

Make plans now for the annual Readlyn Easter Egg Hunt!

Come celebrate spring with us at Readlyn's beloved annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m. at our City Park!

What makes this event so special is our one-of-a-kind tradition: hundreds and hundreds of numbered eggs are hidden throughout our city park, and children are

sent off to find them. Each egg's number corresponds to a special community member or business, where participants rush to collect their Easter surprise—making every discovery exciting and unique!

This long-standing community tradition is a classic event that families look forward to year after year. Filled with fun, excitement, and small-town charm, Readlyn's Easter Egg Hunt is truly an event loved by many and enjoyed by all ages.

Become an Easter Egg Hunt sponsor

Did you know we had over 850 eggs sponsored last year for our Easter Egg Hunt? Please consider being a sponsor and keep this amazing tradition alive. What do you need to do?

1. Fill out the form on the Readlyn Community Club Facebook page OR contact Jessica Anderson 319-504-5903 and she will complete it for you.
2. Purchase your Easter surprises based on the number of eggs you signed up to sponsor.
3. Wait until we are closer to the date (April 4) and you will hear from Jessica Anderson! She does all the work to make it easy and enjoyable for all.

Consider sponsoring this event today!!!! We appreciate you!!!!

Readlyn's Annual
EASTER EGG HUNT!
Saturday, April 4th at
10am

Readlyn City Park

Age Groups: 0-3
4-5
6-7
8-9

In Case of inclement weather, back up location will be at the Fire Station

For more information, contact Jessica Anderson 319-504-5903

Easter Egg Hunt for Your DOG!



Join us at the
Readlyn Ball Park
Sat., April 4 at 9 a.m.
Dogs MUST be on a leash!

Sponsored by the Readlyn Veterinary Associates PC

Readlyn COMMUNITY CLUB

Annual Dinner - Feb. 28, 2026

Photos courtesy Mary Lou Ungs

Grump's Grumblings

By Mary Lou Ungs, 2025 Grump



It was great seeing everyone who attended the recent Community Club meeting. A good time was had by all. It is not easy to put all that together, so thanks to all the volunteers who helped.

I am sure that the upcoming Heroes' Ball on March 21 will be a success in providing support to our local firemen. Your participation or potential donation would be greatly valued. It sounds like a great night out with great food, silent and regular auctions, and entertainment.

I am also looking forward to the Easter Egg Hunt, one of the Community Club's best-attended events. Despite the current

rainy weather, I am optimistic that the park will be ready for the hunt. Witnessing the children's excitement as they engage with the Easter bunny and get their eggs and go to each house or business to get their prizes is fun.

The basketball hoops, donated by the Community Club, have been a big hit, especially with the adjustable height feature that benefits the younger participants. These and the handicapped swing exemplify the positive impact the Community Club has on our town of Readlyn.

I wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter season.

Pepper Tournery is April 11 at the library

The pepper tournament was held at the Readlyn Library on March 7 with 12 players participating. Winners and their scores were: 1st: Shirley Kuker & Suzy Heineman - 235 2nd: Ron and Judy Leistikow - 209 3rd: Roger and Connie Buhr - 192

4th: Barb Buhr and Doris Hagenow - 133 The last pepper tournament until October will be held at the Readlyn Library (use rear entrance) on Saturday, April 11 at 1:00 p.m. Bring a partner. Entry fee is \$3.00.



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Kylie Strottmann

Hello Readlyn Community!

I hope you are all enjoying this crazy weather! This past month has been very busy, but also very exciting. I attended my last two dance competitions of the season and was thankful to place well at both of them. It is a little bittersweet knowing my senior dance season is coming to an end after so many years, but I am so grateful for all the memories and friendships dance has given me.

I also had the chance to go down to Des Moines to support my cousin at State wrestling, which was a lot of fun. Outside of that, I have been staying busy preparing for my graduation party and keeping up with FFA, dance, youth group, church, work, and planning my mini-dance lessons/classes that I hope to start in the next few weeks.

With FFA, Gwen Forsyth and I competed in the Chapter Website CDE and advanced to Districts, which will take place

tomorrow (March 7). At Sub-Districts, we placed first overall, and I am excited to see what tomorrow will bring. FFA has been such an important part of my high school experience, and it's crazy to think that so many senior year moments are starting to come to an end.

During school, I have also been staying busy working on scholarships, college classes, FFA activities, and job shadowing in elementary classrooms as I prepare for what I hope to do in the future.

Senior year has truly been flying by, and I am trying to enjoy every moment while staying involved in the activities I love. I'm excited to see what the next few months will bring!



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Obituary

Roland Victor Schmidt

Roland Victor Schmidt, 94, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Birdee Cottage, Waterloo.



Roland Schmidt

Roland was born on April 14, 1931, the son of Otto and Norma (Poock) Schmidt. He was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger. He graduated from Readlyn High School in 1951.

Roland was united in marriage to Virginia Northup on September 6, 1958, at St. Martin Evangelical Lutheran Church, What Cheer, Iowa. Together they had four children, Mark, Melinda, Myron and Marilyn.

After marrying Virginia, the couple lived in Sigourney, Iowa. In 1966, they moved to Readlyn and Roland worked for 40 years at the Farmers Co-op in Readlyn.

Roland loved playing cards, dancing, and attending all of his grandkids' and great-grandkids' activities. He was a life-long Cubs fan and was named Readlyn Grump in 2019. He volunteered for over 20 years at Allen Hospital and won the volunteer of the year award in 2019. He was a longtime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn.

Roland is survived by a son, Mark

(Cynthia) Schmidt, a daughter, Melinda (Dallas) Bergmann, a son, Myron (Pamela) Schmidt, and a daughter, Marilyn Osborn; a brother, Jerry Schmidt, and a sister-in-law, Audrey Schmidt; 11 grandkids, Sarah Marotz, Rachel Bernier, Nicholas Miller, Courtney Hesse, Hannah Spratt, Collin Bergmann, Seth Leckliter, Chandler Schmidt, Taylor Schmidt, Ambre Benson, and Sabre Schmitz; 19 great-grandchildren, Zach, Andrew, Gabriel, Jacob, Naomi, Daniel, Blake, Savannah, Benjamin, Jordan, Nathan, Maddie, Olivia, Mya, Gavin, Braxton, Briella, Tatum and Atley.

Roland was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Virginia Schmidt, brothers, LuVerne and Norbert Schmidt, a sister, Delores Bourke, brothers and sisters-in-law, Amy Schmidt, Karol Schmidt, Everett and Betty Derby, Wilford and Helen Follman, William and Louise Atchison, William and Karen Northup, James and Mildred Follman, Tom and Naomi Gott and George Bourke.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano officiating. Visitation was held for one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church. Burial was in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. Memorials may be directed to the family for a future decision.

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



I saw these two visitors to Readlyn while driving through town. I believe they are from up north and will be leaving us soon. They seem to like our town and maybe next year we will see more of their relatives. Photos by Mary Ungs

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



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In Memory of Ronald Thurm
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The Bremer County Health Department holds Foot Clinics on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Call 319.352.0082 to make an appointment.

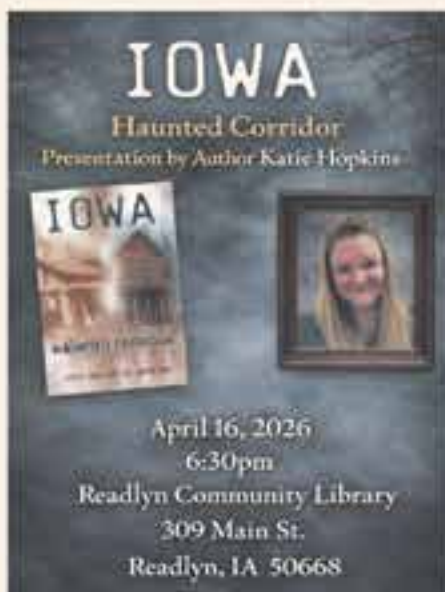


Upcoming Events

April 1 - 2:30 pm
"Color Creation"

Kids' program with county extension

"Iowa's Haunted Corridor"
April 16 - 6:30 pm
Paranormal program



How to Read More

As a librarian, I hear "I wish I read more" or "I wish my kids read more" from people about a dozen times a week. If this applies to you, here are a few things to think about and keep in mind, and some easy ways to add reading minutes to your life!

Make books accessible. If you have to go upstairs to get a book, chances are you'll spend your time scrolling on your phone or watching TV instead. Keep reading materials accessible and easy to grab.

It's ok to be a quitter. Don't feel obligated to finish a book you aren't enjoying. If you really want to like it but don't, set it aside and give it another try some other time. Maybe it just wasn't right for you *right now*.

It's ok to re-read books. I know I'm not the only person who has a shelf of 'emotional support books' that I loved for one reason or another over the years and if I just can't get into anything else, or don't have the energy to wade into a new author or new book, I'll grab one of those.

Use spare moments for reading. Carving out an hour or two a day is hard for many people, but think of reading like getting in your 10,000 steps per day. There are minutes here and there throughout the day that you can just as easily pick up a book as look at your phone.

If you want your children to be readers, you have to model that for them. The more they see YOU reading, the more they will want to read and be comfortable doing so. It's almost impossible to raise children who are readers if they see parents on their phones all day.

Happy reading!





WELCOME TO TARA GIPPER




Secretary/
Business Manager

Hello CLS! My name is Tara Gipper and I'm excited to join the Community Lutheran School team. I will be joining CLS with 20 years of bookkeeping experience. Numbers are my thing! I am originally from Western Nebraska but have been living out in North Carolina with my family for the last 10 years. My husband Shawn is a local kid and after retiring from the Marine Corps we decided to move back 'home.' My oldest 3 children have enjoyed CLS for almost a year—hard to believe we have called Iowa home for almost a year. In our free time we enjoy exploring our 15 acres and remodeling our home. There is never a dull moment in the Gipper house. I am excited to get to know each and everyone of you, be a valuable addition to the staff and to provide assistance where and when needed.

WELCOME TO LEXI RINIKER

Third & Fourth
Grade Teacher

Hello! My name is Lexi Riniker (soon to be Huebner) and I am overjoyed to join the Community Lutheran School team next school year! I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in literacy and special education. I am in my second year of teaching 3rd grade now, and have completed many placements in grades K-6th. My fiancé, Ben, and I love to garden and spend time outdoors with our dog. I also love to read and craft. What I am looking forward to the most when it comes to CLS is the staff and school families. I have already felt so welcome and am looking forward to getting to know everyone more!

INTRODUCING VALERIE WILKENING




Title Specialist

Hello! My name is Valerie Wilkening, and I am finishing up my third year of teaching. I love being part of CLS because of the Christ-centered environment and the opportunity to grow alongside my students as we learn, explore, and deepen our faith together.

A Scripture that guides me in this role is Proverbs 25-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." These verses remind me to walk humbly with God, trusting Him to shape, guide, and strengthen us each day.

I am truly looking forward to the coming school year and to partnering with you and your children as we learn from our loving Father—through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

READLYN CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALES!

MAY 1-2, 2026



Goodwill Truck
— at City Park —
MAY 1-3

City Clean-Up Days
MAY 4-5

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Readlyn Senior Citizens Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries

On February 18, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., 20 Readlyn Senior Citizens met at Bents Smokehouse in Readlyn, IA for their meeting, a meal and a guest speaker. Ron Leistikow led us in prayer and called the meeting to order.

Our guest speaker, Mariah Schmitz from Care Initiatives Hospice, started our meeting. Care Initiatives Hospice is a full service, non-profit, community-based hospice care ready to serve patients of all ages and their families during their hospice journey. Many patients wait too long thinking hospice is only

for the end of life. They also provide services for physical, occupational, speech therapy services and specialized therapy. Outpatient or inpatient care, their services bring physical, emotional, and spiritual care and support to wherever the patient calls home. Patients who receive hospice care are more likely to live happier and longer lives than those that do not choose hospice care. People receiving hospice care are covered by Medicare and, in addition, Medicaid and private health insurances cover hospice services. It was a

very informative day. We all thanked Mariah Schmitz for coming. If hospice care is needed, they can be reached at 319-232-6148.

We welcomed a new member, Delbert Oltrogge, to our group. Welcome, Delbert!

Birthdays celebrated for the month of February were Barb Meyer, Marlys Deterding and Janet Ladage. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to all three ladies.

Anniversaries celebrated for the month of February were Larry and Janet Ladage and Rick and Lois Thacher. We all sang "Happy Anniversary" to both couples.

It was with a heavy heart that we were informed that one of our lifetime members, Roland Schmidt, had passed away. We all signed a card and sent it to the family to express our deepest sympathy. He always had a contagious smile. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was read by Lois Thacher from the notes of January 21, 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Charlie Albrecht stated that the balance in the account

after a deposit and expenses was \$104.00. Don Billhorn made a motion to approve the secretary and treasurer reports as read. Larry Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Readlyn Community Club Dinner is set for Saturday, February 28 at Bents Event Center starting at 5:00 for the social hour.

The Readlyn Firefighters will be hosting their annual breakfast Sunday, March 1 at the Bents Event Center. Free-will donation.

A vendor fair featuring 20 various vendors will be held on March 8 at Bents Event Center.

On Saturday, March 21, the Heroes' Ball will be held at Bents Event Center.

Motion was made by Roger Deterding to adjourn the meeting and Judy Leistikow seconded it. Motion carried and meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be at Bents Event Center in Readlyn at 11:30 a.m. on March 18, 2026. We will be having another speaker, Anna from the N.E.IA Area Agency on Aging. Come join the fun!


Lois Thacher, Secretary



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Wasn't it Yesterday? *My Name Is...*

You say you have never looked into my eyes
Believe when I say, I'll not tell you lies
We've spent our time together... just us two
Though you swear to me, that just isn't true

At the marketplace, the laundromat, or in a bar
I'm your shadow near, when you travel far
How else to know, the things you do
If you didn't know me, and I didn't know you

I am there, through your long nights ahead
I am the one at night sharing your bed
Though you've never so much as touched my skin
I've watched you cry until the new dawn begins

You draw all of the curtains, you lock all the doors
Afraid of the dark, yet knowing there's more
I, too, know the feeling of being closed in
With a beating heart, that may never love again

A total stranger you believe, this you swear
Believing full well we have never been a pair
You manage your hand in play, throughout life's distress---
For, I am the dealer, my name is "loneliness."



By J.D. Francis

jdfrantpaint@msn.com

**Deadline for the April 29 Chronicle is
Thurs., April 16 at 5 p.m.**

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Community Lutheran School students had the opportunity to meet Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds. Photos contributed

CLS Students Attend School Choice Rally in Des Moines

The 5th - 8th grade students at Community Lutheran Schools, along with their teachers, Mr. Kuecker and Mrs. Kaufman and drivers Mrs. Schutte and Mrs. Hogan, attended the Education Celebration at the Iowa State Capitol building in Des Moines on March 3.

Prior to the School Choice rally, students and chaperones were given a tour of the Capitol learning much about the history of the Capitol. During their tour, they were able to meet lobbyist Eric Gorayson and Secretary of State Paul Pate.

After lunch, the students attended the school choice rally. Several speakers spoke briefly about the importance of school choice and parents' rights in their children's education.

Finally, the keynote speaker Governor Kim Reynolds spoke, reiterating and advocating the importance of parents being able to choose what is best for each student. Following the rally, the CLS students were able to meet the Governor, a great way to end an informative and wonderful day. God is Good!




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Wapsie Valley Community School District - a Year in Review

By Chris Hoover, Superintendent

The Wapsie Valley Community School District is celebrating a year filled with achievement, growth, and pride across academics, activities, and student programs — with exciting facility improvements on the horizon as well.

One of the district's biggest highlights comes from the latest Iowa School Performance Reports, where all six Wapsie Valley attendance centers earned strong marks. Fairbank Elementary, Wapsie Valley Junior High/High School, and our rural Amish buildings all received "Commendable" ratings, reflecting steady academic performance and a continued commitment to student success. Readlyn Elementary earned a "High Performing" designation. On top of that, Readlyn was named the #3 Best Elementary School in Iowa for the second consecutive year by *U.S. News & World Report* — an honor that places it among the very top schools in the state.

Athletics brought plenty of excitement to Warrior fans this year as well. Wapsie Valley teams made impressive postseason runs, with football, volleyball, cross country, wrestling, basketball, track, baseball and softball going deep into the post season or qualifying for state competition. These appearances reflect not only talent, but the dedication, discipline, and teamwork shown by student-athletes and coaches throughout the year.

Beyond the classroom and the playing field, students continued to shine in career and technical organizations. FFA and FCCLA members once again found success at district and state events, demonstrating leadership skills and real-world knowledge in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and community service. The dis-

trict's robotics program also maintained strong participation and competitive performances, giving students hands-on experience in engineering, coding, and problem-solving.

The fine arts programs added to the list of accomplishments. Students in band, vocal music, speech, and visual arts earned top ratings at contests and showcases, while performances and exhibitions throughout the year highlighted the creativity and talent of Wapsie Valley students. These programs continue to play an important role in developing confident, well-rounded learners.

An exciting improvement is coming to Fairbank Elementary this summer with the installation of a new all-inclusive playground. This playground is designed to be accessible and welcoming to all children, ensuring that students of all abilities have a place to play, socialize, and belong. What makes this project especially meaningful is that it is being completed through 100% donations and community fundraising, demonstrating the incredible support and generosity of our families, staff, and community members. This playground will be a lasting investment in our students' physical, social, and emotional well-being and is another example of how the Wapsie Valley School District community comes together to support kids.

Looking ahead, the district is also making significant investments in its facilities to support students for years to come. This spring, work will begin on a major HVAC project at the junior high and high school, improving climate control and creating a more comfortable learning environment throughout the building. In addition, plans are moving forward for a new synthetic

turf football field and a state-of-the-art 8-lane track, upgrades that will enhance physical education, athletics, and community events. These improvements reflect the district's commitment not only to academic excellence, but also to providing top-tier spaces where students can learn, compete, and grow.

Taken together, the year's achieve-

ments reflect a district that remains focused on opportunity, excellence, and growth for every student. From academic recognition to state-level competition, thriving student organizations, and forward-looking facility improvements, Wapsie Valley continues to prove it is a place where students are supported, challenged, and celebrated.




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Friday, March 27, 2026

5:00-7:00 PM

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FCCLA Partners with American Red Cross to Promote Lifesaving Blood Donation

The Wapsie Valley FCCLA chapter is proud to partner with the American Red Cross to promote blood donation and student leadership through the Red Cross High School Blood Program.

Each year, our chapter helps organize and support blood drives at Wapsie Valley, giving students, staff, and community members the opportunity to make a life-saving impact. Blood donation is a simple act that carries extraordinary importance. Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. Accident victims, cancer patients, individuals undergoing surgery, and those living with chronic illnesses rely on generous donors every single day.

Why Blood Donation Matters — Especially in Iowa

In Iowa, thousands of blood donations are needed each year to support local hospitals and trauma centers. According to the American Red Cross, a single donation can help save more than one life, as blood can be separated into components such as red cells, plasma, and platelets to treat multiple patients.

Weather challenges, seasonal illnesses, and busy schedules often cause blood shortages, making high school blood drives especially

important in maintaining a stable blood supply across our state. When local students step up to donate, they are directly supporting Iowa families and communities.

Students Can Start at Age 16

Many people are surprised to learn that in Iowa, students can begin donating blood at age 16 with parental consent (17 and older may donate independently if they meet health requirements). This provides high school students with an early opportunity to develop lifelong habits of service and community involvement.

The Red Cord Program & Senior Scholarship

Through our partnership with the American Red Cross, Wapsie Valley students can participate in the Red Cord Program. To earn a Red Cord, students must complete:

- Four blood donations during their high school career
- Eight hours of volunteering at blood drives
- Or a combination of both totaling the requirement

The Red Cord is worn at graduation to recognize a student's commitment to saving lives through consistent service.

Each school year, the American Red Cross also selects one qualifying senior to receive special recognition through the Red Cord Program and awards them a one-time scholarship. The scholarship is distributed after the successful completion of the student's first semester of college, reinforcing the organization's commitment to supporting both service and education.

This honor celebrates students who demonstrate leadership, reliability, and dedication to helping others through blood donation efforts.

Upcoming Blood Drive-April 16

Our next Wapsie Valley blood drive will be held on Thursday, April 16 from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the multipurpose room at Wapsie Valley Jr/Sr High School.

Appointments can be made directly on the American Red Cross website, or



community members may contact Jenni Gross, Wapsie Valley Blood Program Leader, to schedule a time. Walk-ins are also welcome.

All donors are asked to please bring a form of identification when checking in.

How to Get Involved

The Wapsie Valley FCCLA chapter encourages students, families, and community members to consider donating at our upcoming drive. Whether you donate once or commit to the Red Cord Program, your contribution truly makes a difference.

If you have questions about how to sign up, eligibility requirements, or how to begin working toward the Red Cord, please contact Jenni Gross for more information.

Together, we can continue building a culture of service at Wapsie Valley — one donation at a time.



Ella Allen and Reagan Szurley are pictured at the 'Canteen.' The blood drive canteen (sometimes called the recovery area) is the space where donors go immediately after giving blood to rest and refuel. Snacks and food are provided for blood donors.

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Wapsie Valley FCCLA Visits Iowa Capitol to Advocate for Career, Technical Education

By Claire O'Donnell, Chapter Reporter

Wapsie Valley FCCLA students had an incredible experience at the Iowa State Capitol on Thursday, February 19, learning firsthand about state government and advocating for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), and FCCLA programs. A special thank you goes to the Iowa Association for Career and Technical Education for making this opportunity possible.

Delegates had the privilege of meeting with Director Snow, who leads Iowa's Career and Technical Education efforts statewide. Students learned about how CTE programs are supported in schools, how decisions are made at the state level, and how CTE continues to grow to meet workforce needs. They also gained insight into effectively working with legislative aides to communicate with policymakers and advocate for programs that matter most to students. Touring the Capitol library was a highlight, and the students en-

joyed connecting with other student leaders from across Iowa who share a passion for leadership and career readiness.

The chapter also had the unique opportunity to meet with Iowa Representative Chad Ingels, who serves District 68 in the Iowa House of Representatives. Elected in 2020, Representative Ingels has served on committees including Agriculture, Natural Resources, Local Government, and Transportation. He graciously provided Wapsie Valley FCCLA with a personal tour of the Capitol, including climbing the 300+ steps to the top of the dome.

Thank you, Representative Ingels, for giving our chapter members this hands-on opportunity to learn more about how our Iowa state government works. We truly appreciate your time and leadership.

Throughout the day, Wapsie Valley FCCLA delegates met with members of the public, state representatives, and senators to share the impact of CTE and FCCLA pro-

grams on their school and community. Students used their voices to highlight the importance of leadership development, career readiness, and life skills education.

The Wapsie Valley FCCLA chapter is proud of its students for representing their school and demonstrating what it means to be leaders in action.



Left to right: Wapsie Valley FCCLA Adviser Jenni Gross, Officer Delegate Thomas Brown, Chapter Photographer Reagan Szurley, Central Rivers District President Olivia Suhr, Chapter Delegate Jayden Suhr, Vice President Landry Kane, Representative Chad Ingels; front: President Layla Thompson. Location: Iowa House of Representatives, Capitol Building in Des Moines.

A Life Remembered at Kaiser-Corson

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home will be hosting a memorial event this spring. This event, A Life Remembered, will allow us to reconnect with our friends and families, all are welcome. We recognize and appreciate the relationships formed between our staff and surrounding communities.

The event will be on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 1:45 until 3:30 p.m. at the Waverly location, 218 2nd St. SE. At 2:00 p.m. Pastor Mike Blair, chaplain at the Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, will lead a grief workshop helping family and loved ones navigate the experience of grief and loss. Following the workshop, there will be time to share experiences among staff and guests, visit with others, and share refreshments.

"During this second annual event, we welcome the opportunity to remember the families and friends who have lost loved ones. This workshop will also teach basic

grief skills needed by all at some point in our lives," said Denee Muller, licensed funeral director and co-owner of Kaiser-Corson Funeral Homes.

Please RSVP by Friday, April 4 to waverly@kaisercorson.com or by calling (319) 352-1187. Kaiser-Corson offers pre-need services and at-need services including funeral services, cremation, immediate burial, body donation, transfer and receiving services, and funeral-related merchandise. We are always here to help, no matter where your need arises, no matter what your circumstances are. Our spring event will be a time to share our appreciation for the trust the community has put in us.

For more information please visit the Kaiser-Corson Facebook page or the Kaiser-Corson website at www.kaisercorson.com.

You may also call Kaiser-Corson at 319-352-1187.

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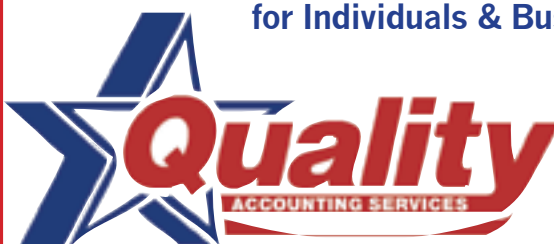
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Community turns out for the Firemen's Breakfast! Photos by Mary Lou Ungs




Celebrate Dunkerton's Past April 11

The Dunkerton Historical and Tourism Association (DHTA) invites the public to "Celebrating Dunkerton's Past" on Saturday, April 11 at 2 p.m. at the Dunkerton Methodist Church.

The guest speakers will be Teresa Stafford and Julie Heiple, who will be shar-

ing stories and history about Dunkerton. There will be a question and answer period after the main speaking event. Refreshments will be provided after the event.

Everyone is welcome — no reservations are needed. A free-will donation will be collected for DHTA.



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“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples” -Mother Teresa



As I write this there is worldwide geopolitical tension due to military action in Iran and the subsequent differing opinions on whether this is a short-term strategy towards peace or a step into another long drawn out war. Two of our young lowans have already lost their lives in just a few days of conflict and none of us want to see that become regular breaking news.

No matter what side of the fence you sit on, we can all feel overwhelmed with the feeling of needing to stay informed and perhaps even get defensive. You turn on the news and hear of casualties, you log into your investment account and see red when you’ve grown accustomed to seeing green the last few months, etc. It is easy to go from “staying informed” to feeling panicked if you’re not doing the things within your control to stay sane.

From an investment perspective, remember that fluctuation in the market can and should be planned for. If you feel the need to jump out of the market and avoid volatility, you should first discuss your options with an advisor familiar with your situation. Pulling out of the market is almost never the right move, and there may be tax implications worsening the decision to get out. The emotions you may be feeling are common, but it’s critical you not let them drive this vehicle.

From a human perspective, zoom in your focus closer to home. There are so many good people doing good things right here in our communities. No matter what is going on around the world, there are things you can do right here at home that make our little corner of the world a better place for us and our youth.

The Readlyn Fire Department just hosted a breakfast and a Hero’s Ball to raise money to better serve the community. The Fairbank Fire Department is hosting a breakfast soon to do the same. Our high school is hosting our 3rd annual “Game of Life” in an effort to help our young adults better grasp the financial fun (and responsibilities) of being an adult. The WV Education Foundation is hard at work to modernize their fundraising event to pour back into our kids’ educational experiences. Soon it will be summer and there will be calls for volunteers to help Readlyn Days and Fairbank Days to run smoothly and sustain safe and fun communities for the benefit of all of us.

We can all step up to volunteer or support these causes that subsequently benefit us. There is something you can do right now within the four-walls of your home to make a better day for your family. There is something you can do right now for yourself to make life inside your own head a better place.

Don’t let analysis paralysis of world events darken your ability to see potential in yourself and your corner of the world (especially financially!). Those that stay composed through adversity lead the most resilient lives and it all starts with how you respond (rather than react) to events. Control what you can control, remain stoic, and maybe even turn off the news now and then.

If you need help seeing opportunities in the mess, let’s sit down and find the potential in your financial future!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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READLYN OUTDOORS

By Eric Johnston
Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com



“Turkey Hunting”

It’s hard to believe it’s nearly April already! 2026 seems to be flying by. With April comes fishing, tree planting, and..... TURKEY SEASON! This month, I’ll take you through a second season hunt from the past.

The alarm startled me out of a sound sleep. As I sat up, I thought, “Here comes another day of work.” I had been putting in so many hours at work I had forgotten what day it was. It took me a second to realize I had a day off and it was opening day of Iowa’s second season turkey!

I was instantly wide awake as the thought popped in my head. I had everything ready to go the night before and it didn’t take long to get on the road! I barely had time for a few sips of hot coffee and I was at the entrance to the little lane to access where I would be hunting. As I eased down the lane in the darkness, an owl flew down out of a tree right in front of the hood of my truck. Any sleepiness that was left had now exited the building!

As I neared the timber, I shut off the headlights to not “shine” the timber and spook any roosted turkeys. I quietly exited the truck, slid on my turkey hunting vest, grabbed a few shells and quietly loaded my shotgun. Being short on time this season, I elected to gun hunt for turkeys this year and forgo the bow hunting until deer season.

As I left the truck, the woods were dead calm. With every step I felt as though I was spooking everything in the timber. I had been watching a flock of turkeys all winter in this area through trail cams and from a distance with binoculars. This is the second spring I had been turkey hunting these properties, so I had a very good idea where the birds roosted each night and where they wanted to go when they flew down. I wanted to get close to their roost and, with every painful step, I hoped I wasn’t spooking them.

As I rounded a corner of a thick hedge to begin the final 100 yards of my walk into the river bottom, an owl let out a loud series of hoots, and a big ol’ tom instant-

ly responded with a thundering gobble! He was roosted exactly where I thought they would be. “Game on,” I thought to myself as I slowly and carefully made my way to where I wanted to position myself. I carefully worked my way in the dark through the thick underbrush to where the timber opened up in the river bottom. As I stepped down into the low ground, I was home free and knew I wouldn’t spook the birds as the ground was now mostly sand and I could move quietly. I eased to within 75 yards of where the birds were gobbling.

As I sat down against a tree, more turkeys started gobbling. I could hear six different toms up in the trees. The timber began to wake up, with the turkeys gobbling, birds chirping, and rooster pheasants crowing in the distance. As the woods started to get lighter, I knew the toms would soon fly down. I let out three soft yelps with my mouth call and all six toms gobbled back at the same time, truly music to my ears! I decided to not call anymore as they knew where I, “the hen turkey,” was at.

Soon after, I began to hear the sounds of wingtips brushing against tree limbs and the turkeys were on the ground. I had no idea the show I was about to take in. One by one, I started to spot each bird on the ground. Usually patience is something I struggle with, but this particular morning I kept telling myself, “Take it all in and you’ll get a chance.” The toms were on the ground for a few minutes and about 75 yards in front of me when the hens started to hit the ground.

Soon I was literally surrounded by turkeys, they were dropping in everywhere and, to my count, I had 26 hens and six toms all around with some jakes mixed in. All six toms were now full strut about 60 yards out and all together. It was like a painting with the sun backlighting their fans from the east. They kept strutting as the hens moved around and scratched in the leaves. Eventually the hens started to make their way to the west as I had seen them do many times on my trail cameras. The toms were soon to follow. The hens

all passed by me at 35 – 40 yards and my heart was racing, it was all I could do to stay still. Typically, I don’t get too nervous anymore around turkeys, but this hunt had me worked into a frazzle!

As the toms started to take the same path the hens did, I readied myself for the shot. As the lead tom stepped into an open lane, I clicked off the safety, let out a couple loud clucks to get him to poke his head up, aimed, and fired! The big tom turned and ran away.....

“What happened?” I thought. I could not believe it, I had missed... with a shotgun at 40 yards. I was stunned, I didn’t know what to think for a moment, I had this beautiful show and I ruined the moment. I sat there for a while and reflected on my shot. I came to the conclusion that I was so worked up with excitement in that moment I didn’t settle the gun before I pulled the trigger.

there to avoid tree limbs and sticks on the ground. It had warmed up enough since Friday that I had broke a sweat by the time I neared the area I wanted to set up.

As I sat down and readied my calls, a tom gobbled loud, only problem was I now felt too close to the roosting area. He was a mere 30 yards from where I was sitting! Getting too close can be a big problem. While on the roost, a turkey constantly scans the ground with their best defense, their eyes. I now had to remain completely still until he flew down.

As the glow to the east started to become more light, I could see turkeys all around me in the trees. Three of them were gobblers and the rest, hens and jakes. When one would gobble, all three would gobble! It was a thunderous rock concert in the timber — when all three gobbled it was so loud being that close, I could almost feel it in the ground. My heart was

pounding and the tension was high as I waited for them to fly off roost to the ground. All three toms were right in front of me in plain view. I kept thinking to myself, take your time on the shot.

As the timber woke up, the turkeys began stretching their wings and moving around on the tree limbs. The first tom that gobbled started to bob and lean out and down he came, he hit the ground about 40 yards to my left. I let out just a couple soft yelps hoping to not spook the birds still on roost and he gobbled along with the two toms still in the tree. He went into full strut and started to come right at me. I could hear him spit drum-



As I walked back to the truck, I started to feel better as I realized I had a wonderful show in the timber and now I would get to go again in second season! I gave the timber a rest for a day, as I had spooked all those birds. My next hunt would be Sunday morning.

My plan was to get right back near the same roosting area and get just a bit closer to change the shot from 40 yards to hopefully around 20 yards. Sunday morning came a bit warmer with a small chance of rain so I knew I needed to make it happen before the rain arrived. I was up around 4 a.m. and made my way to the timber. I had a slight breeze, so my walk in was a little easier as the wind helped conceal my noise. I carefully made my way through the darkness using a small light here and

ming as he neared. I clicked off the safety as he crossed the 30-yard mark. He was still full strut, so I let out some loud puts on my mouth call. He went out of strut and poked his head up. I settled the bead of my shotgun and fired. He was done right where he stood. The other birds still in the trees were flying everywhere away spooked.

As I walked up to the tom, I just slowed down and took the moment in. I tagged him and set up my phone for pictures. As I slowly walked back to the truck, the rain started to fall. I had gotten it done before the rain and was back at the house by 7:00 a.m. A very memorable hunt to say the least! So, with April and May turkey seasons approaching, grab your gear, head for the woods, and GET OUTDOORS!!



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Wapsie Valley School Board - Feb. 16, 2026

Wapsie Valley CSD
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance
1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:02 PM.

A. Directors: Aiello, Becker, Broten, & Kaufman. Auel (6:23)

B. Supt. Hoover, Secretary Arndt & Principals Forsyth, & Murphy. Myers (excused)

C. Brett Bergman, Ron Sadler, & Mandy Bockholt

2. No changes to the agenda

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

4. Public comment: None

5. Consent Items: Moved by Broten, Seconded by Becker to approve the consent items including the bills reviewed by Amy Becker and Open enrollments-Beth Albrecht request to open enroll her kindergarten son to WV from West Central for the 26-27 school year-deadline has been met. OUT-Corinne Schares request to open enroll her 9th-grade daughter to Sumner-Fredericksburg effective immediately. Both superintendents agreed on approving this application. She was previously open enrolled to Clayton Ridge. Faith Eastman request to open enroll her 10th-grade son to Waverly effective 26-27 school year. The deadline has been met. Ashlee Eckerman request to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to Waverly effective the 26-27 school year. The deadline has been met. Currently attending PK in Waverly, Brandi Thompson request to open enroll her kindergarten son to WSR effective 26-27 school year. The deadline has been met - Her son currently attends Waverly Headstart as presented. Motion carried 4-0

6. Board-Steve Aiello & Kyle Shores were the first on the scene. During the incident, we attempted to communicate with families however, we discovered two technological issues that created confusion. It also created delays in the messages being delivered. (These concerns have since been addressed and test messages will be going out later this week to ensure those issues are completely fixed.)

Superintendent: Report includes SBO position, Interest Based Bargaining, Contracts for the Track/Football Field, Fairbank playground, & Track coach.

District-PK-12 Principals: Report included professional development updates, 100th day of school, valentines, Leader in Me, & activity updates.

7. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to approve the resignations of Cindy Shupe-Study Hall Teacher-effective immediately, Teresa Duffy-Special Education Associated-effective-6-30-2026, Brittany Anderson-Assistant High School Volleyball Coach, Joey Rigdon - Assistant Football Coach, Tyler Fall - 7-12 Vocal Music Teacher/Musical & thank them for their service to the students and staff of WV as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Contracts: Moved by Becker, Seconded by Broten to approve contracts for Tara Sullivan - \$21.00 P/H District Administrative Assistant-effective June 1, 2026, Davie, Justin \$3,860.00 Head Boys Track Base 5/Year 22, Chris Hoover \$2,230.00 Asst Boys Track Base 1/Year 0, Bergman, Brett \$2,520.00 Asst High School Track Base 3/Year 11, Foster, Duane \$3,570.00 Head Girls Track Base 3/Year 13, Zane Sittig \$2,230.00 Asst Girls Track Base 1/

Year 2, Danny Adams \$1,968.00 JH Boys Track Base 1/Year 4, Roberts, Brenda \$3,860.00 Co-Girls Head Golf Base 5/Year 25, Liz Bergman \$3,280.00 Co-Boys Head Golf Base 1/Year, Blayde Bellis \$3,280.00 Varsity Baseball Base 1/Year 1, Collin Bergmann \$2,375.00 Assistant Baseball Base 2/Year 7, Kaci Beesecker \$2,230.00 Assistant Softball Base 1/Year 4, Logan Flack \$1,968.00 JH Baseball Base 1/Year 2 & \$2,132.00 JH Boys Basketball Base 1/Year 1, & Tiffany Beyer \$1,968.00 JH Softball Base 1/Year 3 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

8. New Business: WV Education Association (Amanda Bockholt) presented their interest-based bargaining proposal to the WV Board of Education.

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to accept the interest based bargaining proposal from the WV Education Association. The board commits to engaging in the bargaining process in good faith, with the shared goal of reaching a mutually beneficial agreement that serves the best interests of our students, educators, and the entire school community as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten to set the public hearing date of March 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM for the 26-27 school calendar as presented. Motion Carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten to approve publication of the property tax statement tax rate at a maximum rate of \$14.00 and set the public hearing date for March 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Ava Aiello as an early 2027 graduate pending all requirements are met as presented. Motion carried 4-0 Aiello-abstain

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the 5-year lease to purchase diesel bus option with the total cost of approximately \$170,868.60 per bus. Will be leasing to purchase option three buses as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Becker to approve the Engagement Letter with Piper Sandler & Co. Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2026A & Series 2026B General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

9. Board Talking Points-Angie Auel presented on behalf of the Archery fundraising event, \$303 to the lunch program to help with negative lunch balances. Thank you!

10. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to adjourn at 6:52 PM. Motion carried 5-0

College News

Kirkwood Community College announces Dean's List honors

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - Kirkwood Community College has released its Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. These students have achieved a 3.3 grade point average or higher after completing 12 or more credit hours at the college.

Named to the list was Austin Eldridge of Readlyn.



Wapsie Valley FCCLA Hosts Impaired Driving Awareness Activity

Members of the Wapsie Valley chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) recently organized an impaired driving obstacle course as part of the national Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety (FACTS) program.

The FACTS program encourages students to promote safe driving and raise awareness about the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

As part of their 2025-2026 FACTS grant project, Wapsie Valley FCCLA members created an interactive obstacle course where students completed tasks

while wearing "drunk goggles" that simulate the effects of alcohol impairment.

The course included activities such as trying to write their name, weaving through cones, reacting to sudden stop signals, identifying roadside hazards, and completing coordination challenges. Each station demonstrated how alcohol can affect balance, reaction time, depth perception, and decision-making.

The activity gave students a hands-on way to see how impairment can make even simple tasks difficult—highlighting the importance of making safe choices behind the wheel.



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 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
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