about money, politics, and their relationship to each other.

The market has historically reacted with volatility more in the weeks and months leading up to midterm elections than it does after the actual votes are counted. The uncertainty of who will take positions and their subsequent policies creates a sentiment that typically has choppy to flat to sometimes even negative returns. This can be anywhere from 6-12 months before elections and worsen as the uncertainty peaks. Lucky for us, most of that time is already behind us.

Then the midterms come and go... In a study conducted by U.S. Bank, from 1900-2025, in the 12 months following midterm elections, markets gained on average 12.4% positive returns regardless of party control. The calendar year following the midterm election is also typically the 3rd year of a presidential cycle and, in a shorter period of study from New York University, the S&P 500 averaged 20% in all 20 instances of third-year periods studied from 1947-2023. The third year gain was just over 9% higher than the average gain of all other years in the same period.

This is where the tagline we all know and love gets inserted: “Past performance does not indicate or guarantee future results.” And I hope that what I write is never taken as some sort of crystal ball or blanket advice. True custom advice comes from many conversations and meetings to uncover what is important to you so we can build a plan meant to help you achieve your ambitions. But I digress...

The long and the short of it is simply a reminder that politics stir up emotions and emotions should never drive your financial decisions. As an advisor, I have often found myself in more therapeutic conversations than financial conversations, depending on the mainstream media that each client listens to. Having a financial advisor might mean picking investments that outperform your own abilities, it might mean having a person to call rather than a 1-800 number, or it might mean that when the rest of the world is throwing static and speculation at you, you have a trusted confidant to remind you that a knowledgeable advisor factors volatility into your personal financial plan and everything will be OK!

So, do your research, cast your vote, (or don’t), then get on with whatever it is that fulfills you and the people in your life. This is one period in time just like the last election was, and the one before that, and the one before that. We hope all elections and subsequent leaders act to bring prosperity to the American people so we may continue to enjoy our freedoms and our ability to make the most of our own situations. Lastly, I know I said I wouldn’t get religious, but I lied just a little: We all know someone spending time in a combine or grain cart or a semi or running meals to keep them rolling... Don’t forget to pray for a safe and fruitful harvest season for all! Happy Fall!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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Wapsie Valley School Board - Sept. 21, 2026

Wapsie Valley CSD
Regular School Board Meeting
September 21, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:00 PM

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Broten Jr., Kaufman, & Wolfe (arrived at 6:09 p.m.). Declared a quorum

B. Administration-Supt. Murphy, Principals Youngblut & Forsyth. Myers (excused)

C. Others Present: Board Secretary Tara Sullivan, Tina Kaufman, Jenni Gross, Doug Oberle, David Dennler, Hailey Broten, Brett Bergman, Jaylyn Gibbs, Daniel Davis, Carmen Wille, Ryker Oberle, Brinley Schellhorn, Martha Rulapaugh, Clare Murphy, Jesse Lizer - Emergent, Patty Spowart - Emergent, and virtual participants

2. Communications & Consideration of Additional Items for the Agenda - None

3. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

4. Emergent HVAC Proposal-Jesse Lizer and Patty Spowart recommend using KCL Engineering to continue HVAC project. They recommend ordering units no later than February or March to start once school is dismissed for the summer. They will supply Murphy with an estimated project completion amount that will be shared with the board.

5. 26-27 Band/Choir Trip-Jaylyn Gibbs and Daniel Davis request to take band and choir students to Minneapolis, MN, leaving Friday, April 23 and returning Sunday, April 25, 2027. Trip is to provide students opportunities to attend a live musical show and visit tourist hotspots. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

6. National FFA Convention-Motion by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve 6 members to attend event in Indianapolis, IN, from October 20 - October 23, 2026. Students are fundraising by fruit sales. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Public Forum-Jenni Gross presented about taking students to the FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally in Ames. 6 students attended and 2 placed. Spotlight: FFA - Ryker Oberle, Martha Rulapaugh, Clare Murphy, and Brinley Schellhorn presented on educational experiences through classes and FFA activities. FFA is an opportunity to increase confidence, communication skills, and is for everybody.

8. Consent Items-Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve the consent items including the August 17, 2026 Board Minutes, the bills reviewed by Adam Kaufman, and the open enrollments as follows-Shelby Wittenburg requests to open enroll her kindergarten son to WV from Oelwein effective the 26-27 school year as presented and Tracey Szurley requests to open enroll her kindergarten son to WV from Sumner-Fred effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Richard Yount requests to open enroll his 6th grade and 12th grade sons to Denver effective 26-27 school year as presented and Allyssa Nourse requests to open enroll her 11th grade son to Iowa Connections Academy effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Board -The Board wants to look into purchasing a used or new enclosed trailer to use for transportation for different activities and maintenance equipment. Aiello found a company to engrave the Warrior Rock for approximately $1,400. Contingency money from the Stadium/HVAC project can be used to cover this cost.

Superintendent Murphy's report includes Legislative Updates of board policies that have been reviewed in July and certified enrollment having two count dates to allow state funding to more accurately reflect enrollment changes, Facilities & Grounds Updates, and District Updates.

District & PK-12 Principals-Homecoming activities, Human Trafficking community and student presentations, Staff Kick-Off, Professional development on Leader in Me 4DX training, Back to School Night, 6th grade led Leader Academy, field trips, and work-based learning programs underway.

10. Personnel-Resignations-Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the resignation of Angela Berg as Librarian and Heather Robinson-JH Volleyball Coach and thank them for their service to the students and staff at WV as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Contracts-Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve the contracts, addendum, and volunteers as presented: Lynsey Gulsvig - Cook - $13.08 P/H, Tracie Fette - Special Education Associate - $12.67 P/H, Lisa Schares - Special Education Associate - $12.67 P/H, Livie Shannon - Special Education Associate - $13.04 P/H, Penny Schmidt - Cook - $12.34 P/H, Mitchell Boevers - Head Boys Basketball Coach - $5,264 - Base 3/Year 10, Heather Robinson - Assistant Volleyball Coach - $2,851 - Base 4/Year 17, Dan Nuss - JH Basketball Coach - $2,309 - Base 1/Year 0, addendum of Danny Adams - BA+8, Step 18 to BA+21, Step 18 - $63,774.91, volunteers Gina Schellhorn pending background check and Sara Strottmann. Motion carried 5-0.

11. New Business-Discussion on options to use the contingency money from the Stadium Project including concession stairs, additional stairs on south end of bleachers, concession concrete for patio, additional concrete south of bleachers by gate, move existing scoreboard to north end zone, and shot put upgrades. The board discussed whether to permit guests to stand in the south end zone. After discussion including potential damage to turf and cleaning required after stadium activities, it was decided standing or entrance into fenced track/field would not be permitted. Hailey Broten reported attendance was great at the first two home football games and the concessions had record sales. The donor walk included 75 participants and it was encouraging to see how many young families supported the stadium upgrades. They are wanting to purchase a larger popcorn machine to meet the high demand.

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the second reading of Board Policies-201, 210.05, 401.01, 401.13, 409.02, 501.15, 502.03, 503.01, 503.11, 504.06, 507.02, 603.01, 604.01, 604.03, 604.05, 605.04, 607.01, 705.05, 706.04, 707.01, 804.5, 901. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the HCC Field Experience Contract as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board discussed the potential offering of an early retirement incentive for the current year. Management was directed to provide updated documents and financial considerations for further discussion.

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Special Education Allowable Growth for the deficit of -$261,135.34. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the Joint Sharing Dance Team Agreement with Oelwein, West Central, and Independence for the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Joint Cooperative Agreement with Sumner-Fred for Girls Wrestling as presented. Discussion included how many participants needed to have stand alone team in the future. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve Fall Fundraisers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to earmark $15,000 from PPEL/SAVE to new playground at Fairbank Elementary as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the Resilite quote for installation and new wall/floor wrestling mats ($32,314.20) as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to table the Future Frontiers Charter School Agreement until more information can be obtained. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Oversight Review Committee Procedures as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to move to a special meeting at a later date to approve HVAC architect once all numbers have been reviewed. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Board Talking Points-The baseball/softball sidewalk should be started this week by Trueg.

13. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn at 8:13 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully, Tara Sullivan

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Readlyn City Council - October 12, 2026

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, October 12, 2026, to review bills. Rocco Imbrogno was present. Keith Brunscheon and Joseph Jones were absent. No formal action was taken.

The Readlyn City Council met in open session at 6:00 PM on Monday, October 12, 2026, for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Nicole Barnes, Jason Franck and Rocco Imbrogno. Absent: Keith Brunscheon and Joseph Jones. Others in attendance included: Deb Buchhotz, Ethan Oltrogge, Scott Broten, Ethan Kleitsch, Bernard Wiersma, Steve Aiello and Kris McGrane.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to approve consent agenda items, which included the regular council meeting minutes from 9/14/2026, the claims list from 9/15/2026 to 10/12/2026 and the September 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer's and Financial). All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to approve the agenda. All said aye. Motion carried.

Mayor informed the council that the 2026 storm water project near Elmer Avenue, 5th Street Place and 5th Street was completed last week. Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to approve receiving reports from the mayor, city clerk, police, public works and library. All said aye. Motion carried.

Scott Broten of the Readlyn Emergency Services Building (RESB) Committee updated the council on fundraising progress for the new facility, with an estimated total cost of $2.2 million. The committee has raised approximately $807,000 to date. Additional anticipated revenues include a $60,000 reimbursement via the Black Hawk Gaming grant and a pending $750,000 Community Project Funding allocation awaiting a U.S. Senate vote. Ethan Kleitsch with RTC Communications discussed a $360,000 revolving loan fund available for the project. Because the RESB Committee cannot take out the loan directly as originally intended, the proposal requires the city to serve as the borrower. If approved, the RESB Committee would reimburse the city for all associated loan payments and expenses, with the intent to utilize early payoff options prior to the end of FY2026. This loan would bring total project funding to roughly $1.977 million. McGrane outlined the next steps for the loan, including the requirement to set a public hearing for the December city council meeting should the council agree to proceed. Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to approve moving forward with applying for the revolving loan fund from RTC Communications for the Readlyn Emergency Services Building. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Resolution 2026-18, approving a payment agreement between the city of Readlyn and the Readlyn Emergency Services Building Committee to reimburse the city for all costs and expenses for the revolving loan fund. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to approve Resolution 2026-19, approving the updated Investment Policy for the City of Readlyn, Iowa. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve Resolution 2026-20, approving the updated Salary of an Employee of the City of Readlyn, Iowa. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve Resolution 2026-21, approving the annual Street Finance Report for Fiscal Year 2026. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to approve soliciting sealed bids for the sale of the city of Readlyn dump truck, establishing a bid opening for 10AM on Monday, November 9, 2026, at Readlyn City Hall, and consideration and possible acceptance of bids at the regular city council meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026. All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve the Wellmark renewal for employee health insurance for 2027. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to approve appointing Jennifer Platte to the Readlyn Library Board of Trustees to fulfill the open term expiring June 30, 2032. All said aye. Motion carried.

Discussion on a possible electrical project for FY2027 between Briggs and Elmer was discussed. Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to approve purchasing three transformers at an approximate cost of $4,300 each. All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk

Public Notice Change in Control

Notice of Change in Control
of a Bank Holding Company

The Mark J. Sexton 2026 Grantor Trust, Mark J. Sexton trustee and trust advisor, all of Saint Paul, Minnesota; the Andrew G. Sexton 2026 Grantor Trust, Andrew G. Sexton trustee and trust advisor, all of Cedar Falls, Iowa; and the Jennifer Sexton Walther 2026 Grantor Trust, Jennifer Sexton Walther trustee and trust advisor, all of Saint Paul, Minnesota, intend to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to join the Sexton Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, and retain 25 percent or more of the shares and thereby control of Readlyn Bancshares, Inc., Saint Paul, Minnesota. Readlyn Bancshares, Inc. controls Nashua Bancshares, Inc., Saint Paul, Minnesota, which controls First State Bank, Nashua, Iowa; Britt Bancshares, Inc., Saint Paul, Minnesota, which controls Nashua Bancshares, Inc. and First State Bank, Britt, Iowa; and Readlyn Savings Bank, Readlyn, Iowa.

The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the notice.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this notice to Christopher Koopmans, Senior Vice President Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60604. The comment period will not end before November 30, 2026 and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the notice, contact Suchi Saxena, Community Affairs Officer and Vice President, Community Development, at (312) 322-4357; to request a copy of the notice, contact Christopher Koopmans at (312) 322-8119. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments on the notice if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period

Readlyn Outdoors

By Eric Johnston
Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

"Traditions"

As I sit down to write this month's column, it's early October and I'm in one of my deer stands waiting for the deer to move. What better place to think and reflect on things.

We are still early in the season, but so far the fall hunting seasons have been very successful for me. When I mention success, I don't just mean deer taken or limits of waterfowl filled. While I've had success that way, what really makes me feel accomplished this fall is all the traditions carried and passed on. This month, I'll relay these traditions and what they mean to me.

We all have traditions — it may be family traditions or holiday traditions. In the outdoor world, nearly everything I do, hunting or fishing, in one way or another is a family tradition. I began to really reflect upon all these traditions when my Uncle Steve passed away back in 2020 and now losing my dad on July 13. All the times hunting and fishing together in my younger years revolved around traditions in the Johnston family.

As a youngster, one of the first traditions to be carried out was learning to catch creek chubs in a local creek with nothing more than a cane pole, a small hook, and a bobber. In our family, that is where fishing begins. My dad first taught me around the age of three or four. Amazingly enough, I still remember those early times with dad learning to put a worm on a hook and waiting for the little red and white bobber to get pulled under. That's where my fishing career began. I passed this same tradition down to my daughter and will never forget her excitement of her first catch. That moment took me back all those years and I felt like a kid again excited for her.

When it came to hunting, there are many traditions with family and even friends that I carry out to this day. As a kid, I could not wait to go hunting. My dad and uncles did a lot of pheasant hunting back then and I was in awe, listening to their stories of the day's hunt and hunts past. I was never pushed into the outdoors, dad wanted me to make my own decision and never pushed. I'm the same way with my daughter. I've kept it fun and let her build her own passion and, as many of you know at nearly the age of 16, she's become quite the accomplished deer hunter.

One of the early traditions is finally getting to go along on a pheasant hunt. In the Johnston family, you aren't allowed to carry a gun on a hunt until you get your first shotgun on your 13th birthday. But, around the age of nine or ten, you're allowed to start going and play bird dog crashing through thick weeds and brush flushing up pheasants. I was so excited to finally get to go along and be part of the hunts. By the time my 13th birthday rolled around, I was well-versed in how a hunt goes and how to stay safe.

The tradition of receiving your first shotgun at the age of thirteen started with my Great-Grandpa Donald Johnston giving his sons their guns and was passed down through my grandfather, Richard, through my dad to me. I have done the same for my daughter. I went a little different route as she went along through the whole process of shopping for the gun and purchasing and it's a memory we won't forget.

I remember every part of receiving mine. I knew the tradition long before that birthday came and eagerly awaited that day. When the day arrived, we had the usual party with family and it was time to open some gifts. Uncle Steve got me a duck call and the rest of the family gave camo clothing and hunting accessories. When the gifts were all open, I thought, "Where's the gun?" Dad, with a sly grin, went to the closet and pulled out a long wrapped box. I couldn't open it fast enough! A Remington 870 express 20 gauge — I treated that gun like gold! It was my most prized possession as I had waited so long to get it.

That fall, some of my most memorable hunts occurred with Dad and Uncle Steve and, as the years passed, we shared many hunts together, just as dad and his uncles and father had done. One story dad always told me of his days of being a bird dog when he was young was a time when he went with his dad, uncles, and his grandpa. He got to sit post on the end of a field with his grandpa while the others pushed pheasants towards them. His grandpa leaned his gun against a fence post, sat down and proceeded to fall asleep. As the crew got closer to them, birds started flushing all around them. Dad yelled, "Grandpa, Grandpa, wake up!" He always laughed so hard telling that story.

Fast forward to Uncle Steve's services: my dad's cousin, Kris, was there and this story came up. Kris told my dad he still had their grandpa's old gun and he thought my dad should have it because it was the same gun from the story. Kris held true on this and a couple weeks later gave the old Winchester model 1400 to dad.

October 10, 2021 was Iowa's main season duck opener and dad and I had always hunted the opener together. We set up on a local pond and dad brought his grandpa's shotgun. As daylight broke, ducks were buzzing us and dad shouldered his grandfather's gun and shot a beautiful drake widgeon. That moment was so special to both of us, a piece of our family was there with us on that duck hunt. We shot a few more ducks that morning and spoke and laughed about times with Steve and the many trips we had.

Another tradition continuing is with my good friend, Eric Williams. Eric and I have been friends since sixth grade and we are now 45. We grew up in Delhi together and, as the years roll on, we both become busier with life and family, but each year we've gotten together along with my dad for Iowa's early duck season opener in October.

This year was very different and marked the 33rd season we had gotten together for this hunt. Eric arrived Friday night at my place and the traditional beverages and stories ensued. But, for the first time in all those years, dad was not there to join us. We reminisced on stories about dad and hunts gone by and how much we missed him.

We were up early Saturday morning and set up in the dark in anticipation of daybreak. As we stood there in the marsh, we continued to reminisce and there was definitely a void. The duck hunting was slow but we didn't mind as it was good to be together. As we bagged up the decoys Saturday morning, we both began to talk about taking our daughters in a couple years on their first duck hunts. I'm certain we can keep this tradition going by bringing our daughters into the mix and its something I truly look forward to.

As I've gotten older, I'm realizing more and more that it's not always about the kill. While it's always great to fill limits or get that nice buck, it's the memories and the traditions passed on that make these times so special. So, as you're out there hunting this fall, keep those traditions going or even start a new one. You never know, it just may last a lifetime.

Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!

NEWS FROM WAPSIE VALLEY SUPERINTENDENT T. J. MURPHY

Hello, Warrior Families!

Weather Related Changes

As the days grow cooler and winter approaches, we want to help your family prepare for the weather changes ahead. Iowa winters can bring unpredictable conditions, and keeping our students and staff safe remains our first priority. Please take a moment to review the accompanying winter weather graphic at left, which explains the factors we consider when making school schedule decisions and provides information about cold weather alerts.

When considering a delay, cancellation, or early dismissal, district leadership and transportation staff evaluate road conditions, visibility, snow and ice, cold temperatures, and safe bus travel throughout our district. Conditions can vary from one community to another, so unsafe travel in one area may affect the schedule for everyone. We know these decisions impact your family's routines, childcare, and work schedules, and we work to communicate changes as early as possible. Because conditions can change quickly, please continue watching for updates after an initial announcement.

Weather-related announcements will be shared through Infinite Campus, posted on our new Wapsie Valley Community School District Facebook page, and provided to KWWL, KCRG, and KGAN. We encourage you to follow our district Facebook page and make sure your phone numbers and email addresses are current in Infinite Campus. Weather may also affect practices, games, and other school events, so please check for specific updates before heading out.

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and partnership throughout the winter months. We appreciate the care you take in preparing your children for cold weather and helping us keep our Warrior family safe!

7–12 Service Day

On October 28, students in grades 7–12 will give back to our communities through Service Day, putting their Warrior Values into action while practicing teamwork and leadership. We are seeking projects such as raking leaves, picking up trash, painting benches, planting trees, picking up rocks, or hanging Christmas lights.

If you have a project, please email Katelyn Cusick at Kcusick@wapsievalleyschools.org with a brief description, location, contact information, and any tools or supplies needed. Thank you for helping our Warriors make a difference!

Be a Warrior. Make a Difference. Our best is yet to come!

Superintendent T.J. Murphy

Send news to: readlynchronicle@gmail.com

Wapsie Valley School Board - Oct. 7, 2026

Wapsie Valley CSD
Special Call In School Board Meeting
October 7, 2026

1. President Aiello called the Special Call In Board Meeting of the board to order at 8:30 AM

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Broten Jr., Kaufman, & Wolfe. Declared a quorum

B. Supt. Murphy, Board Secretary Sullivan

2. Communications & Consideration of Additional Items for the Agenda - None

3. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0

4. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the HVAC Architect Proposal for Emergent with any Alternate items to be determined by the Board once actual estimates are provided. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 8:40 AM. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully, *Tara Sullivan*

City of Readlyn, Iowa Public Sale by Sealed Bid

The City of Readlyn is currently accepting sealed bids for the sale of the following:

Vehicle: 2004 Sterling Acterra Dump Truck
Mileage: 64,737 miles
Engine: 8.3L Cummins Diesel
Transmission: Allison Automatic
Equipment: Included 10' Henderson snow plow

Inspection and Inquiries

For questions regarding the vehicle or to arrange an inspection, contact Barney Wiersma at 319-239-0250.

Submission Requirements

Bids must be submitted in a sealed, clearly marked envelope labeled "Sealed Bid: Dump Truck". Bids must be received **no later than 10:00 AM on Monday, November 9, 2026,** at the following address:

Readlyn City Hall
307 Main Street
P.O. Box 70
Readlyn, IA 50668

Bid Opening and Award Process

Opening: Sealed bids will be publicly opened at 10:00 AM on Monday, November 9, 2026, at Readlyn City Hall.

Review: The bids will be formally presented to the City Council for review during the regular council meeting at 6:00 PM on the same day.

City Rights: The City of Readlyn reserves the right to refuse any or all bids, waive informalities in the bidding process, and accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the City.

Terms of Sale

The successful bidder must make payment in full before the vehicle can be removed from City property. The vehicle must be paid for and completely removed from the premises prior to January 1, 2027.

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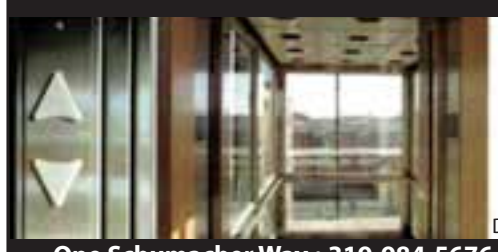

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MEDICARE QUESTIONS?
YOUR LOCAL EXPERT IS HERE TO HELP!
AMY RECHKEMMER
319-635-2526 amy@vandaeleins.com
119 E Main St. Fairbank, IA 50629

- Confused by all the new options? Let me guide you to the right plan.
- Ensure your current coverage is still meeting your needs.
- Speak with me for a no-cost, local Medicare plan check-up.

MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD:
OCTOBER 15-DECEMBER 7

Review or change your plan during that time!

VANDAELE INSURANCE

"We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 0-9 organizations which offer 0-52 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options."

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2683 Quail Avenue
Readlyn, IA 50668
(319) 279-3977
Pastor Miguel
Gonzalez-Feliciano
Divine Service 10 a.m.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
2649 230th Street
Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758
Sunday School 9:10 a.m.
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Services 7:00 PM
Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month
Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
120 West 4th Street, Readlyn
(319) 279-3961
Pastor Miguel
Gonzalez-Feliciano
Divine Service 8:30 a.m.
Mary-Martha Circle
1st Wednesday 7 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church
240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668
Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
(319) 279-3643
Sunday Service at 8 a.m.
Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday
Sunday School 9:10 a.m. at St. Matthew's
Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:00 p.m.

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First Saturday of the month 9-11 AM
Brief application required;
providing FREE clothing to those in need

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5002 Main Street
Oran
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Fridays 9 AM-12 Noon
Brief application required
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319-638-4357

Deadline for the November 25 *Readlyn Chronicle* is Thurs., November 12 at 5 p.m.

NEW LISTING

206 - 3RD ST. SE, OELWEIN
Original wood floors throughout this 3 large bedroom (up), 1.5 bath home. Features a large newer oak kitchen, large dining room, XL family room addition, fenced yard, main floor laundry room, and a breezeway connecting the house to the garage. Close to town.
$199,900

GREAT ACREAGE LOCATION TO BUILD!
Approx. 5.50 Acres m/l - Existing Well, Machine Shed 54'x72', barn, other buildings, 4 grain bins for income. Located just South of Wapsie Valley High School.
$200,000 FOR A GREAT BUILDING SITE!

NEW PRICE

500 6TH AVE. SW, INDEPENDENCE
Just updated inside & outside!! 3-4 Bedrm, 1 new bath, new kitchen, main flr laundry, 1 Car gar, brand new c/air. Nice corner lot! Call today & move in soon.
$225,000

SOLD

10 WASHINGTON ST., FAYETTE

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PENDING

104 8TH AVE. SE, OELWEIN

NEW PRICE

220 W TRAER ST., GREENE
3 Bedrm, 1.5 baths, Oversized det gar./ shop bldg 30'x24', Close to City Library & Pool. CONTRACT AVAILABLE.
$59,000

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Lori Beierschmitt, Broker/Owner
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