

# Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 18, No. 6, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Robin Harms, Tripoli, IA, June 25, 2025

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July's Yard of the Month's winners Miles Matthias and Steph Franzen, 310 East 4th Street, are awarded this honor by Grump Bonnie Wittenburg. See more photos on page 6.

## Advice to earn Yard of the Month honors from this month's winner!

As you can see by the pictures, "WELCOME" is the word you feel once you see all of the inviting areas and signs at the Matthias home. Miles and Steph have only lived in this house for three years, yet they have managed to tastefully decorate the entire yard. Each area exudes their casual personalities.

They truly appreciate Weeds

on Fire for sponsoring this award.

Wishing you had a yard this amazing? Take Steph's advice, "Visit Trinkets and Togs, garage sales, and be thrifty," plus, be blessed with a husband who grew up in a home where yard aesthetics were valued.

"I can't wait to do so much more," was Steph's parting comment.



The front deck is one of many great places to relax.



The windmill's a gift from a sister-in-law.



A great place to get toasty around the firepit.

Fire decor recognizes Miles as a volunteer firefighter.



## Open house is open to all today at Readlyn Vet Clinic; enjoy lunch, malts

An open house will be held today, Wednesday, June 25, from 3-6 p.m. at the Readlyn Veterinary Associates, 2636 230th St., Readlyn.

Everyone is welcome to stop by and tour the clinic's newly-remodeled location. Lunch and malts will be provided!



## Creameries will be the topic at Bremer County Historical Society event this Sunday in Tripoli

Ever wonder why Bremer County was called the "Dairy Spot" of Iowa at one time?

Find out at the Bremer County Historical Society's Ag Event that will be held at the IA State University Extension Bremer County Office in Tripoli, Iowa.

The event will be held this Sunday afternoon, June 29, starting at 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door. Each attendee will receive a map of the Bremer County creamery buildings that are still standing today.

Larry Pavelec of Readlyn will present photos and information on the creamery research he has gathered from traveling the county. Attendees are welcome to share their memories of creameries. Ice cream will be served by the Bremer

County Dairy Promoters.

Questions can be directed to [bremercountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:bremercountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).









Sauerbreis to celebrate 50th anniversary

Readlyn- Larry and Deb Sauerbrei's 50th wedding anniversary was Feb. 1, 2025. They were married on Feb. 1, 1975 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Oran.

An open house to celebrate is planned on Sat., July 26 at their cabin at 16578 Quarry Ave., Clarksville, IA from 2-8:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided from 4-6:00 p.m. and live music from 4-8:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



Deb and Larry Sauerbrei

**Deadline for the July 30 *Readlyn Chronicle* is Thurs., July 17 at 5 PM. Send news items to: [readlynchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:readlynchronicle@gmail.com)**



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### Book Donations

**In memory of Tom Power:**  
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**Level Up at Your Library** is the theme for this year's Summer Reading Program and we've had great attendance and so much fun already! Stop by the library or check our Facebook page for the most current information on upcoming events. Everyone is welcome at the programs, but we do ask that very young children have a parent or caregiver with them. If you have grandkids or cousins or friends in town for the day bring them along! We'll be giving away free books to program attendees all summer long, too!

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Do you have an idea for a program? Is there a class you'd like to see us offer? Let us know! We'd also love to have you fill out the Library Survey on our website. Just search "Readlyn Community Library" for our website, then click the survey link at the top of the home page. We'll use your input to help draw up our Strategic Plan, steer spending, and focus library operations on what YOU use most or would like to see.



## Wasn't it Yesterday Nothing More Than A Song

I've held the hands of the lost and alone, the old and feeble, the disabled, and those with special needs. I've looked beyond the warm, sweet smiles and opened the pages of their "storybook"



By J.D. Francis

eyes, amber and clouded with age. Eyes that tell of the stories of life, but their voices "refusing" and mostly unheard. I had never realized, or appreciated the need, want, or desire, of those who remain in prison, locked within their own bodies. Equally, I've never before experienced the inner most personal fulfillment in sharing my time with them. Simply sharing a small fragment of my time garners rewards paramount for such a small gesture on my part.

It's no secret, anyone that knows me knows, I have a strong passion for singing. If my shower could talk, it would recite every Neil Diamond song ever released, in the last 60 years. For me, singing a song, no matter the genre, be it pop, rock, or country, is often a heart-felt passion, or challenge to conquer the tune, as the radio plays on. I'll be the first to admit, my day job remains unthreatened, as I don't consider myself a worthy singer at all. I don't know a thing about music, notes, or singing for that matter. It's just that denying the song in my heart is denying a friend.

Several years ago, I was asked to perform at a retirement center in Waterloo. After a couple days of rough waters and a couple of nights of wondering if I could swim, I decided to take the "enter at your own risk" approach, and agreed to sing.

As I was setting up my equipment, I watched the residents being pulled in on carts and pushed, in their wheelchairs. Those that were able struggled in on crutches, and some came in with four-wheeled walkers. I witnessed the difficulties, and what each resident endured, to join together for a 2-hour escape from their own personal realities.

I introduced myself as the music began to play. I climbed aboard and began to sing my songs, "all in" and careful to make my rounds, and touch the hand of every person in attendance. I witnessed, and scarcely believed, how the music took them away, to the familiar places of their own past. As if through an opened door, the songs reached in and escorted them into a new light of day, when they had their someone to share their dreams with.

One by one, they followed me into yesterday, down the "long-gone" road into their better days, on the wings of a song.

There were smiles, hand gestures, tears down their cheeks, and the best kind of "air" guitar playing I'd ever seen. The music became a shelter from the darkest of storms, and led them on, into the health and happiness of younger, brighter days, when the loves of life were true and easy. I could see childhoods, best friends, first loves, husbands, wives, children and grandchildren, all in one bouquet of yes-

terdays. I had seen it all, on the back side of a trembling smile. I witnessed "reaching arms" as if Heaven was waiting there, just beyond their fingertips, as the music filled the space in between. I was able to take those people on a journey, if only for a little while. I gave them a new place to call home for a short 2 hours, with nothing more than a song.

jdfanpaint@msn.com

## Blood Drive is this Friday at Denver

The Denver/Readlyn Communities Blood Drive will be held this Friday, June 27, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Denver Community Center, 100 Washington Street, Denver.

Cancer Survivor Month is observed every June to celebrate survivors, honor caregivers, and raise awareness about the challenges surrounding cancer survivorship. According to the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), more than 18 million people in the United States are cancer survivors who are living with, through,

and beyond their disease.

A single hospital patient can require a large amount of blood in a single situation. Cancer patients can use up to eight platelet units per week.

LifeServe Blood Center is asking individuals to think of those people they know who have been impacted by cancer and are encouraging them to host a blood drive in their honor or memory. Or, you can simply schedule your lifesaving blood donation by visiting [lifeserve.info/schedule](http://lifeserve.info/schedule) or by calling 800.287.4903.

VOL. III, No. 30
READLYN, IOWA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1936
FIVE YEARS IN ADVANCE

### Constitution Big Issue of Nov. 3

**Preservation of American System of Government at Stake.**

Experts on pre-election trends recognize that not for three generations has the Constitution been so dominant in American thought as in the 1936 campaign. Various issues have been raised in the New Deal's defense of its four-year record but the experts believe that many thousands will go to the polls particularly to vote on this one fundamental question:

**Should the American system of Government be preserved?**

In the press, on the radio and from public relations warnings have been issued that constitutional self-government may be at stake in the election. It is predicted that great numbers of voters who are alarmed at stop-at-home will be eager to cast a ballot this year on a matter so universally important.

**Appeal To Voters.**

In advance of the primaries last Spring the American Liberty League issued a call to all voters to go to the polls this year. The League is a nation-wide organization whose basic purpose is to uphold and defend the Constitution. It issued a letter to its more than 100,000 members to inaugurate a Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign. The appeal was made to adherents of all parties, regardless of how they proposed to vote. There was a favorable response from all sections of the country and this was emphasized by widespread expression of approval in the press.

**Millions Don't Vote.**

It was brought out in the League letter that 25,000,000 potential voters failed to take advantage of their right to cast ballots in the presidential election of 1932. After citing the importance of the constitutional issue the letter said:

"In such circumstances every citizen owes a duty to himself, to his family and to his Nation. His duty is the free and intelligent exercise of his right of franchise—his vote. The ballot which a free citizen casts may be compared with the payment of a premium upon his insurance policy. If the premium is not paid, the policy lapses and he and his family lose the protection for which he has labored and saved for years. The exercise of your right to vote constitutes the premium you pay to protect the most valuable insurance policy ever written—the Constitution of the United States."

Fifty-three per cent of the potential voters on the average remained away from the polls in the last four presidential elections. It is generally anticipated that this average will be considerably reduced on November 3.

### New Deal Aims to 'Pack' Court

**Would Put "Right Men" on Supreme Bench, Says Wallace.**

In the early days of the last session of Congress attention for the New Deal were making a grandiose attack on the Supreme Court of the United States. They demanded that the Court be deprived of the power to invalidate acts of Congress. Other restrictions on the Supreme bench were suggested, more than fifty of them being actually included in proposed new laws. These attacks suddenly ceased. Washington observers were puzzled until it was disclosed that the Administration had not abandoned the assault, but simply had changed its tactics.

Instead of putting legal shackles on the Court the New Dealers conceived the idea of waiting until vacancies occurred and then nominating justices who were in sympathy with Administration policies. Secretary Wallace, of the Department of Agriculture, let the cat out of the bag when he said in his introduction to a book written by Irving Brandt:

"The important thing \*\*\* is to select Presidents who will nominate the right men to the Supreme Court."

Secretary Wallace previously had expressed his opinion of the present Supreme Court majority when he declared after the AAA decision on processing loans that the ruling was "the greatest legislative deed in history." Unmistakable for the distinguished Mr. Wallace were made in the floor of the House of Representatives but no rebuke was administered to the Cabinet member by the Administration.

**What Wallace Means.**

Among press comments vigorously denouncing Mr. Wallace's startling perversion of American ideals is an editorial entitled "Abolishing the States" in the Moscow (U.S.S.R.) Telegraph. Discounting the Secretary's book "Whose Constitution?" the newspaper says:

"Wallace now says boldly that the entire American system of government must be scrapped and a co-operative commonwealth must be established in place of the system of separate states. This has shocked students of the Constitution and the American system insists that the original law was intended to be a union of people instead of a union of states; that the states have been a barrier from the beginning and today they mark no economic boundaries that make sense."

"It is unnecessary for any real student of American history to wade words with this mystic dreamer, this spiritual child of the Supreme Court, who ignores the entire philosophy of a system of checks and balances so well worked out by the founding fathers and breathes the high court with big corporations, the Republican party, the Liberty League and 'bunch' of newspapers' as standing for states' rights."

**Hand-Picked Justices?**

It is anticipated that there will be at least two vacancies on the Supreme Court bench at no distant date. Changes in the personnel might establish a majority that would be friendly to the Roosevelt desire for a centralization of executive power.

Several important Supreme Court decisions are in the offing which will deal again with the question as to how far Congress may go in surrendering its duties and powers by delegating them to the Executive. These anticipated rulings include the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, which empowers the President to allocate huge sums for almost any purpose he desires. It was under such power that Mr. Roosevelt allocated millions to the "Quincy" Dam project, the Florida Ship Canal and to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in St. Louis. The first two of these costly projects have been abandoned. The third is tied up in litigation.

Other decisions are expected ultimately on the Labor Relations Act, the Soil Conservation Act, the Public Utility Holding Company Act and the Tennessee Valley Authority Act.

**People's Power Threatened.**

In the event of Mr. Roosevelt's re-election it is considered probable that the effort to centralize power in the hands of the President will be continued vigorously. The necessity for court rulings on new attempts of this sort would become inevitable.

Instead of seeking the changes it desires by the Constitutional method of substituting amendments to the Constitution in the people the Administration plans to have a Supreme Court composed of "right men" who will assist the Constitution by "judicial interpretation." This new method of amendment has been publicly approved by Donald Baskin, one of the New Deal's inner council.

**"Non-Political"**

Mr. Roosevelt has conducted much of his campaign by making what he called "non-political" trips and speeches. In January of this year he delivered a message to Congress through a radio microphone. In September he issued a summation of the best which some in-

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## Page 6 from the 'Campaign Issue'

Pages from the 1936 *Readlyn Chronicle*, entitled the "Campaign Issue," were found in a time capsule at the Bremer County Courthouse. Page 6 is shown at right. To see past pages published in the *Chronicle*, go to: <https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us>. The *Chronicle* will continue to publish the next two pages in upcoming months.



## Day or night, this Yard of the Month glows! continued from page 1



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## Senior Citizens meet at Panther Lanes

On May 21, 2025, 15 members attended the 11:30 a.m. Senior Citizens' lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Panther Lanes in Tripoli, IA. The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow and he led us in prayer before our wonderful meal.

The birthday celebrated for the month of May was Luann Happel. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to her. There were no anniversaries celebrated for the month of May.

The secretary's minutes for April 16, 2025, were read by Marylou Billhorn. Roger Deterding made a motion to approve the secretary's minutes as read and Larry Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht. The balance in the account after expenses was \$114.00. Don Bilhorn made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Marlys Deterding seconded it. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Grump Days 2025 was discussed. Pastor Jean Rabary at Zion Lutheran and St. Matthew's will be doing the service in the park on June 15 at 9:00 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:** On June 4, there will be no electricity in Readlyn for maybe 8 hrs per the City of Readlyn. Rain date will be June 5.

The new 2025 Readlyn Old Grump

is Mary Lou Unga. The crowning will be held Friday, June 13 at 6 p.m., along with the Miss Readlyn crowning and the Little Mr. and Miss Grumpsters and the volunteer of the year award.

The previous Grumps will be riding together on a wagon in the parade.

Bingo for all ages in the Gazebo will be from 2:30 until 4:00 p.m. Bingo has been extended for half an hour.

The Bremer County Fair will be 150 years old this year. Come join the fun from July 27-August 2, 2025.

The next Senior Citizens' meeting will be June 18, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at the Panther Lanes in Tripoli, IA. Wilda Albrecht made a motion to adjourn and Judy Leistikow seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

We played bingo after our meal and meeting. The winners of the traditional bingo were Charlie Albrecht who won a dozen eggs donated by Ron and Judy Leistikow; Don Billhorn won a homemade loaf of bread; and Larry Ladage also won a loaf of homemade bread. The homemade bread was donated by Charlie Albrecht. The winner of blackout bingo was Marlys Deterding and she won a gift card to Kwik Star. The gift card was donated by Marylou and Don Billhorn. Come join the fun!

Marylou Billhorn, Secretary

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*How to get involved:*

- Sponsor an event
- Volunteer to help at events
- Attend meetings (Announced in the minutes in the Chronicle.)

**REMINDER:** You received a letter; have you responded? Membership fees go a long way to sponsor the many RCC events throughout the year. Have you joined for just \$30 per member?

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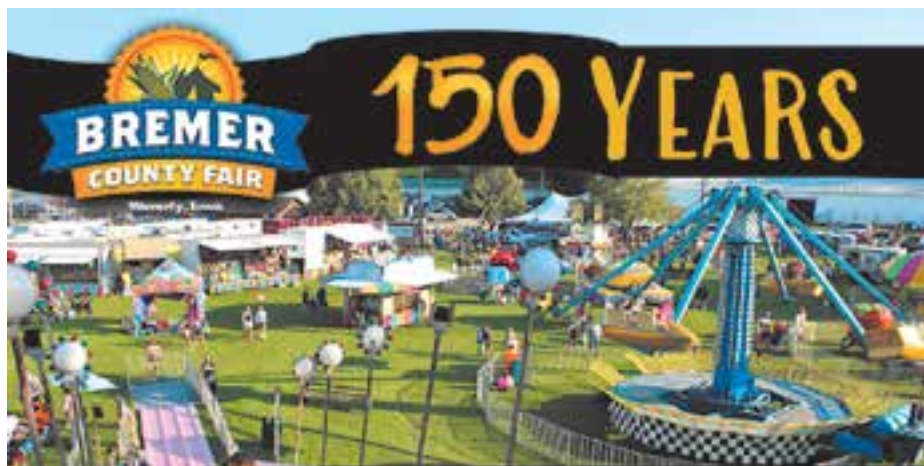
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150 years! Can you believe it?

The Bremer County Fair Association is so excited to share our NEW fairgrounds with you at 300 39th St. NE, Waverly. Join us and celebrate this milestone from July 27-August 2, 2025!

Starting off with the first day of the 2025 Bremer County Fair at 12 p.m. will be the Farmers and Truck Pull, offering 19 different classes of roaring engines and diesel smoke. Also, we welcome the Prairie Tractor Pullers garden tractor and mini-rods. Lots of fun for all ages. Admission is \$10.

Our Kick-off Party and Ribbon Cutting will start at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Leistikow Family Event Center (4-H Building) with games for the youth and adults such as a pallet maze, kiddie train, inflatables, craft beer tasting, music bingo and a small surprise at the end of the evening! 150 Years — Come Join the Fun!



### Camp at the 2025 Bremer County Fair!

Purchase a \$25.00 ticket to be entered into a drawing. Winners of the drawing will be awarded the chance to purchase a \$400 campsite for the 2025 Bremer County Fair.

Camp dates are July 26-Aug. 3, 2025. All campsites are grass pads and have water and electric hook-up.

Tickets can be purchased online by using the link below or send a check to P.O. Box 142, Waverly, IA 50677 made out to "Bremer County Fair" with the memo Camp Site Raffle. Make sure to include your name and phone number.

Purchase as many tickets as you would like. Once a name has been drawn, it is no longer eligible to be drawn again. Approx. 15 spots available.

Drawing to be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 21 at the Fair Administration Office. 300 39th Street NE, Waverly. All are welcome to attend the drawing! Need not be present to win.

E-mail: [Info@bremercountyfair.com](mailto:Info@bremercountyfair.com) with any questions or for more information.

### Fair Board Members

Adam and Nicole Thimmesch are proud members of the Bremer County Fair Board, dedicated to supporting local youth and agriculture through their involvement in the fair.

Nicole is a Bremer County 4-H alum and current 4-H leader, with a deep-rooted passion for youth development. She previously served as the County Youth Coordinator for ISU Extension and Outreach in Bremer County, and loves to continue to serve the community in a new capacity through the fair board.

Adam has been involved in agriculture his entire life and currently manages a Sukup dealership, where he supports area farmers with their grain handling needs. Adam has enjoyed being more involved with fair through livestock and events for all community members.

Together, Adam and Nicole are raising three children who are active 4-H members and love participating in the county fair each summer. As fair board members, they are proud to be part of a team that is helping the Bremer County Fair grow and thrive—especially during this exciting time as the new fairgrounds are being built. The Thimmesch believe in the lasting impact the fair has on youth, families, and the future of agriculture in the county, and are honored to be part of its next chapter.

"The fair has always been a highlight for our family and a cornerstone of our community. It's an honor to help shape its future and ensure it continues to be a place where people learn, grow, and create lifelong memories." — Adam & Nicole Thimmesch



The Thimmesch Family



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## Obituary

### Brian Douglas Wolff

Brian Douglas Wolff, 65, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones at EveryStep Kavanagh House in Des Moines, Iowa.



Brian was born on May 16, 1960, in Waterloo, Iowa, to Ronald and Janette (Otto) Wolff. He was raised in Readlyn, Iowa, and graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in 1978. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he proudly served two terms at several bases, including San Antonio, Texas; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Berlin, Germany, until his honorable discharge in 1992. During his time in the service, Brian met the love of his life, U-Dom (Seymour) Wolff. Brian and U-Dom married on January 30, 1988, in Las Vegas and spent the next 37 years side-by-side, supporting and cherishing one another.

Above all, Brian was a family man. His greatest pride was his role as a husband, father and grandfather. He had a steadfast and loving presence; always quick to share a laugh, lend a hand, or turn up his favorite blues and classic rock music at full volume. Brian had a deep and

abiding faith in God, a soft spot for animals, and a love for true crime shows, golf and basketball.

Brian is survived by his beloved wife, U-Dom of Marshalltown, IA; his son, Matthew (Piper) Wolff of Clive, IA; his daughter, Amanda Wolff of Pleasant Hill, IA; and his grandchildren, Brody Ryan, Josie Lynn, and Ian Douglas Wolff. He is also survived by his brothers, Greg (Melody) Wolff of Crown Point, IN and Thomas (Lori) Wolff Peoria, IL; three nieces and many cousins who will remember his warmth, humor, unwavering loyalty and faith.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ronald and Janette Wolff.

Brian will be remembered for his kind heart, his deep love for family, and the joy he brought to those around him. His legacy will continue to live on in the lives of all who loved him.

There was a visitation from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn and a private burial followed in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Readlyn. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Readlyn in Brian's honor.

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

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**2025 Readlyn Royalty:** Below, left to right: Claire O'Donnell, Runner-up; Gwen Forsyth, Miss Congeniality, Kylie Strottmann, Miss Readlyn.

**At right,** left to right: Claire O'Donnell, Tate Wilkinson, Kylie Strottmann, Cole Munk, Maren Jones, Jack Munk, Eric Bryan, Austin Franck, Gwen Forsyth, Andrew Matthias, 2024 Miss Readlyn Jaylin May.



**Parade winners**

First place: Readlyn Gardeners (above)  
Best Golf Cart: St. Matthew and Zion Churches (at left)  
Second place: Readlyn Savings Bank (below)  
Third place: Readlyn Elementary (below, left)

See more photos from 2025 Grump Days in the July 30 issue of the *Readlyn Chronicle*!



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**Thank You!**

Readlyn Community Club has countless people to thank for making "Good Vibes in 2025" Grump Days a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

A special thank you to these contributors:

- |                            |                            |
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| David Matthias/Farm Bureau | Prime Ag/Rathe             |
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# News from Community Lutheran School



We celebrated all of our students at our Fruit of the Spirit Awards Night on May 21 (at left)! God has big plans for each of you!

**Congratulations** to our eighth grade graduates (below), Amara Bolin, Daisy Jelsma, and Amy Schutte! God bless you as you enter your high school journey.



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## “Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

***“Have no single point of failure. Have no single path to success.”***

- James Clear

Discipline is hard any day of the year but especially in the summertime and weekends when there are so many FUN things pulling at us. When you get to retirement, summertime and weekends are seven days a week so you also want to be able to fund your fun when the time comes.

Clients might be entry-level investors, or saving for/entering retirement, or considering legacy/estate planning for the next generations. They might be very conservative, or they might be a 15 on a risk scale of 10. They might have a net worth of \$100 or a net worth of \$100,000,000.

*Each client comes with their own unique ambitions but there is one commonality amongst everyone we visit with: they wonder if they are doing enough to reach their potential.*

There is definitely no one-size-fits-all approach to helping people reach their financial ambitions. However, for the most part, just getting assets saved in the first place is the biggest component of getting to where you hope to be. Sometimes we see people get hung up on exactly which type of account to open or what type of investment(s) to back. Generally, saving a balance amongst a few different allocations is the best start. From there you can modify or get more tactical based on your needs.

**Brokerage Account:** Closest relation to a savings account. Most freedom. No limitations on what/when you put in or what/when you take out. Pay taxes on growth once realized or deduct against taxes on losses. Typically inherited at a stepped-up basis on the date of dependent's passing.

**Roth IRA:** Grows TAX FREE (upon decumulation after 59 ½ years old. Anything prior is 10% penalized). After the account has been open for 5 years it can pass to beneficiaries TAX FREE. Contribute a max of \$7,000/year (or \$8,000 @ 50 years or older) Income limitations apply to new contributions but tax-deferred assets can be converted at whatever amount you're willing to pay taxes on, regardless of income. (ROTH 401k contributions fall under 401k rules and do not apply towards the IRA max.)

**Traditional IRA:** Grows tax DEFERRED. 100% taxable at decumulation. Anything taken before 59 ½ is penalized 10%. Start as soon as you have an earned income of as much as you contribute. Contribute a max of \$7,000/year (or \$8,000 at 50 years or older) Income limitations apply to new contributions. (401k contributions fall under 401k rules and do not apply towards the IRA max.)

Within each of these options, you might be invested in mutual funds, ETF's, individual stocks, crypto, private funds, venture capital holdings... and there are a myriad of options within each of those asset classes. This is where an advisor can really help narrow down which path or combination of paths can expedite your chance of success.

**“Be disciplined in your goals but flexible in your approach.”** Having discipline and staying flexible probably sounds contradictory. But in many ways, it can be the perfect balance to success. When we can dial in this balance and keep an eye out for necessary pivots on behalf of our clients, we can literally change lives and create legacies.

You can come from a whole lot of nothing and have a whole lot of something with a little guidance, focus, and intention. We know it because we've seen it and, in many cases, have been blessed to be involved in it. It can feel intimidating to expose your statements and goals. But if you wonder if there is more out there, it is worth taking the leap and having a fresh set of eyes on your ambitions.

**The best part of what we do is getting our people to feel good about how far they've come and open to how far they can go. We**

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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# “Grump Days 2025 Minnow Races!”

By Eric Johnston  
Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

Happy June, nearly July, everyone!! This month I'll give you the rundown of an event I hosted for Readlyn Grump Days 2025, the Readlyn Outdoors Minnow Races!

Thirty-eight competitors started the Readlyn Outdoors 2025 Minnow Races Saturday, June 14 at 2:30 p.m. The playing field consisted of two water-filled lanes four-feet long with a finish line at the end.

Each participant had some simple rules. Do what you can to get your minnow to the finish line first without touching the water. Each racer picked out their minnow from a cooler and, on the count of three, they each dropped their minnow into their lane.

Racing was conducted bracket-style, single elimination. The competition was tough and the races were close with many different strategies being implemented from blowing on the water, waving hands over the water, to casting a shadow on the water. At the end of the day, two contestants came out on top!

Bennett Strottmann took home first place, winning a Zebco 33 fishing package complete with tackle! Second place went to Brylee Robinson who won a Yum Bass Fishing Tackle pack! Each participant took home a prize of a fishing lure and bobber!

Smiles, and laughter filled the air on a beautiful weather day for Readlyn Grump Days 2025. This was an event I'll look forward to hosting again in the future! Until next month... GET OUTDOORS!



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# Homestead Tax Credit, Homestead Tax Exemption, 65+ & Military Tax Exemption Notice

The Bremer County Assessor’s Office would like to remind property owners to sign up for the Homestead Tax Credit if they have purchased or built a new home within the last 12 months or have not yet signed up. This credit directly reduces the amount of

property tax you pay. In addition to the Homestead Tax Credit, claimants 65 or older on or before January 1 of the assessment year are eligible for a Homestead Tax Exemption. An exemption is a reduction in the taxable value rather than a

direct reduction in the property tax you pay. **Eligibility for the Homestead Credit & the Homestead Exemption:** You must own and occupy the property as your primary homestead on July 1 of each year, declare residency in Iowa for income tax purposes,

and occupy the property for at least six months each year. Once a property owner qualifies for the credit and/or exemption, the credit and exemption continue until the property is sold or until the owner no longer qualifies. Please refer to Iowa Code, Chapter 425.

Property owners may be eligible for a Military Tax Exemption. Again, an exemption is a reduction in the taxable value rather than a direct reduction in the property tax you pay.

**Eligibility for the Military Tax Exemption:** You must be a resident of Iowa, have been involved in full-time active duty during a war or conflict, be a veteran defined by Iowa Code 35.1\*, or have served 18 months active duty and have been honorably discharged. (The original or a certified copy of the DD214 must be recorded in the Bremer County Recorder’s Office by July 1 of the year the exemption is first claimed. Your DD 214 needs to show release from active duty during a qualified time for other than training.) Once a property owner qualifies for the exemption, the exemption will continue until the property is sold or until the owner no longer qualifies. Surviving spouses remain eligible for the exemption as long as they do not remarry, and the exemption continues until the property owner is no longer eligible. Please refer to Iowa Code, Chapter 427.

**Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit:** Refer to Code of Iowa, Chapter 425.15. For more detailed information on this credit, please see the assessor’s page on the Bremer County website under Credits & Exemptions, call the Bremer County Veterans Affairs Office at 319-352-4209, or contact the Bremer County Assessor’s Office.

Filing deadline for these credits & exemptions for the 2025 valuation is July 1, 2025.

(After July 1, all applications would be considered for the following year.) Please note: The same application is used for the Homestead Tax Credit and the Homestead Tax Exemption.

Application forms may be found online at the Bremer County Assessor’s section on Bremer County’s website <https://www.bremercounty.iowa.gov/government/assessor/assessor.php> or the Department of Revenue’s website at <https://tax.iowa.gov/tax-credits-and-exemptions>. You may also go directly to <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com> or visit the Bremer County Assessor’s Office. If you have any questions, contact the Assessor’s Office at 319-352-0145, Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30 p.m.

## Wapsie Valley School Board Meetings - May 19 & 23, 2025

### Wapsie Valley CSD Regular Meeting Minutes & Bills May 19, 2025

Pledge of Allegiance  
1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:41 PM  
A. Directors: Auel, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe. Aiello, & Kaufman (excused) Declared a quorum  
B. Supt. Hoover, Secretary Arndt, & Principals Forsyth, & Murphy. Myers (excused)  
C. Others Present: Mae Wedemeier, Gwen Forsyth, Bella Farley, Claire O'Donnell, & Vaughn Gross  
2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
3. Public Comment: Vaughn Gross - Discussed four day work week and cell phone policy.  
4. Spotlight on Education-Mae, Gwen, Bella, & Claire discussed the valuable information they received from attending the two Student Improvement Advisory Committee meetings.  
5. Consent Items: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Kaufman including MacKenzie & Rachel Klendworth request to open enroll their 6th and 8th-grade sons into WV from Sumner-Fredericksburg after a family move. Melanie Billington request to open enroll her 3rd grade son to Dunkerton after a family move effective June 2025 as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
6. Communication & Reports: Board: Great job with commencement. Thanks to the great team we all work with.  
7. Superintendent Hoover: It's School Board Recognition month!! Thanks to all board members for your support and dedication to WV! Report includes HVAC, Football/Track project, Retirement Awards, & Events, & Personal Electronic Devices.  
District & PK Principals: 6th grade JH orientation, Student Engagement Leadership, Concerts, Awards night, Professional Development, Graduation, Successful Academic Model Implementation, Retirees, & Activities.  
8. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the resignations of Liz Bergman-JH Girls Basketball, Beth Dixon-Part-time custodial, & Casey O'Donnell-JH Football as presented and thank them for their service to the students and staff at WV as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
9. Contracts: Moved by Sauerbrei, seconded by Auel to approve 25-26 Teaching contracts with an increase of \$2,500 for all teachers that are brought up to the state minimum from \$47,500 to \$50,000 and \$2,000 increase from \$60,000 to \$62,000. All other teachers will receive a flat increase of \$2,000 plus an educational-longevity increase based on each employee's indexed percentage from the 25-26 salary schedule, the total package is 3.16%, a 3.00% increase for 25-26 support staff contracts, Logan Flack - JH Baseball Coach-\$1,805, Chris Hoover-25-26 Superintendent \$165,280.89 (Contract) + \$300 (cell annually) \$165,580.89, Kim Arndt - 25-26 School Business Official \$104,385.81 + \$13,333.80 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (Cell) = \$118,019.61, Tina Kaufman-25-26 Human Resource Director/Central Office Employee \$58,656 + \$300 (Cell annually) = \$58,956.00, Holly Myers-25-26 Fairbank Principal 85,416.48 (Contract) +\$13,333.80 (difference, family/single insurance) + \$300 (cell annually) \$99,050.28, Alyson Forsyth-25-26 Readlyn/PK-6 Rural Principal \$88,619.60 (Contract) +\$13,333.80 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (cell annually) \$102,253.40,

Timothy (TJ) Murphy-25-26 7-12 Principal \$91,822.72 (Contract) +\$13,333.80 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (cell annually) \$105,456.52 as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
10. New Business: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the 25-26 Facility Operations & Maintenance Manager Agreement with Janesville as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
Moved by Sauerbrei Seconded by Auel to approve the Sharing Agreements with Central Rivers for 25-26 Curriculum Director, \$26,949 (39 days), & Special Education Director, \$45,600 (76 days), Technology Services, \$77,250 (3 days a week), Work Based Learning Coordinator, \$13,129 (19 days), Work Experience Coordinator, \$13,129 (19 days) as presented. Motion carried 3-0.  
Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the epoxy floor quote from Lifetime Coatings, \$11,200 for the JH/HS locker rooms as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the 2026 early graduate for Sam Platte pending all requirements are made as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve increasing Teacher Substitute pay from \$120 to \$130 per day effective the 25-26 school year and approving a Teaching Substitute contract for 25-26 school year for Jason Helgens at \$130 per day as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the 25-26 28E CAPS Agreement with Tripoli as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
11. Board Talking Points: None  
12. Moved Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to adjourn at 7:05 as presented. Motion carried 3-0  
BILLS: ACCESS SYSTEMS \$222.43 AGVANTAGE FS \$6,370.16 AHLERS & COONEY \$556.00 ALLIANT ENERGY \$327.24 Amazon \$464.72 BEST BUY \$695.93 BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$233.18 BUTLER COUNTY REC \$3,270.36 CASEY'S \$48.39 CEDAR FALLS CSD \$9,450.35 CHEMSEARCH \$221.65 CITY LAUNDRY \$1,360.60 CITY OF FAIRBANK \$6,261.22 CITY OF READLYN \$2,697.95 COLUMN SOFTWARE \$234.40 CONTINENTAL RESEARCH \$353.66 COURIER COMM \$221.40 EAST-CENTRAL IA REC \$1,070.86 ELITE SPORTS \$364.00 Employee Benefit Systems \$80,396.78 EMS DETERGENT \$17.35 FERGUSON \$109.89 Flinn Scientific \$117.77 FREDERIKA LOCKER \$1,160.00 hand2mind \$2,759.97 HAWKEYE COMM CLGE \$718.12 HERSHBERGER, MARY BETH \$53.13 HILLYARD \$926.80 Home Science Tools \$274.17 IA REGIONAL UTILITIES \$462.23 JOANN FABRICS \$60.00 JOSTENS INC \$261.90 KLUESNER SANITATION \$640.00 LITTLE WAPSIE COMM \$175.08 LOCKSPERTS \$134.83 MARCY PRO \$51.24 Menards \$67.34 MENZEL, EMMA \$148.68 MICHAEL, BLAKE \$625.00 MILLER, CATHERINE \$85.00 MODERN BUILDING \$79.94 MURPHY, TJ \$100.00 MYSTERY SCIENCE \$1,695.00 NORTHWESTERN CLGE \$2,270.00 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$161.00 Prairie Meadows \$338.24 RABER, EDNA \$53.13 RAISA A HALLELUJAH \$1,400.00 READLYN TELEPHONE \$187.99 RENAISSANCE \$1,512.20 RIVERSIDE INSIGHTS \$453.60 SCHOOL BUS SALES \$462.73 SCRIBNER, RACHEL \$761.60 SUPERIOR WELDING \$2,875.59 TAYLOR PHYSICAL THERAPY \$375.00 TIMBERLINE \$285.66 U.S. POST OFFICE \$2.19 Walmart \$185.47 WV Archery \$300.00 WAVERLY CSD \$29,172.15 WEEDS ON FIRE \$2,292.00 Z'S PIZZA \$52.50 General Total \$168,685.77 Employee Benefit Systems \$5,431.20 Management Total

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### Wapsie Valley CSD Special Board Meeting Minutes-VIA Phone May 23, 2025

1. President Wolfe called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 7:32 AM.  
A. Directors: Auel, Aiello, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe. Declared a quorum  
B. Supt. Hoover  
2. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0  
3. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the 5-12 Band Teacher for 25-26 school year, Jaylyn Gibbs - \$38,339 (Base Contract) + \$11,661 (TSS) = \$50,000 as presented. Motion carried 5-0  
4. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Sauerbrei to adjourn at 7:32 AM. Motion carried 5-0



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### Dillon Law, P.C. - Patrick B. Dillon

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patdillon@50674law.com

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Phone: (319) 984-5479  
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### Town & Country Real Estate

Louie Hartman 319-239-0533  
hartmanlouie@gmail.com  
www.towncountryhome.com  
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	<b>St. Matthew's Lutheran Church</b> Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor 2649 230th Street Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758 Wednesday services 7:00 PM Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM
	<b>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</b> 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.
	<b>Zion Lutheran Church</b> 240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor (319) 279-3643 Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:00 p.m.

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