

Wapsie Valley Names TJ Murphy New Superintendent of Schools

The Wapsie Valley Board of Education is proud to announce the appointment of Timothy (TJ) Murphy as the next Superintendent of the Wapsie Valley Community School District, effective July 1, 2026.



Following a thorough search process, the Board determined that Murphy's proven leadership, deep-rooted connection to our community, and vision for educational excellence make him the ideal leader to guide our district into the future.

For the past six years, Murphy has served with distinction as our 7-12 Secondary Principal. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in fostering a positive school culture, improving academic outcomes, and building strong relationships

with students and staff alike. His transition to superintendency ensures a seamless continuity of leadership and a steadfast commitment to the "Warrior Way."

Beyond his professional qualifications, TJ is a devoted member of the Wapsie Valley family. He and his wife, Beth, are proud residents of the district. As parents of three children who currently attend Wapsie Valley schools, the Murphy family is deeply invested in the success and well-being of our local youth and the community at large.

"It is a profound honor to be selected to lead a district that means so much to my family and me," said Murphy. "I look forward to collaborating with our talented educators and the entire community to ensure every student at Wapsie Valley has the tools and support they need to thrive."

Please join us in congratulating Murphy on his new role.



Readlyn Gardeners — Back row, center: New member Fritz Miller is presented her Readlyn Gardeners' T-shirt by leader Deb Sauerbrei. Front row: Founding members Marlys and Roger Deterding; back row, left to right: Bonnie Wittenburg, Millie Crawford, Ruth Happel, Janet Ladage, Fritz and Deb, Ruth Wittenburg, Doris Hagenow, and Pat Wehr. Not pictured, Gene Thurm.

April showers bring ... May Yard of the Month signs

For the eighth year, Weeds on Fire is generously sponsoring the Yard of the Month award and monetary gift for June, July, August, and September. To recognize former winners, past recipients of this award will be displaying their Yard of the Month sign from May 1 – 26.

Could you be next? A committee views all yards in Readlyn's city limits. Recommendations are gladly accepted; just contact one of the Readlyn Gardeners in the picture (above).

Thank you, Weeds on Fire, for sponsoring this prestigious award.

See story and photos of the 2026 Easter Egg Hunt (for kids AND dogs!) on Pages 10-11

From the Wapsipinicon River in Iowa to Plymouth, MA and Back

By Bev Huebner

In the fall of 2025, we took a bus trip to the Northeastern/Eastern part of the United States. On September 27, we were in Plymouth, MA. Part of our tour there was to the Jenney's Grist Mill, a mill first built in 1636 by John Jenney, and still operating today.

The tour guide at the mill began her presentation by stating that the corn being milled that day was "from the Wapsie Valley area on the Wapsi-PINE-I-con River in Iowa." Dan raised his hand and told her it was pronounced Wapsi-PIN-I-con and that we were from that area in Iowa, with our high school named Wapsie Valley.

The guide was pleasantly surprised to see people from that area, and said she always wondered if she pronounced that word correctly. As we proceeded through the mill, we actually saw the corn being milled.

Later, I did a generic search for "Wapsie Seed Corn Iowa." The following information was found:

"Wapsie Valley corn is an open-pollinated, non-GMO heirloom dent corn (85-95 days to maturity) developed in Iowa, known for its high protein, rich flavor, and 9-foot-tall, sturdy plants. It produces 7-8 inch ears with yellow to red kernels, ideal for grinding into cornmeal, grits, or for

livestock feed.

Key Features of Wapsie Valley Seed Corn:

Origin: Developed by Adolph Steinbronn in the Wapsipinicon River Valley, IA, introduced in 1971.

Characteristics: Open-pollinated, high-yield, and adaptable to various soil types.

Usage: Excellent for milling (cornmeal, tortillas, polenta), livestock feed and distilling.

Plant Height & Maturity: Grows 8-11 feet tall; matures in about 85-90 days.

Kernel Color: Typically a mix of

glossy yellow and deep red or coppery-red.

Planting: Prefers full sun; thrives in 30-inch rows with good stalk strength.

Wapsie Valley is often chosen by organic farmers and gardeners for its resilience, non-GMO status, and super flavor compared to many modern hybrids."

I do remember my father, Wilbert Huebner, occasionally mentioning that Adolph was his own kind of farmer, very independent, etc. Of course, aren't all farmers?

What a remarkable, and sometimes incredibly small, country in which we live.



The sign welcoming us to the grist mill.

Our tour guide explaining how the corn is milled.

The wheel grinding the corn.

The water wheel on the outside of the mill.

Indoor farmers market coming to Bents in Readlyn

Bents Smokehouse and Pub in Readlyn will be hosting an indoor farmers market every other Tuesday from May 12 through October 27, from 5-7 p.m. in the Event Center. Interested participants may call Bents at 319-279-3839 or message the restaurant on Facebook to sign up. Cost is \$5 per table and Bents has tables available.

Grump's Grumblings

By Mary Lou Ungs, 2025 Grump



The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success! I love our unique egg/treasure hunt. Thank you, Jessica and crew, for all you did to make this happen! It was a cold, wet, windy day, but that did not stop the kids and the Easter Bunny from having a great time. Miss Readlyn, Miss Readlyn Runner-up and Miss Congeniality were also there. It just makes me so happy to see the community come together like that — generations of family participation and fun. I talked to parents who had done the hunt as kids. The surprise of the prize is the fun. It can be anything from candy to a big basket. A big thank you to all the

sponsors.

The Doggy Egg Hunt at the ballpark was also well-attended and fun. Great treats for the dogs. Thank you, Readlyn Vet.

Wish the weather would make up its mind and stay warm, but soon I will be complaining it is too hot (I am the Grump after all) and it is Iowa!

Make sure you plan on attending Grump Days in June. There will be lots of fun things to do and you won't want to miss out!!

In the meantime, stay safe and happy and count your blessings every day.



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Kylie Strottmann

Hello, Readlyn Community!

March kept me moving, and April has been even busier. Between FFA, dance, babysitting, work, and church, my schedule has been full—but I truly wouldn't have it any other way. I spent the day before Easter at the annual Easter Egg Hunt - it was so cold! It was so fun to see all the kids do something I used to look forward to every year. After that, I went to the Zion Church to pass out our baskets to those who got our number. Being a leader in the youth group is so amazing!

This past month, I began offering mini dance lessons at the St. Matthew's Church parsonage. It's been so rewarding to work

with kids who sign up and share my love of dance with them.

On March 26, I wrapped up my time as an FFA officer. It's hard to believe how many "lasts" are happening as the school year comes to a close. Saying goodbye to something I've been deeply involved in since my freshman year was bittersweet. With the state convention just a few days away, I'm especially excited to present the FFA website one final time.

Although I am sad to leave certain things behind, I am definitely excited to start a new chapter of life.

Thank you for your continued support!

Deadline for the May 27 Chronicle is Thursday, May 14 at 5 p.m.
Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

KAISER CORSON Funeral Homes, Inc.

www.kaisercorson.com

205 Highland Avenue, Readlyn, Iowa 50668
(319) 279-3551

Thank You

We'd like to thank everyone for the many expressions of kindness, words and acts of sympathy following mom's passing.

Special thanks to Pastor Rabary for his visits and prayers. Also, we appreciate our Zion family for your assistance prior to and at the funeral, and for organizing and assisting with the funeral luncheon.

Thank you for being there for us,
The Family of Karan Boevers

Next Pepper Tourney is during Grump Days

The last monthly pepper tournament until this fall was held at the Readlyn Library on Saturday, April 11 with 12 players participating. The winners and their scores were:

1st: Shirley Kuker and Suzy Heineman - 240
2nd: Millie Crawford and Judy Henn - 213
3rd (Tie): Mary Chapin and Barb Meyer - 195
Roger and Connie Buhr - 195

Watch the *Chronicle* for details of the Grump Days pepper tournament!

Readlyn Area Housing IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

62 years of age or older, handicapped/disabled regardless of age

- Very Low or Low-Income Families • One or Two Bedrooms - Ground Level
- Stove & Refrigerator Furnished • Laundry Facilities On Site
- All Electric Units with Thermostat in Each Room
- Ample Closet Space • Rent Based on Income

For More Information Contact KarTay Apartment Management 319-334-7110

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

C & K GARDEN SOLUTIONS

2508 Viking Ave., Fairbank, IA 50629
Phone: 319-939-4112
Email: ckjeanes@gmail.com

Garden Tilling — Moldboard Plow — Cultivating
Lawn Mowing — Property Clean-Up — Backhoe
Landscaping — Disking — Food Plots — Seeding
Fertilizing — Snow Removal — Brush Cutting

TruServe INSURANCE GROUP

We are DRIVEN to help you SUCCEED

Providing: Commercial and Trucking For-Hire coverages to our clients.

125 W. 1st St., Readlyn, IA 50668
319-238-7775 • 877-418-3090 (Toll Free)
www.truserveins.com

Security Mutual INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

101 Cherry St.
Allison, IA 50602
(319) 267-2035
securitymutualins.com

GRINNELL MUTUAL MEMBER

Fettkether Fertilizer Co., LLC
fettfarm@dunkerton.net

Dunkerton, IA
319-404-0064

Specializing in starter fertilizer mixes, bulk UAN, Crop Chemicals, Seed & Planter Equipment

FFC DUNKERTON, IOWA LLC

BAYER Crop Science

David R. Wheeler
8234 E. Marquis Rd., Fairbank, IA
(319) 230-1029

80 The Cedar Rapids Gazette, Sat., Dec. 21, 1991

Many wishing to claim title of 'Old Grump' in Readlyn

Iowa Newspaper Association

READLYN — Many rural Iowa communities remain anonymous to the outside world until something spectacular happens. In the case of Readlyn, a sign draws attention to its community.

The small northeast Iowa town is just a mile off Highway 3, a rural highway that runs east and west across the state. About 10 years ago, the Readlyn Commercial Club placed a sign reading "Readlyn: 857 Happy People and One Old Grump."

The sign has drawn a lot of attention from fellow Iowans and from people across the nation who travel by. Readlyn's sign has been written



Gazette photo

IOWA TODAY

about innkeepers such as the Los Angeles Times and featured on many television newscasts.

The question of who is the Old Grump has lived up the town. Travelers will stop and take a picture of the signs. For the past two years, the town has held an annual Grump Days in which a grump is elected. The town even has a restaurant named Grumpy's.

ALTHOUGH THE commercial club was responsible for putting the sign up, most of Readlyn's residents will direct questions about the sign to the three Wolff brothers — Ron, Roger and Jim. The brothers own an auto repair shop.

Ron Wolff was president of the Commercial Club when the sign was put up, but the three brothers had trouble remembering exactly when the sign was finished.

They could remember why they replaced the old sign though. "The old sign was bad. We had to replace it," said Ron Wolff, looking in a filing

cabinet for a copy of an article while his brother Roger looked through minutes of the Commercial Club in search of the year.

"It was 1991," Roger said. The idea came from a sign Ron had seen while he had been on a trip in the southern United States.

BUD RUMMEL WAS mayor shortly after the sign went up. Rummel said he had several calls inquiring about the sign and the grump, including calls from newspapers. "A lot of out-of-state people travel Highway 3," he said.

Until two years ago, when the first grump was elected, Rummel said no one was designated the grump, though several people did claim to be the grump. He said shirts were made that said, "I'm the old grump, ask my wife," to play on the joke of the sign.

Because no one at first was officially the Old Grump, everyone wondered who was the grump. Both of the men who have been elected as the Old Grump said that being elected was an honor

37 Years of Grumps; Who Will Be Next?

The article above was published in 1991 in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, giving an overview of the creation of the now famous title: Readlyn's Old Grump. (Hint: It all started with a simple sign

posted along Highway 3 in 1982.) If you have a historical article or story of interest, email it to the Readlyn Chronicle at: readlynchronicle@gmail.com. We would love to hear about it!



May 1 Deadline to file property assessment appeal to Bremer County Board of Review.



Connie Rochford, Broker
215 N. Railroad, Sumner, IA
563-578-8899
www.towncountryhome.com

Agents:
Louie Hartman 319-239-0533
Gary Guether 319-415-9874
Tyler Matthias 319-239-4787

We serve the needs of our communities!



PROVIDING POLICY HOLDERS SECURITY & SERVICE FOR OVER 280 YRS



A GRINNELL MUTUAL MEMBER.

319-279-3893
319-267-2035
securitymutualins.com

234 Main Street • Readlyn, IA

Land, Home, or Something New – Let's Make It Happen

Whether you're buying your first home, a piece of land, or building something of your own, we'll walk you through it - step by step.

We understand that every property - and every plan - is a little different. That's why we offer flexible options and real conversations.

Local real estate loans - Local people you can trust. Stop in and talk with us today

We wish you a safe and happy Memorial Day!
Readlyn Savings Bank will not be open Monday, May 25, 2026




RSB - Taking Good Care of You! - Since 1904 | ASB - The Spirit of American Banking - Since 1899

Readlyn Savings Bank
141 Main Street - P.O. Box 40
Readlyn, IA 50668-0040
319-279-3321
Website: www.readlynsavingsbank.com
Email: info@readlynsavingsbank.com

American Savings Bank
a location of Readlyn Savings Bank
312 S. Main Street - P.O. Box 909
Tripoli, IA 50676-0909
319-882-4279 or
800-853-4279





Readlyn Community Library

WE PUT THE READ IN READLYN



Beth Kingdon, Director

Phone and Fax: 319-279-3432 Email: readlynlib@gmail.com Website: www.readlyn.lib.ia.us Text: 319-253-6802

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Karan Boevers
Becky South

Book Donations

In Memory of Karan Boevers
Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Letich Smith given by
Chris, Sharon Davis, and family
The Yowlers by Stacy Lynn Carroll given by
Dean and Lois Buhr

SERVICES
Fax/Print/Scan
Conference Room
Test Proctoring
Interlibrary Loans
Internet/WiFi/3D
Printing/
Graphic Design



The Bremer County Health Department has suspended the Foot Clinic until a new nurse can be hired and trained. For more information call 319-352-0082

Summer READING

Our **Summer Reading Program** is kicking off **June 1** with a reptile program, and runs through June with all sorts of fun events planned. We'll have the schedule in next month's Chronicle, or watch our website and Facebook page!

We're also participating in the Bremer County Passport to the Past program, so we encourage everyone to join us for these events!



BIRDS & BIRDWATCHING



Join us to learn more about the birds in our area, how to feed and attract them, and more!

Readlyn Library
Monday, May 4 at 5:00 pm

presented by Bremer County ISU Extension

you can HELP

The library has upcoming openings for two Trustees! If you're interested in serving on the library board, contact the library for more information! We're in need of one person who is a resident of Readlyn, and one person who is a rural resident of Bremer county. The Board of Trustees typically meets one evening each month.

Wasn't it Yesterday?

A Longing (To Give Up the Pain)



An arthritic staircase would moan tell-tale signs of age
Careful steps to the attic door, the turning of a page
Candle lit through cob-webbed curtains, I entered with blinded trust
The silent tomb would grant its treasures, hidden beneath the dust

Stuffed bears, China dolls, and hats not fit to wear
A velvet third grade valentine, a long lock of golden hair
Stacked from floor to window sill, lost gems of yesterday
A collection of forget-me-nots, saved for time to replay

By J.D. Francis

A fleeting glance I noticed, a weathered Bible-wiped dust free
Recently placed with intention, for anyone to clearly see

Slightly above the cover, a twice folded handwritten note
I lost all contradiction, as I read the words he wrote

Through long, lonely years, seeing the Light reflected a flame
I gave up in believing...in a longing to give up the pain
For no one is as empty, as knowing and accepting the end
Or, from being convinced, a heart may never love again...

jdfrantpaint@msn.com

Bremer County Announces Courthouse Tree Planting Event Wednesday, April 29

WAVERLY, Iowa — As communities across the nation prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, Bremer County will mark the occasion locally with a special tree planting event titled “America 250 – Trees Are Forever.”

The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at the Bremer County Courthouse grounds in Waverly. The public is invited to attend and participate in this meaningful community event.

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a memorial tree planting honoring Wes Hicok, a dedicated public servant who worked in the Bremer County Auditor’s office and the State of Iowa Secretary of State’s office. The Hydrangea tree, generously donated by the Hicok family, will be planted near the new south entrance of the courthouse as a lasting tribute to his service and memory.

Following the memorial planting, several additional trees will be planted including a special Bur Oak to celebrate a unique piece of local history. Bremer County will plant a bur oak grown from an acorn collected from the historic oak tree that stood at Waverly City Hall until 2016. That tree was believed to be nearly 200 years old,

likely predating Iowa statehood. Through careful stewardship thanks to Waverly Trees Forever, that legacy continues with the planting of this new tree on courthouse grounds.

County officials say the symbolism of the project aligns closely with the America 250 celebration, reflecting on the nation’s past while continuously investing in its future.

Trees are one of the most powerful symbols of continuity. The shade that we enjoy today was planted by those who came before us. Now it’s our turn to plant something that will benefit the generations that follow.

The courthouse grounds recently saw several trees removed during renovation work, making this project an opportunity to restore the landscape while adding living monuments to local history.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at the same time and location.

Community members are encouraged to attend and be part of the activities. For additional information, contact the Bremer County Auditor’s Office.

Senior Citizens Meeting Held

On March 18, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., 21 Readlyn Senior Citizens met at Bents Smokehouse in Readlyn for their meeting, a meal and a guest speaker.

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

Our guest speaker was Anna Williams from the NEI3A Agency on Aging. What is the Iowa Cafe program? It is an innovative approach for older adults, 60 years of age or older, to better access socialization and nutrition through locally-owned businesses rather than visiting a traditional senior center for meals. A key card is issued to individuals who fill out an application and 6 meals per month are available at participating restaurants for the individuals who sign up. Menus vary by location of those that participate. NEI3A offer other services including support for caregivers, education programs to help individuals maintain their independence and physical activity programs designed to prevent falls and promote healthy aging.

If anyone wants to find out more about their services they can be called at 800-779-8707 or contacted at www.NEI3A.org.

Birthday celebrated for the month of March was Don Billhorn celebrating 90 years old. We all sang “Happy Birthday” to Don.

No anniversaries were celebrated for the month of March.

Secretary’s Report: The Secretary’s report was read by Lois Thacher from the notes of

February 18, 2026.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Charlie Albrecht stated that the balance in the account after a deposit and expenses was \$131.00. Judy Leistikow made a motion to approve the secretary and treasurer reports as read. Delbert Oltrogge seconded it. Motion carried.

Old Business: The vendor fair featuring 20 various vendors was held on March 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Bents Event Center and it was successful. Another Vendor Fair is scheduled on April 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details to follow.

New Business: On Saturday, March 21 the Heroes’ Ball will be held starting at 5 p.m. at Bents Event Center, 6 p.m. dinner followed by a motivational speaker and live music by Luke Farland.

On April 4 at 9:00 a.m., there will be a Dog Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Readlyn Veterinary Associates. At 10:00 a.m., the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children 0 to 9 will be held. Motion was made by Millie Crawford to adjourn the meeting and Larry Ladage seconded it.

Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be at Bents Event Center in Readlyn Iowa at 11:30 a.m. on April 15, 2026. We will be playing Bingo next month. Come join the fun!

Lois Thacher, Secretary

Cattlemen’s Annual Banquet a Success

The Bremer County Cattlemen’s Association annual banquet was held March 7 at the Waverly Area Veterans Post. Approximately 125 people were in attendance. A wonderful prime rib meal courtesy of Frederika Locker was enjoyed by all. This year, we crowned Addison Buseman as our Beef Queen and Ashlyn Strottmann was crowned Beef Princess. Both ladies are active supporters of the beef cattle industry, with both their parents and grandparents having been strong cattlemen in our county for many years. We look forward to seeing these ladies continue to support the beef industry as our 2026 Beef Royalty. We were honored to have Chad Hart from ISU Extension speak on the cattle industry and projections for the next several years. We are thankful to Chad for his time to share this valuable and insightful information.



Addison Buseman (left) was crowned 2026 Beef Queen and Ashlyn Strottmann was crowned Beef Princess.

Once again we held an auction, which was led by Dave White of Legacy Auctions this year. The auction was a huge success, earning valuable funds to allow the cattlemen to continue to support the youth of Bremer County. Thank you all for your support and generosity in making this a great event. These proceeds from our banquet are used to fund several items throughout the year. The cattlemen offer up to five \$500 scholarships each year in addition to our Queen’s scholarship. All 4-H beef classes, 12 in total, are given first place trophies and awards. Additionally, the cattlemen donate funds to offset the cost of scramble calves won at the previous year’s county fair and support our open beef show held at the fair.

With the age of our producers increasing nationwide and record low cattle herds, it is imperative that we continue to support our youth in beef production. Our youth are the

future farmers and ranchers tasked with feeding America quality beef. Thank you to all who attended, as well as the many businesses who sponsored our 2026 banquet by way of auction items, monetary gifts, and trophy/award purchases. Without the help of our sponsors, we could not extend this level of generosity and support to our youth. The following are our 2026 banquet sponsors:

Plainfield Veterinary Services; Behind the Barn by J&L; P&K Midwest - Sumner; Poet Biorefinery; Frederika Locker; Unverferth Manufacturing; Bremer Mutual Insurance; Farmers Coop; Titan Machinery - Waverly; Iowa Corn Growers Association; J&E Livestock; Farm Bureau Insurance; Pries Ag Services; Weber Farm Inputs; Pioneer Seed, Kyle Devoe; Epley Insurance; Accel Group, Mark Lenius; The Mill Inc.; Fidelity Bank & Trust; Readlyn Veterinary Associates; P&K Midwest - Waverly; Denver Savings Bank; TruServe Insurance Group; Fredericksburg Veterinary Clinic; Community Insurance of Tripoli; Farm Credit Service; Van-Am Defense Systems; Prime Ag Services.

Readlyn City Council - April 13, 2026

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, April 13, 2026 to review bills. Keith Brunscheon and Joseph Jones were present. Rocco Imbrogno was absent.

The Readlyn City Council met in open session at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 13, 2026 for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Nicole Barnes, Keith Brunscheon, Jason Franck, Rocco Imbrogno and Joseph Jones. Others in attendance included: Steve Aiello, Barney Wiersma, Austin Matthias, Ed Hood (with Hood & Phalen Inc. and Financial) and Kris McGrane.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve consent agenda items, which included the regular council meeting minutes from 3/9/2026, the public hearing minutes from 3/23/2026, the special meeting minutes from 3/10/2026 to 4/13/2026, the March 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer’s and Financial) and the retail tobacco license 2026-01 for Kwik Trip Inc at Kwik Star #708 from 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027. All said aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve receiving reports from the city clerk, police, public works, parks and library. All said aye. Motion carried.

Wedemeier opened the public hearing on the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 at 6:18 PM. We received no verbal comments and McGrane advised there were no written communications received. Wedemeier closed the public hearing at 6:18 PM.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Resolution 2026-3, adopting the FY 2027 Budget. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Ed Hood, with Hood & Phalen Inc. and Financial, explained the renewal increase from EMC insurance from \$69,551 to \$76,728, a \$7,177 increase. Hood advised the city received an insurance refund earlier this year of \$8,982.66. Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to approve the EMC Insurance renewal. All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve Resolution 2026-4, approving a Fire and First Responder Service Agreement between the city of Readlyn and Maxfield Township with amendments. Roll call, all said aye. Motion covered.

McGrane briefly explained the status of the fee proposal, agreement and addendum to the agreement between the city of Readlyn and Cannon Moss Brygger & Associates, P.C. for the construction of the new Emergency Services Building. McGrane advised we were still negotiating the agreement and will present the updated documents at the next meeting. No action was taken on Resolution 2026-5.

McGrane explained the amendments for the current budget for FY 2026. No action was taken.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to set a public hearing on the FY 2026 Budget Amendment for May 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM. All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:54PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk

End the school year by making an impact

JOHNSTON, IOWA – Students who donate blood or host a blood drive through LifeServe can earn scholarships and recognition while making a meaningful difference in their community.

LifeServe will award up to \$500 in scholarship funds to students who organize a successful blood drive. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must recruit donors, act as the chairperson for the blood drive, and register 25 donors (\$250 awarded) or 40 donors (\$500 awarded).

Close the school year in a meaningful way and start your summer with purpose. Schedule a donation appointment at an upcoming blood drive near you or learn more about LifeServe’s scholarship opportunities at lifeserve.info/students.

Denver/Readlyn communities will hold a blood drive on May 1, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 100 Washington St., Denver. Schedule your lifesaving appointment by visiting lifeservebloodcenter.org or by calling 800-287-4903.

CHRONICLE Sponsorship DIRECTORY

Ag Resources

Bayer Crop Science
David R. Wheeler, 8234 E. Marquis Rd.,
Fairbank, IA (319) 230-1029

Farmers Co-op
223 E. 1st St. • (319) 279-3396

Fettkether Fertilizer Co. LLC
7634 N. Ordway Rd., Dunkerton, IA
(319) 404-0064 or (319) 939-8339

Huebner Custom Ag
Spraying - Land Rolling
Ben Huebner (319) 483-8232
Jason Huebner (319) 231-4544

Huebner Repair
Ben Huebner (319) 483-8232

Precision Planting - Mike Heineman
2919 270th St. • (319) 279-3136

PRime Ag Services - Channel Seedsmen
Brian Pottebaum (515) 290-4098
Steve Rathe (319) 269-8083

Readlyn Vet. Association
2636 230th St. • (319) 279-3867

Rock On Wheels
Roger Wheeler
Randy Wheeler (319) 231-3859

Smidt Crop Management, Inc.
Thomas B. Smidt, President
303 North 2nd St. PO Box 594, Greene
(641) 823-4817 or cell (641) 330-6717
smidtcrop@iowatelecom.net

Stokes Welding - 412 7th St.,
Janesville • (319) 987-2801
Cell: (319) 230-7770

Weber Farm Inputs - Pioneer
Ryan Weber - 319-231-8882
Kyle Devoe - 319-240-9137

**Weeds On Fire Custom Application
LLC** - Dan Wedemeier, Owner
Dan at (319) 269-6753

Wittenburg Truck Line, Inc.
117 Malone Ave. • (319) 279-3371

Attorneys and Realtors

Advanced Realtors®, LLC
814 S. Frederick, Oelwein 283-2242

Dillon Law, P.C. - Patrick B. Dillon
Attorney at Law
209 E. 1st Street, Sumner, IA 50674
(563) 578-01850 • Fax: (563) 578-1312
patdillon@50674law.com

Fischels Residential Group
Joe Leehey, Residential Broker
(319) 415-7349
joe@fischelsgroup.com
www.fischelsgroup.com
3510 Kimball Ave. Ste. H, Waterloo, IA
50702 • Tel: (319) 234-5000

2026 FRIENDS OF THE CHRONICLE:

Ron and Bev Herman
Corlyn Freitag
Readlyn Senior Citizens

YOU, TOO, CAN BECOME A
*Friend of the
Readlyn Chronicle!*

Call Ron Leistikow for details!
(319) 279-3548

Jennifer Jaschen - Attorney at Law
4817 University Ave. STE. D
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
jaschenlaw@outlook.com
(319) 553-3400

Re/Max Alliance
Wendy Stromer-Mohlis, Realtor
319-269-5089
300 S. State St., Denver
wendymohlis@gmail.com

**Stumme, Collins, Gritters
& Epley, PLLC**
Attorneys
171 E. Main, Denver, IA 50622
Phone: (319) 984-5479
www.waverlydenverlaw.com

Town & Country Real Estate
Louie Hartman 319-239-0533
hartmanlouie@gmail.com
www.towncountryhome.com
215 N. Railroad, Sumner, IA 50674
Connie Rochford, Broker
Office 563-578-8899

Building and Repairs

**Crystal Heating Plumbing
and Excavation**
1210 W. Bremer Ave., Waverly
319-352-0513

Edgeton Hardware & Repair
5104 Main St., Oran (319) 638-7206

Elsamiller Electric Co.
101 39th St. NE, Waverly
319.352.3917

Gingerich Roofing Solutions
1501 Fairbank Amish Blvd., Hazleton
319-505-3938

Ken's Electric Inc.
Electric • HVAC • Solar
319.283.4221 • kenselectric.com

Smith Excavating, Inc.
1417 Whitetail Ave., Sumner
(319) 269-0952 Fax (563) 578-1008

Tatroe Electric, Inc.
215 3rd St. NE, Waverly
319.352.3664
www.tatroelectric.com

Wiley Construction
Denver, IA
(319) 404-3518 • (319) 279-3518

Auto Sales and Repair

Del's Auto Repair Inc.
2308 Piedmont Ave. • (319) 279-3785

Larry's Skelly Inc.
430 E. 1st St. • (319) 279-3307

Family Needs

Denver Drug and Photo
340 S. State St., Denver
(319) 984-5691 • (800) 974-5691

Denver Family Dental
131 Tower St., Denver
319-984-6191

Edward Jones-Troy Delagardelle
4901 University Ave., Suite B, Cedar Falls
(319) 277-4446

First Bank (fka First National Bank)
(319) 352-1340 www.myfnbbank.com

Hillcrest Living
915 W. First St., Sumner-563-578-8591
www.hillcrestsumner.com

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home
205 Highland Ave. • (319) 279-3551
www.kaisercorson.com

Parkview Assisted Living
Fairbank, Iowa • (319) 635-2585

Prime Capital Investment Advisors
Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones, Financial Advisor
Cedar Rapids, pciacedarrapids.com
(319) 269-7143

Quality Accounting Services
1002 Broadway St., Waterloo
(319) 234-2813 www.qasiowa.com

Readlyn Community Library
309 Main St., Box 249 • (319) 279-3432

Readlyn Savings Bank
141 Main St. • (319) 279-3321
American Savings Bank-Tripoli
312 S. Main St. • (319) 882-4279

RTC Communications
121 Main St. • (319) 279-3375

Security State Bank
103 3rd St., Frederika, IA 50631
(319) 275-4301

Smiley Family Dentistry
123 2nd St. SW, Waverly
319-352-2270
SmileyFamilyDentistry.com
Tripoli Nursing Home
604 3rd St. SW, Tripoli, IA
319-882-4269

Food and Restaurants

Douglas Den
1195 Hilton Ave., Plainfield
(319) 275-4528

Hair and Beauty

Mane Event Family Hair Salon
239 Main Street, Readlyn
Salon: 319-279-3060
Becky South ~ 319-464-2614

Insurance Services

Farm Bureau - David C. Matthias
Office: (319) 352-3667
Home: (319) 279-3545

Security Mutual Insurance
234 Main St.
319-279-3893, 319-267-2035

Security Mutual Insurance Assoc.
101 Cherry St., Allison
319-267-2035 securitymutualins.com

The Accel Group
Waverly • Cedar Falls • Denver
(800) 369-3525
www.AccelAdvantage.com

TruServe Insurance Group
125 W 1st St., Readlyn, IA 50668
877-418-3090

VanDaele Insurance, Inc.
119 E. Main St., Fairbank, IA
319-635-2526

Landscaping & Nursery

Tiedt Nursery
2419 E. Bremer Ave., Waverly
(319) 352-0418

Machine/Tractor Repair

L&L Ag Repair
2220 Reed Ave. (319) 279-3363

Schuldt Repair
2261 Reed Ave. (319) 279-3539

Specialty Businesses

Myers Polaris
304 E. Main, Fairbank, IA
(319) 635-2311 (888) 282-9992
www.myerspolaris.com

Schumacher Elevator Company
One Schumacher Way, Denver, IA
800-7795438 www.schumacherelevator.com

Tenenbaum's Jewelry
219 E. Bremer Ave., Waverly
319-352-4112

**IT PAYS TO
ADVERTISE IN THE
READLYN CHRONICLE!
Call Ron Leistikow
for details!
(319) 279-3548**



Conventional Beans - Left to right, First Place, Mitchel Boevers (S&M Boevers) 89.93 bu/ac, 3rd place, Tim Kleiss (Adam Kleiss) 87.12 bu./ac, 2nd place, David O'Brien 84.70 bu./ac, and Andy Sexton.



Conventional Corn - Left to right, First Place, Mitchel Boevers (S&M Boevers) 291.57 bu/ac, 2nd place, Dave Schumacher 290.30 bu./ac, 3rd place, Jon Jaschen 279.49 bu./ac, and Andy Sexton.



No-Till Beans - Left to right, First Place, Dean Buhr (Spring Center Farms) 89.44 bu/ac, 2nd place, Ron Christians 84.09 bu./ac, 3rd place, Brad Steege 82.18 bu./ac, and Andy Sexton.

The Contest ~ Harvest 2025

On Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Bents Smokehouse, Tripoli, the awards banquet was held for the 35th Annual Readlyn Savings Bank & American Savings Bank Master Corn & Soybean Growers' Yield Contest: a.k.a. "The Contest." Years ago, there were several such county yield contests but today "The Contest" is the only one of its kind in Bremer County – and perhaps the entire state of Iowa.

Sponsored by Readlyn Savings Bank, The Contest is a friendly competition between area farmers. The Contest banquet provides Bremer County area farmers with an evening of camaraderie and celebration of the previous year's harvest: Harvest 2025. The banquet, held annually before spring, was graciously hosted by Bents Smokehouse staff with a superb prime rib buffet dinner and dessert.

Traditionally, to help kick things off, the first award of the night is always the Spirit of the Contest Award. The Award annually honors the long-time, enthusiastic and good-natured participation of the Master Grower who exemplifies The Spirit of the Contest. This year, the award went to Jason Moellers, who has been participating for many years. The Spirit Award recognizes Jason's enthusiasm for The Contest as well as his passion for farming.

Following dinner, the audience heard from Nolan Lyness and Mark Mueller with Iowa Corn and Dillon Folkerts and Mike Poggemiller from Shell Rock Soy Processing. Nolan and Mark provided an update on what Iowa Corn has been doing lately, while Dillon and Mike provided a brief update on the local soybean market.

To wrap up the evening, ag lenders Dustin Gaede and Cody Funk presented the Harvest 2025 awards. The bank was also represented by Dani Sauerbrei, Mackenzie Joerger, Cassie Munson, Kim Alcantara, Ashley Christensen along with President Doug Sheppard and CEO Andy Sexton.

Harvest 2025 consisted of a total of 20+ different farmers conducting 36 yield checks in the 4 Contest Divisions: 16-conventional corn, 6-no-till corn, 7-conventional beans and 7-no-till beans. The Contest's yield checkers, Doug Sheppard, Dustin Gaede, Andy Sexton and Cody Funk, certify each yield entry. They collect data on such variables as seed company brand and hybrid number, traits, dates of planting and harvesting, row spacing, population, as well as applications of fertilizers, herbicides, and fungicides. But ultimately the determining factor to winning The Contest is bushels per acre.

Highlights from the results include S&M Boevers winning top honors in Conventional Beans with a yield of 89.93 bushels per acre. This category also had 6 checks that were over the 80 mark this year as well! The Grand Cham-

pinion in No-Till Beans was Spring Center Farms with a yield of 89.44 bushels per acre. Grand Champion Conventional Corn was S&M Boevers with a yield of 291.57 bushels per acre. Grand Champion No-Till Corn was Brad Steege with another impressive yield of 273.77 bushels per acre.

In closing remarks, the Bank's representatives congratulated the winners, thanked all the farmers who entered The Contest, and thanked everyone who helped make the evening possible.

Readlyn Savings Bank (including American Savings Bank in Tripoli, a branch of Readlyn Savings Bank) specializes in agricultural lending, as well as commercial, consumer, and real estate loans. The local, independent bank is dedicated to the communities they serve and is proud to keep the tradition of The Contest going. Anyone interested in more information about The Contest may contact Doug Sheppard or Dustin Gaede at Readlyn Savings Bank at 319-279-3321 or Andy Sexton or Cody Funk at American Savings Bank at 319-882-4279.

The top-3 yields and average yield in each division of The Contest for Harvest 2025 included:

CONVENTIONAL BEANS			
S & M BOEVERS	READLYN	89.93	PIONEER P21Z71E
David O'Brien	SUMNER	87.12	PIONEER P26A20
ADAM KLEISS	F'BURG	84.7	STINE 19J13
CONVENTIONAL CORN			
S & M BOEVERS	READLYN	291.57	WYFFELS 7870
Dave Schumacher	READLYN	290.3	Pioneer P1027AM
JON JASCHEN	READLYN	279.49	PIONEER 13050V
NO-TILL BEANS			
SPRING CENTER FARMS	SUMNER	89.44	PIONEER 21Z71E
RON CHRISTIANS	FAIRBANK	84.088	PIONEER P21Z71E
BRAD STEEGE	F'BURG	82.18	STINE 25EJ13
NO-TILL CORN			
BRAD STEEGE	F'BURG	273.77	WYFFELS 7870 NON-GMO
HERITAGE AG	READLYN	272.22	Pioneer P1027AM
SPRING CENTER FARMS	SUMNER	269.9	Pioneer P1027AM



No-Till Corn - Left to right, First Place, Brad Steege 273.77 bu/ac, 2nd, Jon Jaschen (Heritage Ag) 272.22 bu./ac, 3rd place, Dean Buhr (Spring Center Farms) 269.90 bu./ac, and Andy Sexton.



Tonne Albrecht Spirit of the Contest Award Winner - Left to right, Dustin Gaede, Andy Sexton, Winner Jason Moellers, and Cody Funk.

Deadline for the May 27 Readlyn Chronicle is Thursday, May 14 at 5 PM

READLYN CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALES!

MAY 1-2, 2026

Goodwill Truck
at City Park
MAY 1-3

City Clean-Up Days
MAY 4-5

Contact Jessica Anderson to list your garage sale

SELL! • DONATE! • CLEAN UP!

Weeds On Fire

LAWN CARE SERVICES

• FERTILIZING • WEED CONTROL • AERATING • THATCHING • SEEDING • MOWING

CONTACT

DAN WEDEMEIER 319-269-6753
READLYN, IOWA weeds.onfire@yahoo.com

STOKES WELDING

Services:
Custom Welding
Power Equipment
Hydraulic Hoses

STIHL TORO

412 7th Street, Janesville
(319) 987-2801 • Cell: (319) 230-7770
email: shop@stokeswelding.com

Find us on Facebook
www.stokeswelding.com



Paul Smith
319-269-0952
1417 Whitetail Ave., Sumner
smith.x.inc@gmail.com

- GPS Grade Control Tiling
- Onsite Concrete Crushing
- Site Preparation
- Septic Systems
- Waterlines
- Demolition
- Waterways
- Excavation
- Drainage

Obituary

Karan May Boevers

Karan May Boevers, 85, of Cedar Falls, Iowa and formerly of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at Unity-Point-Allen Memorial in Waterloo.



Karan Boevers

Karan was born February 14, 1941, in Waterloo, Iowa, the daughter of Harvey and Lorna (Diercks) Hagenow. She was baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church, Readlyn. In her childhood, she enjoyed 4-H and spending time with her cousins. Karan graduated from Readlyn High School in 1959. She was united in marriage to Dean Lee Boevers on September 24, 1961 at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn.

Karan was a homemaker. Outside of the home she worked at Lutheran Mutual (CUNA) and the U.S. Postal Service in Readlyn and Waterloo, retiring in 2002.

Karan was a longtime member of Zion Lutheran Church, where she was a member of the Zion Evening Circle since 1966 and also played the organ. She played trombone in the New Horizons Band, and enjoyed playing cards and camping. She especially enjoyed family vacations and hosting family at her house.

Karan is survived by a daughter, Lynn (Dennis) Kuker of Readlyn; a daughter, Beth (Todd) Clark of Prior Lake, Min-

nesota; two sons, Bill (Amy) Boevers and Kurt (Jenny) Boevers, both of Cedar Falls; her grandchildren, Tony (Jing Huang) Kuker of Kirkland, Washington; Matt (Renee) Kuker of Urbandale; Nick (Megan) Kuker of Readlyn; Claire Clark of Fallon, Nevada; Sam (Ellie) Clark of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Clint Boevers of Waterloo and Molly Boevers of Cedar Falls; her great-grandchildren, Will Kuker and Wyatt Kuker, both of Readlyn and Clara Kuker of Urbandale; a brother, Tom (Cindy) Hagenow of Readlyn; and two sisters-in-law, Renae Bockholt of Waverly and Barb Boevers of Fairbank.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dean Boevers, in 1998, her parents, Harvey and Lorna Hagenow, her father and mother-in-law, Reinhart and Lauretta Boevers, two brothers-in-law, James (Jane) Boevers and Dan Boevers, and two sisters-in-law, Inez (John) Christensen and Patsy Boevers.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church, Readlyn with Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary officiating. Visitation was held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday at the church. Burial was in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. Memorials may be directed to the organ fund at Zion Lutheran Church, REMS Fund for the Readlyn Emergency Medical Services Building, or to the New Horizons Band.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family, 319-279-3551.



GINGERICH

Roofing Solutions

Metal • Flat • Roof Coating • Outbuildings
Siding • Pole Buildings

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

319.505.3938

1501 Fairbank Amish Blvd.
Hazleton, IA 50641

The country life doesn't mean living without the **BEST CONNECTIVITY.**
Ask about our outdoor access points to get whole property wi-fi coverage.

RTC Communications

319.279.3375 csr@readlyntelco.com readlyntelco.com

Wapsie Valley FCCLA Celebrates State Conference Success

Wapsie Valley's FCCLA chapter recently returned from the Iowa FCCLA State Leadership Conference, held at the DoubleTree Convention Complex and the Alliant Energy PowerHouse, with exciting accomplishments to share.

A total of 16 chapter members participated in competitive events, with 7 students earning top honors and qualifying to advance to the National Leadership Conference. The national event will take place this summer in Washington, D.C., where students will join FCCLA members from across the country to showcase their projects and leadership skills.

In addition to student success, Wapsie Valley is proud to celebrate Kate Nitz, who was nominated by the chapter and selected as the recipient of the Iowa FCCLA Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented annually to a school staff member who is not a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, but who demonstrates

outstanding support for FCCLA and FCS education through advocacy, partnership, and service. Nitz was recognized on stage during the conference's awards ceremony for her dedication and impact on the program.

Chapter members also represented Wapsie Valley with professionalism and pride throughout the conference, reflecting the time, effort, and commitment they invest in FCCLA.

Looking ahead, the chapter is preparing for an exciting summer. In addition to competing at the national conference, members will attend a Major League Baseball game on July 6 featuring the Washington Nationals and the Houston Astros. They will also participate in a national FCCLA advocacy event on July 9, joining students from all 50 states to promote Family and Consumer Sciences education and FCCLA through activities on Capitol Hill and throughout the city.



Deadline for the May 27 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., May 14 at 5 p.m. Send news to: readlynchronicle@gmail.com



PO Box B, 103 3rd St., Frederika, IA 50631
(319) 275-4301
or 1-800-428-5808




PHONE: (319) 352-4112
EMAIL: contactus@tenenbaumsjewelry.com
www.tenenbaumsjewelry.com



219 EAST BREMER AVE.
WAVERLY, IOWA 50677

Making moves together to find your perfect home

Wendy Stromer-Mohlis
Licensed in the State of Iowa



319-269-5089
WENDYMOHLIS@GMAIL.COM




Troy A. Delagardelle, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
4901 University Ave - Suite B
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
319.277.4446

Member SIPC

Contact me today. >




Tripoli Nursing & Rehab is a non-profit 28 licensed bed long-term care setting certified by Medicare and Medicaid. We are committed to providing excellent care and support to residents, families, the community and our employees. We provide skilled nursing, rehabilitative therapy services, continuous nursing care, social services and activity programs designed to meet various types of individual needs.

Independently Owned & Operated
Tripoli Nursing & Rehab
604 3rd Street SW, Tripoli, IA 50676
319-882-4269
trnuhome@butler-bremer.com




MEMBER FDIC

Serving You First

Cedar Falls | Plainfield | Waverly

www.FirstIowa.bank

Community Comes Together for Beloved Easter Tradition

The spirit of community was on full display at this year's Readlyn Easter Egg Hunt, as families gathered to celebrate a tradition that continues to bring joy to children and adults alike.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of 63 sponsors, nearly 900 eggs were numbered, placed, and ready for eager participants. Each egg represented not only a surprise for a child, but also the support of local businesses and community members who believe in keeping this special tradition alive.

Events like this don't come together overnight. Behind the scenes are hours and hours of coordination—organizing sponsors, preparing eggs, mapping locations, and ensuring everything runs smoothly. It is truly a labor of love, and one made possible by a community that continues to show up year after year.

While the day was filled with smiles and excitement, there was one challenge that organizers encountered. Some individuals brought their own numbered eggs, which created confusion and disrupted the intention of the event. To help preserve the integrity of the hunt moving forward, organizers will be exploring a special way to mark official eggs in future years.

Though it adds another step to an already detailed process, it's one worth taking to ensure the experience remains fair, fun, and organized for all.

At its heart, the Readlyn Easter Egg Hunt is about more than eggs—it's about connection, tradition, and community pride. To every sponsor, volunteer, and family who participated: thank you for helping make this event so meaningful.

Thank you to Bella and Kyleen Buck, CAPS students from Jesup, Emma and Daley for helping to sort many eggs. Thank you to Ben Anderson and Ron Hartman for setting up the park. Thank you to Frances Miller and Louie Hartman for hiding the eggs in

the park. Thank you to Mykel Moothart for being an AMAZING Easter Bunny again this year. Thank you to our Readlyn Royalty for being on hand for photo ops, Kylie Strottmann, Gwen Forsyth and Claire O'Donnell and our Grump Mary Lou Ungs. And a special thank you again to all 63 sponsors: Ron & Louie Hartman, Mike & Crystal Gothard, Readlyn Fire Dept., RAP group, Scott & Susi LaRue, TruServe, Tanya Hagenow, The Oberle Family, Balance – Sheila Rosengarten, Wittenburg Trucking, Weeds on Fire, John & Wendy Galyean, Readlyn EMS, Kyle & Kelly Shores, Huebner Repair LLC, Ron & Judy Leistikow, Doris Hagenow, Readlyn Community Library-Beth Kingdon, director, Ruth Rathbone, Stacie & Kevin Price, Tammi Thurm, Trent & Tammi Valde, Ray & Melissa Knight, Mary Lou Ungs, Don & Mary Billhorn, Scholdt Repair, Dean & Lois Buhr, Jerry & Bonnie Wittenburg, Judy Henn, Kim Nuss, Barb Meyer, David & Ruth Wittenburg, Roger & Marlys Deterding, Barney & Gina Weirsma, Becky South, Bents Smokehouse, Brenda Feckers & Dave Hunt, Brittnee Hummel, CAPS Students, Gary & Connie Sauerbrei, Terry & Deb Gothard, Frances Miller, Janet & Larry Ladage, Jaschen Law/Heritage Ag Research, Mitch & Jen Matthias, John & Nancy Kleitsch, Readlyn Vet, Kevin & Cathy Kuhrt, Larry's Service & Repair, Dalton & Brooke Meyer, LaVern & Judy Leistikow, Farmer's Coop, Barry & Lori Fortsch, Lindsay Brady, Readlyn Savings Bank, Lynn Dumire and Kwik Star, RTC Communications, Nancy Erhardt, Penny Schmidt, Nick & Megan Kuker, Platte Home Improvement, Nate & Nicole Barnes.

Heartfelt thank you to Readlyn Library for once again hosting multiple sponsors and serving as our returning location to collect the eggs after the hunt. Their support allows us to reuse the eggs year after year, and we truly appreciate their continued partnership.



Easter Egg Hunt Photos courtesy of Mary Lou Ungs



Obituary

Lavon Charlotte Leistikow Burhans

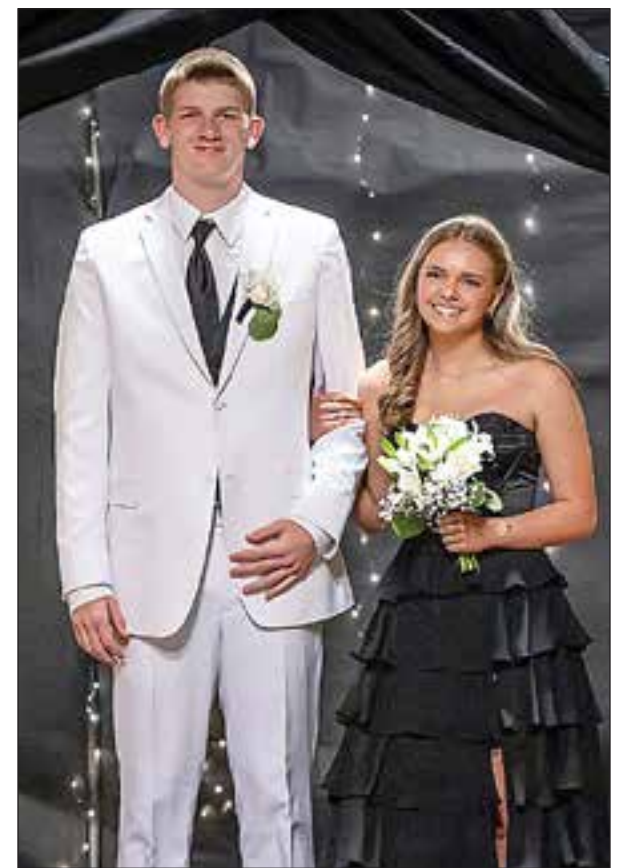
Lavon Charlotte Burhans, 93, of Port Orange, Florida passed away peacefully at home on March 17, 2026 surrounded by her children. Born on October 19, 1932 in Readlyn, Iowa, she was predeceased by her parents, Henry and Emma Leistikow of Readlyn, Iowa and her loving husband, the love of her life, William (Bill) Burhans of Port Orange. She is survived by her daughter, Penny (Dieter) Otterbach of Shwaebisch Hall, Germany and her son, Timothy Burhans, of Port Orange who cared for her. She is further survived by four loving grandchildren, Will (Jill) Stephens of Adairsville, Georgia, Jeremy (Stephanie) Stephens of Jeffersonville, Kentucky, Nathan (Michelle) Burhans of Daytona Beach and Kendra Herrin (fiance Travis) of South Daytona along with eight beautiful great-grandchildren, Marshall, Lilly, Lauren, Addison, Savannah, Audrey, Brianna and Paul. She is also survived by her 94-year-old sister, Alta Dicken, of Waterloo, Iowa.

Bill and Lavon were married in 1952 and started their own business, Burhan's Business Machines, in 1965 on Orange Avenue. Bill sold and serviced typewriters while Lavon was the secretary/bookkeeper. They were very successful and well-known in the community for over 45 years. Lavon loved entertaining, traveling, camping and cooking.

Services were held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in South Daytona on March 28 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, cards may be sent to Timothy and Penny at 5923 Aruna Drive, Port Orange, FL 32127.



Dogs Like Easter Egg Hunts Too! Sponsored by Readlyn Vet



Wapsie Valley Prom 2026, "A Night In New York." Prom King Tanner Bergmann and Prom Queen Ava Auel. See the royal court on page 15.

Photo courtesy of Emily Koch Photography

Bremer Co. Passport to the Past starts May 1

Submitted by Kimberly Murphy, BCHS President

We are excited to announce our Bremer County Passport to the Past program, available starting May 1! Participants will receive a colorful passport book featuring 25 different locations around Bremer County that share the story of our community. There are three locations in Readlyn: the Library, the Historical Society, and the Freedom Rock. The Historical Society will be open the first Wednesday of each month, May-Sept., from 2-4 p.m. to allow easier access to visitors. Or, visits can be scheduled by calling Janet Huebner at 319-961-8379.

As you visit each location, you will receive a stamp in your booklet to mark completion. Locations will take you to local museums, historical trails and old historical

buildings around the community.

Once your booklet is completed, you can bring it to the Bremer County Historical Society to collect a swag bag (while supplies last) and be entered into a drawing for gift cards donated by local businesses, including car washes, meals, and hotel stays. Prizes will also be awarded to the first adult and first child to complete their adventure! Passport booklets are free of charge with registration. We are grateful to over 30 local sponsors who have donated to make this project happen!

This program is open to all ages and will run through the end of October. To register, please visit: <https://www.bremercountyhistoricalsociety.org/passport>.

If you have any questions, contact the Bremer County Historical Society at: bremercountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



Master Gardeners and Friends Plant & Garden Sale

Saturday, May 30th, 2026
9:00-11:00 AM

Bremer County Extension Office
720 7th Ave SW
Tripoli, IA 50676

Come shop a beautiful selection of:
• Plants & flowers
• Garden favorites
• Unique garden crafts



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Wapsie Valley FFA hold 49th Annual Chapter Banquet

Submitted by: Brinley Schellhorn
Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Reporter

On March 26, 2026, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter held its annual banquet in the high school auditorium. There were 34 members and 68 community members in attendance. The evening celebrated the chapter's accomplishments over the past year, recognized outstanding members, and expressed appreciation to supporters and community members.

The banquet began with the recognition of degree recipients. Discovery Degrees were awarded to junior high members who met the minimum requirements during the 2025–2026 school year. Those receiving the Discovery Degree were Makenna Boevers, Drew Destival, Easton Diers, Henry Geerts, Mallory Gissel, Kennly Happel, Dylan Matthias, Brylee Robinson, Draiven Russell, Keegan Strottmann, and Will Wedemeier. First-year members were then presented with the Greenhand Degree for meeting the minimum requirements during the 2025–2026 school year. Recipients included Lola Destival, Clare Murphy, Ashlyn Strottmann, and Jayden Suhr. Second-year members were recognized with the Chapter Degree for successfully meeting the requirements during the 2025–2026 school year. Those members were Tripp Gissel, Kiana Hilsenbeck, Daniel Matthias, Cole Munk, Ryker Oberle, Martha Rulapaugh, Brinley Schellhorn, Olivia Suhr, Evan Wedemeier, and Tate Wilkinson.

Only 5% of Iowa FFA members earn their State FFA Degree. In our chapter 3 members have met the requirements of being enrolled in agricultural education for at least two years, actively earned or invested at \$1,500 or 375 hours into their SAE and have completed 25 hours of community service. These Iowa Degree recipients will walk the stage at the 98th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership on April 21, 2026 to receive their certificate and degree charm. The chapter is extremely excited to celebrate the following recipients: Eric Bryan, Miriam Ralupaugh, and Kalle Voy.

One member from each grade level received a Star Award in recognition of their dedication to the chapter. The Star Potential Award was presented to seventh grader Will Wedemeier, while eighth grader Easton Diers received the Star Discovery Award. The Star Greenhand Award, given to a freshman member, was awarded to Ashlyn Strottmann.



2025-2026 Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Members: Front row, left to right: Mallory Gissel, Kennly Happel, Makenna Boevers, Will Wedemeier, Keegan Strottmann, Brylee Robinson, Drew Destival, Henry Geerts, Dylan Matthias; 2nd row: Clare Murphy, Ashlyn Strottmann, Miriam Rulapaugh, Lola Destival, Kylie Strottmann, Addilyn Fuller, Brinley Schellhorn, Martha Rulapaugh, Ella Schares, Easton Diers, Mae Wedemeier, Olivia Suhr, Gwen Forsyth, Kalle Voy; 3rd row: Eric Bryan, Jack Munk, Destry Peine, Tripp Gissel, Cole Munk, Tate Wilkinson, Evan Wedemeier, Daniel Matthias, Ryker Oberle, Zachary Boevers, Clare O'Donnell, Kiana Hilsenbeck, Jayden Suhr. Not pictured: Macyn Schultz, Wally Kaufman, Kali Ackerman, Ela Adamson, Reece Hagenow.

Additional honorees included Brinley Schellhorn as Star Sophomore, Addilyn Fuller as Star Junior, and Kylie Strottmann as Star Senior.

The Overall Chapter Star Award, one of the highest honors a member can receive, recognizes outstanding dedication and excellence throughout a student's FFA career. This year, the award was presented to senior Mae Wedemeier. Each of these members has demonstrated strong leadership and a commitment to the chapter, consistently serving as individuals others can rely on when needed.

Chapter proficiency awards were also presented to members in recognition of their outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. These awards highlight students who have developed specialized skills and demonstrated growth in areas such as entrepreneurship, placement, and research within the agricultural industry. Proficiency awards are based on record keeping, time and financial investment, and the knowledge gained through each member's SAE.

This year, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter recognized two members for their excellence in their respective proficiency areas. Ella Schares received the award for Beef Cattle Production Placement, earning a silver rating during state judging. Mae Wedemeier was honored in the area of Dairy Cattle Production Placement, achieving a gold rating and earning the title of state runner-up. Both of these members have demonstrated dedication, responsibility, and a strong commitment to advancing their skills through hands-on agricultural experiences, setting a high standard for their peers in the chapter.

The Iowa FFA Association, with sponsorship from the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, recognizes students who maintain a cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of the first semester of their senior year with the Academic Achievement Award. This year, senior members who earned this honor include Gwen Forsyth, Jack Munk, Claire O'Donnell, Ella Schares, Kylie Strottmann, Kalle Voy, and Mae Wedemeier. We are proud of their dedication to academics throughout their high school careers. Additionally, members who achieved a GPA of 3.49 or higher were also recognized for their academic excellence. These members are Lola Destival, Clare Murphy, Ashlyn Strottmann, Jayden Suhr, Daniel Matthias, Ryker Oberle, Brinley Schellhorn, Evan Wedemeier, Zachary Boevers, Gwen Forsyth, Jack Munk, Claire O'Donnell, Ella Schares, Kylie Strottmann, Kalle Voy, and Mae Wedemeier. Their hard work in the classroom reflects their commitment to success both in and out of FFA.

During the banquet, parents and community members who have dedicated countless hours to supporting the chapter were also recognized. Kayla Belinsky and Catherine Wedemeier both received the Blue & Gold Award for their outstanding contributions, while the Bremer County Cattlemen's Association was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. Sara Strottmann was recognized as the 2026 Honorary FFA Degree Member. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and commitment to the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter.

The following awards were presented

to students in recognition of their strong leadership and positive impact on the chapter. Claire O'Donnell received the Warrior Award for exemplifying the Warrior Way both in and out of FFA. Martha Rulapaugh was honored with the Shield of Friendship Award, and Tate Wilkinson received the Washington Award. Clare Murphy and Cole Munk were recognized with the Flag Award, Lola Destival received the Steel Plow Award, Destry Peine earned the Ear of Corn Award, and Tripp Gissel was presented with the Rising Sun Award. The Advisor's Award, recognizing outstanding service and dedication, was presented to Eric Bryan.

Three members also received the Spirit of FFA award; Mallory Gissel, Kennly Happel, and Brylee Robinson.

The banquet also included the retirement of the 2025–2026 officer team. We sincerely thank them for their time and dedication, and we wish the retiring senior officers the best of luck in their future endeavors. The team consisted of President Mae Wedemeier, Vice President Kylie Strottmann, Secretary Evan Wedemeier, Reporter Claire O'Donnell, Co-Reporter Ryker Oberle, Treasurer Zachary Boevers, and Sentinel Gwen Forsyth.

At the conclusion of the banquet, the 2026–2027 officer team was installed. The new team includes President Ryker Oberle, Vice President Ashlyn Strottmann, Secretary Martha Rulapaugh, Treasurer Evan Wedemeier, Reporter Brinley Schellhorn, and Sentinel Clare Murphy. The officers are eager to begin their year and excited to lead the chapter in the year ahead.

Jennifer Jaschen Attorney At Law

4817 University Avenue, Suite D
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
jaschenlaw@outlook.com
Phone: 319-553-3400

*Legal Focus: Real Estate, Estate
Planning, Wills, Trusts, Estates,
& Business Administration.*



AG & CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT REPAIR

Onsite or In-Shop Service

Ben Huebner • (319) 483-8232

Trusted Accounting Services

for Individuals & Businesses



Jeffrey F. Ariens, CPA
Quality Accounting Services
1002 Broadway Street
Waterloo, IA 50703
319-234-2813
www.qasiowa.com

Heroes Among Us: A Night of Gratitude, Generosity, Community

What an unforgettable evening for our community.

With grateful hearts, we are proud to share that the Heroes' Ball raised \$39,318.32 in support of the future Readlyn Emergency Services Building. Of that total, \$27,786.00 came from live and silent auctions, \$3,000.00 from sponsorships, and \$8,532.32 from dinner registrations and free-will donations.

This event was a beautiful reflection of what makes Readlyn so special—community, faith, generosity, and a deep appreciation for the men and women who serve through Fire and EMS.

The evening began with a prayer from Brian Meyer, retired Fire Chief, who also served as our Master of Ceremonies. Brian guided the night with heart, professionalism, and ease, ensuring everything flowed seamlessly.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Bents Smokehouse & Pub, featuring smoked prime rib or chicken, cheesy potatoes, green beans, assorted salads, and delicious desserts. We are so thankful not only for the amazing meal, but for the outstanding people at Bents who helped make the night so special.

Scott Broten provided an update on the Emergency Services Building project, sharing what to expect as plans continue to move forward. Janeen Tiedt then delivered a heartfelt and humorous testimony that perfectly captured why the men and women who serve Readlyn through Fire and EMS are true heroes. Her words reminded us all of the impact these volunteers have on so many lives.

Our live auction was led by Layne Hilsenbeck, an Oran Fire/EMS member, who did an incredible job energizing the crowd and making the auction both fun and successful. He was assisted by several of our very own firefighters—Ben Anderson, Miles Matthias, Kory Hesse, Nick Kuker, and Chad Ott—which made the moment even more meaningful. The evening was capped off with music from Luke Farland, ending the night on a fun and memorable note.

We extend our deepest thanks to all the businesses, families, and individuals who donated auction items, gave cash donations, sponsored the event, attended, bid, volunteered, and supported this cause in any way. Your generosity truly made this night possible.

A detailed list of donors and sponsors can be found at the end of this article.

We are also incredibly grateful to the Heroes' Ball Planning Committee for bringing this event together: Hailey Broten, Lynn Ott, Megan Kuker, Steph Matthias, Nancy Kleitsch, Glenda Kleitsch, Miranda Wagner, Tiffany Matthias, Courtney Hesse and Jessica Anderson.

Thank you to our kid servers, Josie and Gentry Ott, Layla, Addison, and Wyatt Broten for their enthusiasm and support, and to our high school and college volunteers, Ava Auel, Tanner Bergmann, Caleb Hogan, Sadie Hogan, Maya Barnes, Garrett Miller, and Miss Readlyn Kylie Strottmann for their help throughout the evening. What an outstanding group of volunteers!

A Special Thank You to Bents Smokehouse and Pub

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Bents Smokehouse and Pub. You would never know they have only been open for a few short months by the exceptional way they handled our event. From start to finish, they were gracious, accommodating, and incredibly easy to

work with. The food was absolutely phenomenal, but their generosity went far beyond the meal.

Bents donated a very generous live auction item, the large grill complete with everything needed to grill the perfect meal. When we mentioned how many guests had asked whether one of the beautiful, hand-crafted benches in their restaurant would be up for auction, they initially said no. Less than an hour later, they returned with an idea of their own, offering to cover half the cost while partnering with us on the other half. They immediately contacted the craftsman who makes the benches, and he delivered a brand new bench that very night, which went on to receive one of the highest bids of the evening.

Jason, Sheila, and their entire staff are some of the most genuine and kind people you could hope to work with. What an honor it is to have Bents Smokehouse and Pub in Readlyn, and what an honor it was to partner with them to make the Heroes' Ball such a meaningful success.

Most of all, we thank the past and present members of Readlyn Fire and EMS. This night was created to honor you and to support the future of emergency services in our community. You are the true heroes, and we are beyond grateful for your service, sacrifice, and dedication.

Thank you, Readlyn, for believing in this mission and for once again showing what can happen when a community comes together.

Thank You to Our Donors

We extend our sincerest gratitude to the following businesses, organizations, families, and individuals who generously donated items for our live and silent auctions, as well as those who supported the Heroes' Ball through cash donations. Your kindness, generosity, and belief in this mission played a vital role in the success of this event. Because of you, we are one step closer to supporting the future of Readlyn's emergency services. Thank you for standing with our Fire and EMS heroes and for showing the strength of a community that comes together with purpose and heart.

Silent & Live Auction Donors: A&B Destination & Travel (Brad Buck), AllyCats, AMC Theater, Balanced, Barb Blaylock, Bents Smokehouse, Bodensteiner Implement, Bremer Brewing, Bremer County Pheasants Forever, Cardinal Construction, Casey's, Cedar Rapids Kernels, Charlie and Wilda Albrecht, Chase the Adventure, Community Lutheran School (CLS), Costas, Dan & Marva Schuldt, Dan's Hobby House, DHK Welding, Diamond Auto Spa (Denver), Dinges Fire Supply, Doris Hagenow, EDJ Whitetails, Ed Traeger, Erin Matthias, Fairbank Aquatic, Farmers Win Coop, Fire Dept Coffee, Framing Iowa, Fun Station, Gallagher Bluedorn, Green Bay Packers, Gina & Barney Wiersma, Grain & Thread, Heroes Ball Committee, Hockeys Smokehouse, Holly's Boutique, Iowa Cubs, Iowa State Fair, Iowa State University, Iowa Wild & Dinges, Isle Casino, Jeff Schutte, John & Nancy Kleitsch, Kansas City Royals, Kenrick & Alissa Schares, Legacy Roofing, LSB Wealth Mgmt., Main Street Exchange, Martin Brothers, Matthias Fabrication, Mane Event, Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, Modern Building Products, Myers Polaris, Natalie Koepke, Nebraska Athletics, NNPBS, Ordinance Woodworks (Brent Miller), P&K Midwest, Principal, Readlyn Community Club, Readlyn Elementary, Readlyn EMS Association, Readlyn Fire Association, Readlyn Fire Wives, Readlyn Library, Readlyn Saving Banks, Rick Thacher, Ron Ingersoll, RTC Communications, Schuldt Repair, Scott & Hailey Broten, Scott & Rosene Broten, Scott & Tanner Kroeze, Single Speed Brewery, Spahn & Rose, SS & S Custom Spools, St Louis Cardinals, St

Matthew Martha Circle, State Street Coffee, Sweet Spot, Texas Roadhouse, The Kleitsch Family, Tiffany Matthias, Titan Machinery, Tito's, TruStage, TruServe, UNI Athletics, Vernon Clefisch, Wapsie Valley Athletic Booster Club, Wapsie Valley Music Boosters, Waverly Tire, Weeds on Fire, What Is Up Podcast, Wild Carrot, Willow Run, Wittenburg Truckline, Waterloo Black Hawks

Event Financial Sponsors: Ben & Jaci Hogan, Ben Heubner, Bill Westendorf, Brandon Nading, Bri-

an & Brenda Meyer, Craig & Tonya Anderson Dan & Connie Wedemeier, David & Lisa Matthias, Ethan & Sara Strottmann, Grace Kuethe, JD & Kira Stover, Justin Schmitz, Kenny Fettkether, Kristie Boise, Kwik Star, Landon Kuhlman, Larry & Vicky Pavelec, MacQueen Equipment, Mike & Janeen Tiedt, Mike Buenzow, Miles & Steph Matthias, Pastor Miguel, Rick & Barb Schares, Rick & Lois Thacher, Ron & Denise Oltrogge, Tenenbaum's Jewelry, TruServe, VGM Group, Zach & Kerrigan Kuhlmann





WILEY CONSTRUCTION

Siding, Roofing
Home Remodeling
Ag Building Repairs
Nick Wiley
Cell 319-404-3518
Home 319-279-3518

DENVER, IA

MEDICARE QUESTIONS? I CAN HELP!



Call Me, Your **LOCAL** Medicare Expert
Amy Rechkemmer | 319-635-2526
VanDaele Insurance
119 E MAIN ST • FAIRBANK

KEN'S ELECTRICAL · HVAC · SOLAR








For all your Electrical, Geothermal, HVAC, Solar and Generator needs!
Licensed HVAC and Electrical technicians.
CallKens.com Certified Generac Service Dealer. **319-208-3382**





“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

Lifting and Investing: The Power of Time, Consistency... and a Good Spotter

I’ve been interested in lifting weights for years, but it wasn’t until recently when I started training with a few other stronger and smarter women that I finally started seeing real results and actually enjoying the process. Before that, my routine looked pretty typical: I’d find a free program on YouTube, follow it as consistently as life allowed, and eventually hit a wall. My confidence would waiver with questions like:

- Am I doing this correctly?
- Should I be adding more weight?
- What if it’s too heavy and I hurt myself?
- Why am I feeling this in my back when the YouTube lady says I should feel it in my legs?

Without clear answers, I’d eventually lose momentum and quit. I see the exact same pattern in my work as a financial and wealth advisor.



One of the best approaches I’ve learned in the gym is the concept of a progressive overload: the practice of gradually increasing the weight, reps, or intensity over time to keep making progress and avoid plateaus. It sounds simple, but trying to push your limits is a lot easier (and safer) when you have a spotter. A spotter is someone watching out for you, encouraging you, and making sure you don’t get stuck or hurt. Building wealth is also about consistent effort over time and it never hurts to have someone there to keep you accountable and on track when life tugs at you to go off-plan.

The truth is, there are levels to both lifting and investing just like the well-known “stages of competence”:

- **Unconscious Incompetence:** You don’t know what you don’t know... and you don’t really care. Ignorance feels like bliss... until it doesn’t.
- **Conscious Incompetence:** You realize there’s a gap between where you are and where you want to be. You see the potential, and you’re ready to do something about it.
- **Conscious Competence:** You’re actively working to close that gap whether by learning on your own or partnering with a professional who can guide you.
- **Unconscious Competence:** You’ve either mastered the skill yourself or you’ve found someone you trust to handle it for you. You can finally relax and stop losing sleep over it.

I’m still very much in stages 2 and 3 with my lifting journey, but I’ve discovered something powerful: training with the two women who are stronger and more experienced than me is not only more fun, it’s dramatically more effective. So if you’re ready to move out of whatever stage you’re currently in and stop wondering whether you’re doing it “right,” we’d love to be the spotter to your financial goals.

You bring the commitment. We’ll bring the guidance, the confidence, and the long-term plan.

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

Financial Advisor
Prime Capital Financial
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
pciacedarrapids.com
(319) 269-7143

Scan Here to Learn
More About Me!



This information does not constitute legal advice. Prime Capital Financial and its associates do not provide legal advice. Individuals should consult with an attorney regarding the applicability of this information for their situations.

Advisory products and services offered by Investment Adviser Representatives through Prime Capital Investment Advisors, LLC (“PCIA”), a federally registered investment adviser. Tax planning and preparation services are offered through Prime Capital Tax Advisory. PCIA: 6201 College Blvd., Suite 150, Overland Park, KS 66211. PCIA doing business as Prime Capital Financial | Wealth | Retirement | Wellness | Family Office | Tax Advisory.



Work has started on the new track and football field! The top several feet of limestone from the current track was used to make a new driveway coming off the county road right onto the north side of the field. This will be a great entrance for all of the construction vehicles to use during construction rather than going through the parking lot or all the way around to the south side. Workers will continue to build up this new entrance as well as continue digging out the dirt for the new track. Enjoy the destruction picture and follow us on our Facebook page for periodic pictures and updates. This project is set to be substantially completed by August 31, 2026!

Wapsie Valley FFA Recognized at Northeast FFA District Convention

By Claire O'Donnell, Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Reporter

On Saturday March 7, eight Wapsie Valley FFA members attended the Northeast FFA District Convention at East Buchanan High School where members competed in various events throughout the day.

Ashlyn Strottmann competed in the FFA Creed Speaking contest, earning a gold rating and placing third. She advanced to state and will recite the FFA Creed again in April.

Kylie Strottmann and Gwen Forsyth competed in the Chapter Website event. Along with contributions from Destry Peine and Jack Munk, they created a chapter website featuring current information, chapter history, and more. The team presented their work at districts, where they earned a gold rating, placed second, and advanced to state competition.

Evan Wedemeier competed in the Secretary's Book contest, earning a gold rating, placing second, and advancing to state.

Claire O'Donnell competed in the Reporter's Scrapbook event, where she earned a gold rating, placed third, and was named a state alternate.

Brinley Schellhorn and Martha Rulapaugh competed in the Chapter Quiz event, both earning gold ratings, with Schellhorn placing fourth overall.

In addition to the contests, Wapsie Valley FFA was represented by Evan and Mae Wedemeier, who served as voting delegates. Ryker Oberle was also a candidate for the Northwest Sub District Vice President position on the FFA District Officer Team. During the district convention, Ryker delivered his candidate speech to the delegates and finished as runner-up.

Senior FFA members Gwen Forsyth, Claire O'Donnell, Miriam Rulapaugh, Kylie Strottmann, and Mae Wedemeier received the Academic Achievement Award. This honor is presented to students who are dedicated to their schoolwork and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of the fall semester of their senior year.

The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter is very proud of all members who competed at District Convention. We are excited to see our district-advancing teams, as well as other contest teams, prepared to compete at the 98th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference, April 19-21, 2026.



Wapsie Valley FFA — Front row, left to right: Ashlyn Strottmann, Mae Wedemeier, Kylie Strottmann, Brinley Schellhorn, Martha Rulapaugh; back row: Evan Wedemeier, Claire O'Donnell, Ryker Oberle.



Wapsie Valley Prom Royalty — Front row, left to right: Ava Auel, Maleena Sander, Ella Morarend, Claire O'Donnell, Mae Wedemeier; back row, Tanner Bergmann, Derek Mathias, Krayton Zimmerman, Briggs Boehme, Ari Behnke. Photo contributed

Wapsie Valley Archers Compete at the State Tournament

By Coach Mason Schares

The Wapsie Valley archery program was well represented at the state archery tournament in Des Moines, Iowa on March 27-29. Both the middle school and high school teams qualified to compete at the state level, along with several individual students who earned spots through their strong performances during the season.

Qualifying for the state tournament is a major accomplishment and reflects the dedication, focus, and discipline that the students have shown throughout the year. Archery is often viewed as a simple sport, but in reality it is one of the most challenging sports a student can participate in.

Unlike many sports that rely heavily on speed or physical strength, archery requires an incredible amount of mental focus and consistency. Each archer must control their breathing, maintain proper form, draw the bow smoothly, anchor in the same position every time, and release the arrow cleanly—all while blocking out distractions. Even the smallest mistake in form or focus can move an arrow just enough to affect the score.

What makes archery especially difficult is that students are competing on several levels at once. Every archer is first competing with themselves, trying to improve their own score and maintain consistency shot after shot. At the same time, they are competing alongside their teammates, pushing each other to perform better. Finally, they are competing against students from schools across the state, all striving for the same goal.

This unique structure makes qualifying for state a significant achievement. The students who qualified as individuals should be extremely proud of their accomplishments, as earning an individual spot requires exceptional skill and consistency. Likewise, the middle school and high school teams should be proud of qualifying as a team, which reflects the combined effort and performance of every archer contributing to the final team score.

The success of the Wapsie Valley archery program highlights the hard work the students have put in throughout the season. As they prepared to compete in Des Moines, they carried with them not only their skills on the range but also the discipline, focus, and teamwork that archery teaches.

The entire Wapsie Valley community congratulates these students on their achievements as they represented their school at the state tournament late last month.

Wapsie Valley State Archery

Individuals: William Kuker, Joanna Rulapaugh, Caitlynn Busch, Parker Morris, Hoyt Hammond, William Kempf, Samuel Reckemmer, Izaiah Liguez.

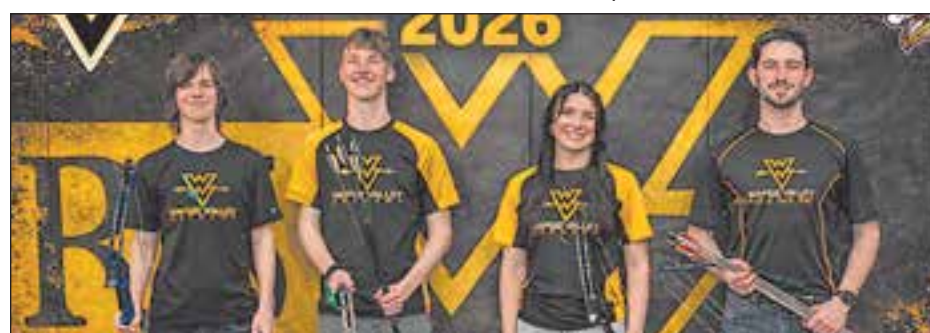
Middle School: Hunter Hutschenreuter, Alexander Brown, Stella Auel, Henry Geerts, Rilyn Buhman, Makenna Boevers, Landen Willard, Dusty Brunscheon, Draiven Russell, Drake Heinze, Cael Busch, Kasen Mangrich, Emma Griese, Easton Diers, Dylan Mathias, Keegan Strottmann, Izaak Fish, Easton Kleitsch, Breanna Wenger, Ellie Mason, Emersyn Powell, Porter Morris, Wyatt Sullivan, Bella Eike.

High School: Lariaunna Rochette, Marshall Weepie, Jack Forsyth, Landyn Buhman, Emerie Parkes, Ava Aiello, Jack Brodigan, Evan Wedemeier, Drake Russell, Kali Ackerman, Olivia Suhr, Zachary Boevers, Cameron Szurley, Kyle Knight, Reagan Szurley, Cole Munk, Ethan Biretz, Brinley Schellhorn, Elijah Eike, Cole Wehling, Daniel Matthias, Lilly Diers, Mykel Moothart.

Wapsie Valley Archery can be followed on the archery club's Facebook page, titled Wapsie Valley Archery.



During Iowa's State Archery Championship, Lariaunna Rochette won 2nd Place in the High School Girls Division. She also won All-State Team (State Score plus Regular Season Score) and a \$1,000 Scholarship. With these accomplishments, Lariaunna will represent Wapsie Valley Archery at the NASP National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky, May 7-9. Her coaches, teammates, and the entire community congratulate Lariaunna on this outstanding achievement and wish her the best of luck as she competes on the national level!



Senior archers, left to right: Cameron Szurley, Elijah Eike, Emerie Parkes, Marshall Weepie.

Wapsie Valley School Board Meetings - March 16 & 25, 2026

Wapsie Valley CSD Public Hearing & Regular School Board Meeting March 16, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Aiello called the Public Hearing on the 26-27 School Calendar order at 6:01 PM.

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman
B. Supt. Hoover, Principals Forsyth, Murphy, & Myers. Arndt (Virtual)

C. Others: Vaughn Gross, Chad Frost, Tammy Kaufman, Elaine Zimmerman, Tim Zimmerman, & virtual participants.

2. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0

3. Public comment-No written or verbal comments

4. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 6:03 PM-Motion carried 5-0

1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:03 PM.

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman
B. Supt. Hoover, Principals Forsyth, Murphy, & Myers. Arndt (Virtual)

C. Others: Vaughn Gross, Chad Frost, Tammy Kaufman, Elaine Zimmerman, & Tim Zimmerman, & virtual participants.

2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0

3. Public Comment: Vaughn Gross talked about the Robotics team competing at the state level and brainstorming on increasing participation. Chad Frost and Tammy Kaufman voiced their concerns regarding renewal of the wrestling coaches contract for 26-27.

4. Family, Career & Community Leaders of America displayed their projects that will be taken to state competition and to National competition if scoring high enough to advance. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker to approve the FCCLA National trip to Washington DC in July 2026 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

5. Track/Football Field Project-Pre-construction meeting went very well and working with Cardinal is going very

well. The Bleachers are gone, Board had some questions regarding curing of the track that Mr. Hoover will get answers to.

6. Garrett from Piper Sandler presented the summary of bond bids received. Moved by Broten, Jr., Seconded by Auel to approve \$2,995,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services And Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2026A Consideration of Financing Proposals Opened and Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the Board of Directors, and the Placement Agent, Resolution Directing the Sale as presented. Roll call - Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.,-Aye, & Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1

7. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve \$525,000 taxable School Infrastructure Sales, Services, and Use Tax Revenue, Series 2026B Financing Proposals Opened and Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the Board of Directors, and the Placement Agent Resolution Directing the Sale as presented. Roll call - Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.,-Aye, Kaufman-Aye & Aiello-Aye. Motion carried 5-0

8. Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Becker to approve \$530,000 taxable School Infrastructure Sales, Services, and Use Tax Revenue, Series 2026B Financing Proposals Opened and Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the Board of Directors, and the Placement Agent Resolution Directing the Sale as presented. Roll call - Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.,-Aye, & Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1

9. Consent Items: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the consent items including the time of adjournment for the March 6, 2026 special board meeting being 8:41AM not 7:41AM, and the bills being reviewed by Scott Broten Jr., with open enrollments: 26-27-Danielle Rulapaugh 1st-grade son to WV from Oelwein, 26-27 Danielle Sheldon-7th-grade son and 8th grade daughter to WV from Oelwein, OUT - 26-27-Garrick & Taylor Reinking kindergarten son to West Central from WV, 26-27-Marcie Even kindergarten son to Dunkerton from WV, 26-27-Austin Kane 11th-grade daughter to Cedar Falls from WV, & Keisha Pul-

lin 4th-grade son & 11th grade daughter to Dunkerton from WV after a family move into the WV district as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Also, funds will be transferred from the Activity interest account to support minimum registration fees for Future Business Leadership of America (\$100-5 students), Family Career & Community Leader of America, (\$240-12 students), Future Farmers of America (\$100-5 students) & Skills USA (\$100-5 students).

10. Communication & Reports: Board: Steve enjoyed reading at the Rural schools for Literacy week.

Superintendent: Mr. Hoover's report included Football Field/Track Construction Timeline, & possible storm District-PK-12 Principals: Report includes student led conferences, professional development, literacy week, NICL academic conference, ISASP testing, blood drive, spring activities, POPS concert, & FFA district contests.

11. Personnel Actions- Resignations: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the resignations of Kaci Beesecker-Assistant HS Softball Coach-effective immediately, Marty McKowen-HS Boys Basketball Coach, Chris Hoover-Superintendent effective June 30, 2026, Samantha Westcott-Para-Professional-March 13, 2026 Justin Davie-Social Studies Teacher, Head Boys Track, Head Girls/Boys Cross Country-end of school year Tiffany Beyer-JH Softball, effective immediately, Brenda Hagenow-Special Education Para-professional-end of school year and thank them for their service to the staff and students of WV as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Broten, Jr. Seconded by Becker to approve the following contracts Sheila Seelhammer-Study Hall Supervisor-\$12.67 P/H, & Tiffany Beyer-Assistant Softball Coach-\$2,230 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

12. New Business-Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 26-27 school calendar as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Arndt presented the FY27 preliminary budget, FY27 budget guarantee and FY26 budget amendment. FY27 proposed budget will be published with the same tax rate of \$14.00087 as the property tax statement was and set the public hearing date for the FY27 budget, FY26 budget amendment for April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve WV/CLS 26-27 PK Agreement as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Becker to approve 26-27 AEA Purchasing Agreement as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker to approve the 25-26 & 26-27 Boys & Girls Bowling Agreement with Oelwein as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve an increase for Certified staff of 2.78% Total Package-estimated District Cost-\$135,599.51 for the 26-27 school year and 2.87% Total Package-estimated District Cost-\$143,526.81 for the 27-28 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve an increase for Non-Certified staff of 3% Total Package-estimated District cost \$45,866.34 for 26-27 school year and 3% Total Package-estimated District cost of \$46,745.91 for the 27.28 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Board Policy 501.09 Chronic Absenteeism & Truancy as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker to approve the sharing agreement of School Business Official Resource only with Sumner-Fredericksburg for the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the 2027 early graduation for Devin McConnelee pending all graduation requirements are met as presented. Motion carried 5-0

13. Board Talking Points - None

14. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 7:35 PM Motion carried 5-0

ACCESS SYSTEMS \$70.53 AGVANTAGE FS \$16,375.24 AHLERS & COONEY, P.C. \$114.00 ALLIANT ENERGY \$354.57 Amazon \$730.91 ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY \$504.93 AUDIBLE \$16.00 BEACHY, RACHEL \$40.50 BLACK HAWK SPRINKLERS \$779.00 BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$484.05 BURGART, REYCE \$175.00 BUTLER COUNTY REC \$3,497.61 CASEY'S \$43.90 CEDAR FALLS CSD \$16,523.78 CENTRAL IA DISTRIB \$1,146.00 CENTRAL RIV-

ERS AEA \$37,827.80 CHEMSEARCH \$235.36 CITY LAUNDRY \$1,171.07 CITY OF FAIRBANK \$4,558.70 CITY OF READLYN \$4,191.95 COLUMN SFTWR \$233.45 EAST-CENTRAL IA REC \$566.62 Employee Benefit Systems \$79,421.95 EMS DETERGENT \$17.35 FAREWAY \$341.91 FERGUSON \$133.98 GIBBS, JAYLYN \$536.13 Hawkeye Alarm & Signal \$760.00 HOTEL MILLWRIGHT \$132.48 IFCSE \$200.00 IADHS \$4,405.14 IA FCCLA \$2,040.00 IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES \$556.63 Keyston AEA 1 \$6,737.25 KLUESNER SANITATION \$640.00 KWIK TRIP \$65.46 LARRY'S SERVICE & RPR \$242.98 LITTLE WAPSIE COMM \$175.08 MAVERICK \$75.52 Menards \$493.62 MODERN BUILDING \$46.83 OELWEIN PUBLISHING \$24.66 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$164.64 OTHER PLACE, THE \$100.00 RABER, EDNA \$81.00 RAISA A HALLELUJAH, LLC \$1,400.00 READLYN TELEPHONE \$187.91 REALITY WORKS \$1,864.67 RELAYHUB LLC \$291.12 ROLLERCOASTER \$31.90 SAM'S CLUB \$130.64 SCHOOL BUS SALES \$340.91 School Fix \$186.95 STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS \$473.85 STELLER TEACHER \$29.00 STICKFORT ELECTRIC \$285.53 SULLIVAN, HEATHER \$60.90 UBIQUITI STORE \$6.00 Walmart \$193.13 WATERLOO COMM SCHL \$4,267.63 WILSON RESTAURANT \$175.00 YOUNG PLUMB & HTNG \$247.50 General Total \$197,206.22 Employee Benefit Systems \$5,634.86 Management Total \$5,634.86 CARDINAL CNSTRCTN \$13,318.58 Capital Projects Total \$13,318.58 EMERGENCY \$15,035.70 SAVE Total \$15,035.70 ACCESS SYSTEMS \$1,569.00 CEDAR FALLS CSD \$2,408.35 Central Rivers AEA \$1,420.40 FERGUSON \$479.53 GIGFIRE \$70.00 Hawkeye Alarm & Signal \$515.00 LOCKSPERTS \$711.28 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$100.00 STICKFORT ELECTRIC \$481.68 WILSON RESTAURANT \$1,032.62 YOUNG PLUMB & HTNG \$1,698.27 PPEL Total \$10,486.13 SCHWARTZ, KAYLA \$29.94 Before & After School Total \$29.94 Amazon \$3,867.24 BRAIN POP \$175.00 GRIZZLY \$1,945.00 SCHOOL SPECIALTY \$151.03 Teacher Synergy \$53.75 WRITING REVOLUTION \$300.00 ZUCK, MALYNDA \$400.00 WVEF Total \$6,892.02 IHSMA \$30.00 J.W. PEPPER \$65.00 Gallup Trust Total \$95.00 ADAMS, DAN \$316.96 Amazon \$91.63 ATLANTIC COCA-COLA \$171.17 BSN SPORTS \$756.00 BUFFALO WILD WINGS \$125.43 CHIDESTER, STEVE \$100.00 Comfort Suites -\$623.97 COUNTRY VIEW DAIRY \$102.00 DICKINSON RELAYS \$275.00 EDGEWOOD EVENT CNTR \$1,370.70 ELITE SPORTS \$97.57 ELITE SPORTSWEAR \$319.84 FCCLA \$36.00 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) \$80.00 GLEN SNYDER \$85.00 GOBILDA \$188.19 HESSE, BLAKE \$570.00 Iowa AAU Wrestling \$360.00 IHSAA \$750.00 IOWA SPORTS SUPPLY \$60.00 Jethro's BBQ \$161.19 JOERGER, LAKIN \$450.00 JONES, MAREN \$120.00 MCDONALDS \$39.61 NATIONAL FFA ORG \$36.00 NITZ, KATELYN \$55.31 SAM'S CLUB \$181.28 SCRATCH CUPCAKERY \$400.00 Signs and More \$167.75 SMOKEY D'S \$146.49 STUBER, LYDIA \$60.00 TEXAS ROADHOUSE \$150.98 TIMELESS TRADITIONS \$461.25 TownePlace Suites \$934.08 Walmart \$85.32 Was-kow, Dave \$85.00 WEDEMEIER, MAE \$250.00 WENGER, ERNIE \$570.00 WIERSMA, BARNEY \$110.00 Yant, Evan \$400.00 Activity Total \$10,095.78 ATLANTIC COCA-COLA \$716.70 EMS DETERGENT \$873.28 FAREWAY \$65.92 KWIK TRIP \$6.72 MARTIN BROS. \$14,344.00 PRAIRIE FARMS \$3,098.86 SHUPE, CINDY \$50.00 ULINE \$274.05 Lunch Total \$19,429.53

Readlyn City Council - March 9, 2026

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026 to review bills. Keith Brunscheon, Joseph Jones and Rocco Imbrogno were all present.

The Readlyn City Council met in open session at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026 for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Nicole Barnes, Keith Brunscheon, Rocco Imbrogno and Joseph Jones. Absent: Jason Franck. Other in attendance included: Steve Aiello, Barney Wiersma, Austin Matthias, Shane Kelley (with Access Systems) and Kris McGrane.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve consent agenda items, which included the regular council meeting minutes from 2/9/2026, the claims list from 2/10/2026 to 3/9/2026 and the February 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer's & Financial). All said aye. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Wedemeier advised the council about parking complaints, the parade route for the 2026 town celebration (same as last year), the streets that are requested to be closed for the 2026 town celebration (same as last year), he's been helping with the city budget, working with the public works employees on the city's water filter system, he's planning on communicating with Butler County REC on some economic development items, and updates on the county emergency management budget as well as the status of a county tax levy for emergency services.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Brunscheon to approve receiving reports from the city clerk, police and public works. All said aye. Motion carried.

City Clerk McGrane provided information and a breakdown of cost estimates for a copy machine con-

tract and a new telephone system contract from Access Systems and Gordon Flesch. Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve moving forward with a lease/contract with Access Systems for a new copy machine and phone system/software. Ayes-Jones, Brunscheon, Barnes. Nays- Imbrogno. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve holding the city clean-up days on May 4 and 5, 2026. All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve appointing Bryce Destival to the Readlyn Fire Department. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Imbrogno to approve the city clerk and superintendent to attend spring conferences as requested and that all future, currently budgeted and reoccurring trainings, conferences and meetings be approved at the discretion of the mayor. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to accept receiving and reviewing the Independent Accountant's Report on the agreed-upon procedures for Fiscal Year 2025. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve and set the property tax levy rate at 14.99329. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve setting a special meeting for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:05PM or immediately following the public hearing to set the second public hearing date and time for the FY2027 budget. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:24PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk

tract and a new telephone system contract from Access Systems and Gordon Flesch. Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve moving forward with a lease/contract with Access Systems for a new copy machine and phone system/software. Ayes-Jones, Brunscheon, Barnes. Nays- Imbrogno. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve holding the city clean-up days on May 4 and 5, 2026. All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve appointing Bryce Destival to the Readlyn Fire Department. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Imbrogno to approve the city clerk and superintendent to attend spring conferences as requested and that all future, currently budgeted and reoccurring trainings, conferences and meetings be approved at the discretion of the mayor. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to accept receiving and reviewing the Independent Accountant's Report on the agreed-upon procedures for Fiscal Year 2025. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve and set the property tax levy rate at 14.99329. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve setting a special meeting for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:05PM or immediately following the public hearing to set the second public hearing date and time for the FY2027 budget. Roll call, all said aye, motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:24PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk

Wapsie Valley CSD Special Board Meeting Minutes March 25, 2026

1. President Aiello called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 6:01PM.

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

B. Secretary-Kim Arndt

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

3. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr. to go into Closed Session 21.5(i) at 6:01PM with a Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to exit closed session at 8:00 PM with a Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0

4. Unfinished Business-None

5. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr. to adjourn at 8:00PM. Motion carried 5-0

Wapsie Valley Special School Board Meetings - March 30 & 31, 2026

Wapsie Valley CSD Public Hearing & Special School Board Meeting March 30, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Aiello called the Public Hearing on the 26-27 Property Tax Statement to order at 6:01 PM. Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Becker. Broten Jr., & Kaufman-Aye Motion carried 5-0

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman
B. Secretary Arndt, Supt. Hoover (excused)

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

3. President Aiello read opening statements regarding public hearing requirements and property tax statement.

Secretary Arndt stated the property tax statement was published at a tax rate of \$14.00 for the 2026-2027 school year decreasing from the 25-26 tax rate of \$14.02. The proposed budget for 2026-2027 will also be published at the tax rate of \$14.00.

4. Public comment-No written or verbal comments

5. Closed the Public Hearing and adjourned at 6:05 PM-Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Becker. Broten Jr., & Kaufman-Aye Motion carried 5-0

1. President Aiello called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 6:06 PM.

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Becker, Broten Jr., & Kaufman
B. Secretary Arndt, & Supt. Hoover (excused)

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

3. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr.-Roll call-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-

Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 to approve the Resolution Appointing Paying Agent, Note Registrar, and Transfer Agent, Approving the Paying Agent, Note Registrar and Transfer Agent Agreement, and Authorizing the Execution of Same as presented

4. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 to approve the form of Tax Exemption Certificate as presented.

5. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr.-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 to approve Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$530,000 General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026, Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof, and Authorizing the Execution of a Loan Agreement as presented.

6. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr.-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Aiello-Aye-Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1 to approve the Resolution Appointing Paying Agent, Bond Registrar, and Transfer Agent, Approving the Paying Agent, Bond Registrar and Transfer Agent Agreement and Authorizing the Execution of Same as presented.

7. Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Becker-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Aiello-Aye-Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1 to approve the form of Tax Exemption Certificate as presented.

8. Moved by Becker, Seconded by Auel-Roll Call Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Aiello-Aye-Kaufman-Nay Motion carried 4-1 to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Terms of Issuance and Providing for and Securing the Payment of School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Se-

ries 2026A, and the Taxable School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2026B.

9. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker to approve board policies-704.02R1-Post-Issuance Compliance Regulation, 704.07-Post-Issuance Compliance Policy for Tax-Exempt Obligations, 704.07E(1)-Bond Disclosure Policy-Key Participants & Responsibilities, 704.07E(2) Bond Disclosure Agreement Inventory as presented. Motion carried 5-0

10. Board Talking Points - Make sure we have a schedule of board policy review dates to keep our policies compliant.

Tara Sullivan will begin training approximately June 1, 2026 with Kim Arndt to learn the role of a School Business Official.

11. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 6:33 PM Motion carried 5-0

**Wapsie Valley CSD
Special Board Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2026**

1. President Aiello called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 2:37PM.

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

B. Secretary-Kim Arndt, Tara Sullivan & Tina Kaufman(7:25PM)

2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the updated agenda to reference a start time of 2:37PM due to Superintendent interviews as presented. Motion carried 5-0

3. Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Becker to go into Closed Session 21.5(i) at 2:38PM with a Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye,

Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0 To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to exit closed session at 3:34 PM with a Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Becker to go into Closed Session 21.5(i) at 3:48PM-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to exit Closed Session at 4:44PM-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to go into Closed Session 21.5(i) at 5:07PM-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Becker to exit Closed Session at 8:51PM-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0

4. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to extend a one year Superintendent contract to Timothy (TJ) Murphy \$130,000 effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 as presented-Roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye-Motion carried 5-0

5. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to adjourn at 8:54PM. Motion carried 5-0

READLYN OUTDOORS

By Eric Johnston
Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com



“Boating”

It’s hard to believe the end of April is here already. With the warmer weather, we turn our attention to warm weather activities.

An activity I don’t write about, and I honestly spend a lot of time in the outdoors enjoying, is boating. This month, I’ll take you through an adventure I had my first trip out of the 2026 season and provide some tips to make your time on the water more enjoyable.

It was mid-March and the forecast went from brutally cold on Monday to highs of 80 by Saturday. I mumbled to myself, “Yeah, right,” as I listened to this forecast on Tuesday morning. I continued to watch through the week and, to my surprise, it continued to hold at that warmth. By Thursday, I set plans to make my way to our cabin in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin to take the boat out for a preseason run and possibly do some fishing for the weekend.



I went through my normal spring checklist to get the boat water-ready. I checked all my batteries and made sure of a full charge and solid clean connections. Carefully, I check all wiring and look for loose or corroded connections and turn on everything to make sure fuses and switches all work. Next, inside the boat I inspect all life jackets, throwable flotation, and fire extinguisher. Checking boat running lights and horn is also a must.

On the motor, I check all wiring connections and pull spark plugs to inspect and replace if needed. Lastly, I inspect the trailer for proper lights working, wheels and tires are in good shape and check wheel bearing grease. I then make sure all fluids are topped off and start up the motor attached to a garden hose, listen to the engine run and make sure water cooling is working correctly. I had all this done late Thursday evening and by Friday afternoon I was on my way to the cabin.

Saturday morning dawned calm and warm, very unusual for the time of year, and my excitement was high. I put the boat in at the Prairie Marina. The motor fired right up and I idled out of the no-wake zone feeling pretty good. After 25 years of tournament bass fishing, the start of each spring never gets old and that youthful excitement still resides in me.

As I hit the gas and got on plane, the Mercury engine roared and I was on my way to one of my favorite early spring fishing spots on the Mississippi River. As I reached top speed, I noticed an abrupt drop in my water pressure gauge reading. It still read within reasonable pressure, however, it concerned me. I thought, “OK, file that, need to replace water pump before the season fully kicks off but I’ll continue on today.”

The river was low for early spring and the area I was heading to is shallow at best to get to but I felt confident in getting there. I made my run through the shall-



low area and arrived with no problem. I jumped up front, grabbed my fishing rod and deployed my trolling motor. I pushed the button to go forward and, to my disappointment, nothing happened. The switch would not turn it on with the foot pedal.

I anchored the boat and started to troubleshoot the problem. I found that the continuous run option made the motor run and the variable speed worked so I knew I was in good shape of the motor functioning. I traced it to the foot pedal switch being bad and I had always carried an extra of those in my tool kit in the boat (tools are another must). Two wires and popped in a new switch and I was fishing!!

I fished for a couple hours in this area and managed to catch three smallmouth bass. I decided to head out to try another area and idled out to a deep hole where I could get on plane and race across the shallow water to get out of the area. As I idled, it felt like the motor bumped something, but I didn’t think much of it and hit the gas and started my way out. Up on plane, I stayed in the gas to get across the shallow stretch when the overheat alarm went off on the motor.

My instant reaction was to let off the gas and that was a big mistake and I knew it. Abruptly, the boat stopped, wedged into a sandbar in about 6 inches of water, a mere 20 yards from deep water. It may as well have been 400 yards because the boat would not move.

Even in the cold water, I got out and tried to push it — not even an inch of movement. I stopped for a moment to assess my situation and I quickly realized I was in a big bind. I hadn’t seen another boat all morning so a tow was very unlikely. As much as I knew how hard it would be on my motor, I knew my only option was to lower the motor into the water and gas it to plow my way off the sandbar.

I reluctantly started this process and the boat would move a few yards at a time all the while the overheat alarm blaring in my ear. It was a painful process and the motor kept getting hotter. I took a few breaks to cool the motor and, after about an hour, I made it to deeper water and started trolling motoring out to the channel.

I called my buddy, Jim, who was in town and relayed my situation to him and he said, “Let me know what you need and I’ll be there.” I started the motor after it cooled and quickly realized it was packed with sand and was not going to flush out without a lot of work. I called Jim back and he was on his way with his

boat. When he arrived, I was about two miles from the boat ramp in McGregor, Iowa. Jim carefully towed me the distance and another buddy was waiting there with Jim’s trailer and they took my keys to go get my truck to pull me out. After waiting for them and wondering how to break the news that I possibly blew up our motor to my wife, Jim arrived with my truck and trailer. We made our way back to Prairie du Chien and I stopped at Stark’s and bought a new water pump and spent the afternoon taking apart the motor to change the pump and remove all the sand it had sucked up.

At around 4 p.m., I completed the job and had enough sand to build sand castles in the driveway. I headed to the ramp to test run it. It idled fine and I made my way out of the no wake. Immediately upon getting up on plane, the overheat alarm went off again. I knew this job was gonna take more work.

I headed home and dug deeper into the motor. I removed every water line and every part of the cooling system and flushed it all out. Again, I had enough sand to make a small beach in the driveway. To complete the whole job, I performed a compression test and that was fine. New spark plugs, water pump, thermostats, and poppet valve and I’m happy to say my Ranger boat is back on the water and running great!

Fortunately for me, over my 25-year career of fishing bass tournaments, I’ve learned my way all the way around an outboard motor and made all these fixes myself. Boats can be very frustrating but also very fun and a great way to spend time with your family throughout the summer. Create your checklist from the things I’ve mentioned throughout this column and, unlike me, if there’s a part you think might need to be changed, just go ahead and change it before the next trip. Always have a fully charged cell phone with you as well.

Another thing my daughter and I have done this past off-season was taking a boater’s safety course available online for free through Boat US. Even as a seasoned boat operator, it never hurts to brush up on things. And, most importantly, a LIFE JACKET is always your top priority and number one item in boating.

Check and maintain everything before to make your experience a great one and create those memories. And until next time ... GET OUTDOORS!!



Fairbank, Iowa

Parkview
ASSISTED LIVING

Caring For Our Family, One Loving Heart at a Time.

Stop in for a tour anytime.

Check us out on Facebook, or our website

www.fairbankparkviewassistedliving.com, or contact us at
319.635.2585, email: parkviewassistedliving@gmail.com

News from **Community Lutheran School**



Everyone is well aware of March Madness and filling out a basketball bracket or two. This year, Mr. Kuecker's 7th/8th grade students did their own version of March Madness. They decided to do an Oreo Cookie March Madness challenge. Brackets were formed with most every kind of Oreo cookie imaginable. Each day, students at CLS would sample two different Oreo flavors and vote for their favorite. It finally boiled down to the championship with Oreo Dark Chocolate narrowly defeating Oreo Mint. Then Brooke Schutte, Carter Palmer, and Drake Heinze used the Dark Chocolate Oreos to make a delicious Oreo Fluff to serve to the CLS students at lunch following the Easter break. It was a big hit, with a large number of students going back for seconds. A great way to kick off the final quarter.

Dillon Law Office, PC
Patrick B. Dillon
 209 East 1st Street, Sumner • patdillon@50674law.com
563-578-1850
 General practice including but not limited to:
 Agricultural law • Taxation & Tax Preparation
 • Estate Planning • Bankruptcy
 www.50674law.com

Tatroe ELECTRIC, INC.
 215 3rd St. NE, Waverly, IA • 319-352-3664
 www.tatroelectric.com

YOUR LEADING INDEPENDENT PROVIDER
ELEVATORS Manufacturing, Installation Service
 Passenger, Freight, and Specialty Elevators

Denver, Iowa Since 1936
 One Schumacher Way • 319-984-5676 • www.schumacherelevator.com

DENVER FAMILY DENTAL
 "OUR FAMILY CARING FOR YOURS"
 Robert R. Pipho, D.D.S. • Brendon T. Boerm, D.D.S.
 Call (319) 984-6191 or (319) 342-3622 to schedule your appointment in Denver today!
 131 Tower Street, Denver • 319-984-6191

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS...

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH
 [AT] 6:30PM
KLINGER GYM

2026

JOIN US FOR A CRUISIN' GOOD TIME AS WE TAKE A JOY RIDE THROUGH THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS!

FUNDRAISER FOLLOWING THE MUSICAL SUPPORTING THE 5TH- 8TH GRADE CAMP IO-DIS-E-CA TRIP!

DENVER DRUG AND PHOTO
 Care you can trust.

340 S. State St.
 Denver, IA 50622
 319-984-5691
 denverdrugandphoto.com

Douglas Den
 1195 Hilton Ave., Plainfield
 For reservations, call **319-275-4528**

Available for rent for graduations, small parties, wedding receptions & more.
 40'x72', full kitchen, freezer, refrigerators, air conditioning and restrooms.

Deadline for the May 27 Chronicle is Thurs., May 14 at 5 p.m.



PIONEER
BRAND · PRODUCTS

Weber Farm Inputs
Ryan Weber — 319-231-8882
Kyle Devoe — 319-240-9137



SHOP LOCAL!

Farmers Cooperative Company
Readlyn: 319-279-3396
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F


We carry food for:
Rabbits, Cats, Dogs, Chickens, Sheep, Horses & More

Softener Salt:
Delivery in town to those needing assistance

Cedar & Pine Chips
Bird Seed • Grass Seed • Lawn Fertilizer
Bagged Shell Corn

Stop in today!

Owner Jon Elsamiller 101 39th St. NE Waverly, IA 319-352-3917



Elsamiller Electric Co.

Electrical Wiring of all Types:
Commercial
Residential
Farm
Industrial

www.elsamillerelectric.com

"Family owned and operated since 1983"



INSURANCE HEADQUARTERS INC.
VANDAELE INSURANCE, INC.
greatrates@vandaeleins.com
For all your insurance needs.

Farm • Home • Auto • Commercial
Crop • Health Insurance

119 E. Main Street • PO Box 467 • Fairbank, IA 50629
319-635-2526 • Fax: 319-635-2162



Build Confidence.
Build Wealth.
I can help.

Create something that your future self will thank you for.
Like prioritizing your financial goals. Putting together a financial plan and investment strategy today can help you achieve your dreams tomorrow.
Let's get started.

David C. Matthias
2018 E. Bremer Ave., Waverly, IA
319-415-5989
davidmatthias.fbfsagents.com



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC,* 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC.* Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company,* Western Agricultural Insurance Company,* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Affiliates. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-WMAA (8-21)

Hillcrest Living
Friendly. Trusted. Proven.




Three levels of care that are:
-all on the same campus, under the same roof
-adjacent to Community Memorial Hospital (UnityPoint Health)



HILLCREST LIVING

Terrace Assisted Living • Hillcrest Skilled Care Nursing
Southview Apartments

915 W. First St., Sumner • 563-578-8591 • www.hillcrestsumner.com

Being prepared with the right insurance for your farm and crop matters.

Call us to talk to one of our experienced AgriBusiness Advisors today at 319.483.4854 or visit our website at acceladvantage.com.







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 services 8:00 AM
 Sunday School 9:00 AM
 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 Services 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:05 - 9:45 a.m.
 Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday
 Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:00 p.m.

**STUMME, COLLINS,
GRITTERS & EPLEY, PLLC**



303 1st Ave. NE
Waverly, IA 50677
319-352-1637

171 E. Main St.
Denver, IA 50622
319-984-5479

www.waverlydenverlaw.com

Smiley
FAMILY DENTISTRY
Restoring Health. Celebrating Smiles.

Jonathan Smiley, D.M.D

NEW LOCATION:
123 2nd St. SW
Waverly, IA 50677
319-352-2270
SmileyFamilyDentistry.com

New patients welcome!
Proud to continue Dr. Rettig's tradition of excellent dental care.

Helping Hands Clothing Closet

2029 Viking Ave.
Hwy. V56 - Sumner

Hours: Tuesdays, 9-11 AM
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM
First Saturday of the month 9-11 AM

Brief application required;
providing FREE clothing to those in need

His Hands Food Pantry

5002 Main Street
Oran

Hours: Tuesdays, 5-8 PM
Fridays 9 AM-12 Noon

Brief application required
Currently serving Denver, Fairbank, Frederika, Maynard, Oran, Randalia, Readlyn, Sumner, Tripoli and Westgate area residents
319-638-4357

Deadline for the May 27 Chronicle is Thurs., May 14 at 5 p.m.

**** WATCH FOR OPEN HOUSES ****



221 PRESTIEN DR. DENVER
 Seller just finished the basement updates to add more family space. 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Gar, Gorgeous Kitchen, New Bath, NEW ROOF, SIDING, WINDOWS. Close to Schools!
\$295,000

Your Local Realtor Since 1989

Helping You Achieve All Your Real Estate Needs,
Buying or Selling.
 Spring Market is Here!
 Call Anytime on Any House
319-238-1700



1209 16TH ST. SW, CEDAR RAPIDS
 Move in Gorgeous!! 2 Bedrm, 1 Bath, All New Exterior, Interior & Appliances. Fenced Yard For Kids & Pets.
\$150,000



BUILDING SITE

2039 - 140TH ST. HAZLETON
 Approx. 7.35 acres m/l, Out Buildings, Pasture w/Creek, Septic & Rural Water is Available.
\$150,000



SOLD

203 & 205 GROVE ST. FAIRBANK

ADVANCED, REALTORS® , LLC
 814 S. Frederick, Oelwein 283-2242
Lori Beierschmitt, Broker/Owner
 Cell: 319-238-1700




I Need Listings!! Call Me! 319-238-1700

REALTOR.COM REALTOR.COM REALTOR.COM