

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

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Volume 19, No. 2, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Robin Harms, Tripoli, IA, February 25, 2026

Readlyn Community Club Dinner is this Saturday, Feb. 28 at Bents

The Readlyn Community Club Dinner will be held this Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Bents Smokehouse & Event Center, Main Street, Readlyn.

Enjoy an evening filled with deli-

cious food, lively bingo, exciting prizes, and a few special surprises—all for just \$25.00 per person.

Social hour will be from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow. The menu includes: baked chicken or country fried

steak, potatoes, two vegetables, salad bar, coffee and water, and a cash bar.

Annual membership is included in your dinner cost. Members can participate as much or as little as they wish and stay informed via email and

Facebook.

For more information, follow us at <https://Facebook.com/ReadlynCommunityClub>; contact Michelle Harrington, 319-596-5151, or Louie Hartman, 319-239-0533.



The Readlyn Tripoli Tractor Pullers (at left) would like to send their heartfelt gratitude to the community for their continued support of their event. Through everyone's support, the Tractor Pullers have been able to donate to various organizations including Readlyn EMS, Tripoli EMS and the Bremer County Food Bank. The pullers are shown here with a \$2,500 donation to the Readlyn Emergency Services Building fund. They look forward to seeing everyone the summer of 2026.

Fundraising Marches On for Readlyn Emergency Service Building

To Our Generous Donors

Readlyn Emergency Services extends heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals, families, organizations, and memorial contributors who have already supported the new Emergency Service Building project. Your commitment is helping build a stronger, safer future for our community.

Current Donors

Allen & Evelyn Harms, Barb Meyer, Betty Kleitsch, Butch & Dixie Milius, Chris & Sharon Davis, Darrel & Therese Steggall, David & Suzanne Seedorff, Deb-

ra Kleitsch, Don & Mary Lou Billhorn, Farmers Cooperative Company, Fred & Sue Burns, In Memory of Arlo Pipho, In Memory of Arlyce Heideman, In Memory of Don Heineman, In Memory of Duane Ballmann, In Memory of Gary Zander, In Memory of Mike Bellile, In Memory of Tom Power, Jeff & Hanna Arians, Jeff Brunscheon, Jerry Wittenburg, John & Nancy Kleitsch, Judy Henn, Kevin & Norma Westendorf, Kim Nuss, Larry & Susan Boerschel, Larry's Skelly, Laverne & Judy Leistikow, New Age Electric,

Oran Mutual Telephone Company, Ray & Melissa Knight, Readlyn Town & Country Homemakers, Readlyn Veterinary Associates, Readlyn-Tripoli Tractor Pullers, Roger & Karen Bruch, Scott & Carol Westpfahl, Scott & Hailey Broten, Scott & Rosene Broten, St. Matthew's Church, St. Matthew's Martha Circle, Steve & Sara Boevers, Steven & Elizabeth Poock, Thurm Brothers, LLC, Van Daele Insurance, Wiley Construction, Zion Lutheran Church, Zion Ruth Circle – Readlyn

Super Bowl Squares Fundraiser: A Big Win for Readlyn Emergency Services

Readlyn Emergency Services recently concluded a highly successful Super Bowl Squares fundraiser—selling all 200 squares at \$10 each. Once again, our community showed its incredible generosity and enthusiasm. It turns out that in Readlyn, a little friendly fun goes a long way when it supports a meaningful cause.

\$100 Quarter Winners: Judy Henn, Connie Matthias, Lance Broten, Barb Blaylock, Michael Bergmann, Brenda Meyer

\$200 Final Score Winners: Dan Blaylock, Jen Matthias

In an inspiring act of kindness, many winners donated their prize money back to the department. Thanks to their generosi-

ty—and the overwhelming support from the community, more than \$1,800 was raised for the new building project.

We are truly grateful for a community that continues to uplift our Fire and EMS teams in such thoughtful and impactful ways.

Thank You for Believing in This Project

This project is about more than constructing a new building—it's about protecting lives, supporting our volunteers, and ensuring that Readlyn's Fire and EMS services have the resources they need to respond when it matters most.

Your contributions are helping make that vision possible. But we're not finished yet.

Every donation—large or small—brings us one step closer to completing the new Readlyn Emergency Services Building. Together, we can make this vital project a reality.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

March 1, 2026 — Fireman's Breakfast - Kick off your morning with a warm, hearty breakfast prepared by our local heroes themselves! Hosted at Bents Smokehouse, this annual tradition is a great way to show your support while enjoying delicious food.

March 21, 2026 — Heroes' Ball - Mark your calendars now for an evening dedicated to honoring our community's first responders and raising funds for the new building.

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE
SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HEROES.



\$50 EACH TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

MARCH 21 2026

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Donation to RESB

There are 3 payment options: Make checks payable to: RESB

- 1) Mail to : RESB P.O. Box 276, Readlyn, IA 50668
- 2) Venmo: @ReadlynFire
- 3) Drop off donations at Readlyn Savings Bank

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

Name: _____

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All donation tiers are tax deductible



Grump's Grumblings

By Mary Lou Ungs, 2025 Grump



My nieces and nephews would say that I am technology-challenged. Last month, I pushed the button that said "send," but it didn't send. Sorry for not having an article last month, but you didn't miss much. January was kind of boring.

I really enjoy being Grump. People think doing this article is hard, but I have really liked telling you all the fun things the Grump gets to do. Meeting new people is one of my favorite things.

We had a Community Club meeting and, for the second month in a row, we had many new people. It is so exciting to hear all the new ideas! We can always use more. Please, come join us! At least come to the Community Club dinner. It will be lots of fun.

I love watching the Olympics on TV. Those athletes are amazing! Some sports I have never even heard of, but I can't seem to quit watching. Who was the first person to say, "I like to ski and I like to shoot, let's make a sport of it?" Or did someone on a dare just say, "I am going to ski down this hill as fast as I can, and throw in a back flip just for fun?" I am also not an ice skater, but seeing them, it is amazing what the human body can do.

I am not a big Super Bowl fan, but I did enjoy some of the commercials. I can't imagine spending that much on a commercial. No wonder everything costs so much!

See you all at the Readlyn Community Club dinner!



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Kylie Strottmann

Hello, Readlyn Community!
January flew by in the blink of an eye, and somehow February has been even busier! I've been keeping myself on the go with dance, babysitting, work, and spending time with my family and friends. A huge highlight of the past month was our first dance competition a couple of weeks ago. We placed in all of our dances, which was such an amazing and rewarding experience after all the hard work and long practices. I have my final two competitions coming up later this month, and I couldn't be more excited to finish out the season.

As my final semester of high school has officially begun, everything is starting to feel very real. Between classes, I've been busy ordering graduation decora-

tions, sending out graduation invitations, and getting everything planned and ready for the big celebration. While it's definitely bittersweet knowing my dance chapter is coming to an end, I am so excited for what's next. This fall, I'll be attending UNI, and I've been counting down the days ever since I received my acceptance letter! I'm incredibly grateful for all the memories I've made and can't wait to see what the next chapter holds.

I have truly loved spending time with the Readlyn community through Miss Readlyn and am so excited for all the spring and summer events ahead. Our community works incredibly hard to put on these events and always appreciates your support!

**Deadline for the March 25 Chronicle is Thursday, March 12 at 5 p.m.
Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com**

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Starting in February, Readlyn Senior Citizens will meet at Bents Smokehouse & Pub

On January 21, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., 18 members of the Readlyn Senior Citizens met at the Tripoli Panther Lanes for their meeting and delicious food.

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

Birthdays for the month of January were Wilda Albrecht and Shirley Kuker. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to them.

Anniversaries: None for the month of January.

Sick Bay: Roland Schmidt is back home now at last report.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was read by Lois Thacher from the notes of December 17, 2025. Charlie Albrecht made a motion to approve the notes as read. Janet Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Charlie Albrecht stated that the balance in the account after a deposit and expenses was \$180.00. Marlys Deterding made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as read. Larry Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

Old Business

Starting in February our meetings will be held at the new Bents Smokehouse and Pub in Readlyn. We will miss the people of the Panther Lanes Bowling Alley in Tripoli, IA. We were fed delicious food and we were all in agreement that we were treated so very well. Lois sent a thank you to Lorene, Sharon and Bailie.

New Business

Charlie Albrecht made a motion to

send \$100.00 to the *Chronicle* and Doris Hagenow seconded it. Motion carried.

A big thank-you to Marylou Billhorn for picking up all the December *Chronicles* from the Oelwein Register. They would have been late getting distributed to different locations in the area if she had not done this. If anyone is interested in delivering the *Readlyn Chronicle* once a month, please let Marylou Billhorn, Charlie Albrecht or Ron Leistikow know.

Motion was made by Judy Leistikow to adjourn the meeting and Shirley Kuker seconded it.

Motion carried and meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be at Bents Smokehouse in Readlyn, Iowa at 11:30 a.m. on February 18, 2026.

Lois Thacher, Secretary

We did not play Bingo as the weather was going to be getting bad, so we visited and made sure we all made it home safely. Come join the FUN!

Next Pepper Tournament is Sat., March 7

The Pepper Tournament was held on Saturday, February 7 at the Readlyn Library with 12 participants. The winners and their scores were:

- 1st: Shirley Kuker and Suzy Heineman - 210
- 2nd: Roger and Connie Buhr - 204
- 3rd: Ron and Judy Leistikow - 191

4th- Millie Crawford and Judy Henn - 139

Thanks for playing. The next Pepper Tournament will be on Saturday, March 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Readlyn Library. Use the rear entrance. Entry fee is \$3.00.

Bring a partner and join in the fun.

Readlyn Firefighters will host annual breakfast Sunday, March 1 at Bents

The Readlyn Firefighters Association will hold its annual breakfast fundraiser this Sunday, March 1, at Bents Smokehouse and Pub, Main Street, Readlyn. The meal will be served from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and carry-outs will be available.

The menu will in-



clude scrambled eggs, smoked sausage patties, rinderwurst, French toast, cinnamon rolls, toast, juice, coffee and milk, all for a free-will donation at the door.

Proceeds will be used toward the betterment of the Readlyn Volunteer Fire Department. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Welcome to our New Agent
Tyler Matthias
319-239-4787



Agents:
Louie Hartman 319-239-0533
Gary Guether 319-415-9874
Connie Rochford 319-231-9004

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UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH PROGRAM

"Mistake to Masterpiece"

Wednesday, March 4

2:30 - 3:30 PM

Join Bremer County ISU Extension for a program for kids aged Kindergarten through 5th grade. There's no school today, so please join us!



SEED SWAP AND GIVEAWAY

Saturday, March 14

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Stop by the library for free garden seeds!

There are a lot to choose from.

First come, first served!

Sponsored by Nine Square Feet

IOWA'S HAUNTED CORRIDOR

Thursday, April 16

6:30 pm

From abandoned asylums to historic inns and spooky houses, we'll uncover the history and supernatural occurrences that make Iowa a paranormal hotspot. Ghost enthusiasts and history buffs will love this program!

Presented by Katie Hopkins



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

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The Warrior Way: Modernizing Where We Learn & Where We Play

By Wapsie Valley Superintendent
Chris Hoover

The Wapsie Valley Community School District is taking a historic step forward in student comfort and athletic excellence. In a decision during its most recent session, the Wapsie Valley Board of Education officially approved a comprehensive facilities upgrade package that includes building-wide air conditioning for the junior and senior high building and a total transformation of the track and football complex. By modernizing our learning spaces and our athletic facilities simultaneously, we are ensuring that Wapsie Valley remains a premier destination for academics and extracurriculars alike.

Keeping Our Classrooms Cool

We know how difficult it is for our students to stay focused during those sweltering Iowa days. This HVAC project ensures that every classroom and gym space in the Junior and Senior High building will finally be climate-controlled. This isn't just about comfort; it's about creating an environment where our Warriors can focus on their schoolwork without the distraction of a hot classroom. It is also an opportunity where our community can enjoy events in spaces such as the gymnasiums and auditorium and remain comfortable.

Smarter Technology, Lower Costs: The Efficiency of Modern HVAC

When looking at the numbers, it is clear that today's HVAC technology has made a massive leap forward compared to the systems many of us grew up with. Modern units are typically 20% to 40% more efficient than those installed just 15 years ago, and in some cases, a new high-efficiency system can reduce energy consumption by as much as 50% to 80% compared to an outdated model. This is possible because of "smart" components like variable-speed motors, which adjust their output based on the exact temperature needed rather than just blasting air at 100% capacity and then shutting off. For a school district, this means we aren't just gaining the comfort of cool air; we are doing it with a much smaller carbon footprint and lower expenses, allowing more of our budget to stay where it belongs: in the classroom.



A New Home for Warrior Pride

This project isn't just a "face-lift"—it's a total re-imagining of how our community uses our athletic spaces. Whether you're a student-athlete, a member of the band, or a fan in the stands, the new stadium is built for you:

- **A True Community Field:** By moving to synthetic turf, our field becomes an "all-weather" resource. It won't just be for Friday night football; it can be used daily for PE classes, marching band practice, youth sports, and community events without the mud and wear-and-tear of natural grass.

- **No More Running in Hallways:** Our new 8-lane track will be a game-changer. Our track athletes will no longer have to train in parking lots or hallways during the rainy season. Plus, Wapsie Valley will finally be able to host regional and district-level meets, bringing families from all over Iowa to support our local businesses in Fairbank, Readlyn, and Oran.

- **The Best Seat in the House:** We are installing a brand-new bleacher system with a "built-in" press box. By integrating the press box directly into the top of the stands, we've created a sleek, modern look that gives our coaches and media a

bird's-eye view while keeping our fans closer to the action.

Zero Property Tax Impact

The best part for our residents? This project will not increase your property tax rate. Because of careful long-term planning, the Board is funding these upgrades using SAVE (the "Statewide Penny" sales tax) and PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy) funds. These are existing "buckets" of money that Iowa law requires us to spend only on buildings and equipment. By using these dedicated funds, we are delivering a world-class facility to our students and families without asking for a single extra penny in property taxes from our communities.

We are incredibly excited to embark on this journey toward a more comfortable, modern, and high-performing Wapsie Valley. These upgrades represent more than just new equipment and surfaces—they are an investment in the daily lives of our students and the long-term pride of our communities. We can't wait to see our Warriors competing on a world-class track and turf, and our students thriving in climate-controlled classrooms.

To learn more about the specifics of the project, the construction time line, and how our funding works, please read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (on page 10).

Continued on Page 10



Bents Smokehouse & Pub offers three special events in March

"We'd like to thank the community and customers for all the support," said Sheila Bents, who, with her husband, Jason, is the owner of Bents Smokehouse & Pub, located at 209 Main Street, Readlyn.

Since the business opened the end of January, they have been very busy!

"Things are going very well here," Sheila said. A number of events will be held at Bents in the coming weeks. The Readlyn Firemen's Association will hold its annual breakfast there this Sunday,

March 1, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

A fair, featuring up to 20 various vendors, will be offered on Sunday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in reserving a spot, call Bents at 319-279-3839 by March 5.

On Saturday, March 21, the Heroes' Ball will be held, starting at 5 p.m.

All of these gatherings will be held in the Event Center at Bents.

"The Event Center is available for rent and we also do catering," Sheila said.



Readlyn Elementary School fourth graders presented a "Welcome to Readlyn" sign to business owners Jason and Sheila Bents at Bents Smokehouse & Pub.



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Let's get started.



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Wasn't it Yesterday? *In Jesus' Name*

I read somewhere that some scientists believe that dreaming while we sleep is almost as vital as the air we breathe.



By J.D. Francis

If that is true, then it seems a safe bet to say that we all dream while we sleep. How many times have you woke up in the middle of the night after a vivid dream, be it a fantasy or a nightmare, and yet

the next morning couldn't remember what it was? Very seldom when we wake do we remember our nighttime dreams. That's my story anyway, with the exception of the other night. I awoke with a dream that followed me to my kitchen table and still stays in my mind like the first song of every morning.

I wasn't much for this big city, Chicago life, but I'd be returning home the following day and I figured I could tough it out one more day. It was a damp, chilly, fall afternoon and I was only a half a block from the Marriott where I was staying. The coat I was wearing wasn't quite cutting it, but I managed to keep my hands warm inside the pockets. I had an hour to kill, so I decided to duck into a diner next door to the hotel for a hot chocolate and a bite to eat. As I turned from the sidewalk into the spacious doorway there was a man standing there huddled in the corner of the doorway. He appeared to be a homeless man as best I could tell. I went in and sat down at the closest small table and turned my chair so that I could see him. He was a shorter, thinner man a little more than 5 feet tall. He had long, dark, wavy hair parted down the middle and a full dark beard. I noticed when our eyes met in the doorway that his eyes were a hypnotic shade of blue. His clothes were worn and in places threadbare and his shoes worn thin and barely covered his feet. What was most obvious was that he wasn't wearing a coat on such a chilly day. I couldn't believe he could stand there in the cold.

It bothered me to the point of going out and inviting him in to sit with me, of which he nodded in approval. I was a bit uncomfortable that the diner may not approve of his existence in their café, but they never said anything to me. I was certain he didn't have any money so I ordered us both

a cheeseburger, fries, and a hot chocolate. The waitress looked at me strange when I ordered two of the same meals but she did oblige.

I started a clumsy conversation by asking him where he was from. "I came from a family in Bethlehem who had very little," he said in a direct tone. I wasn't sure how to react to that, but I then asked him what he does for a living. He told me it was He who took upon Himself, the shame and the sins of all humanity. Just then the waitress brought out our orders and asked where I would like the other plate and hot chocolate to go. I told her it was his as I pointed across the table. Again, I got a very strange look from her, but again she fulfilled my request.

The hot chocolate was still too hot, so I cautiously took a small sip. I watched the gentleman with me, as he took the cup and chugged it all the way down and set the empty cup on the table. I was shocked, as hot as it was, but I looked at the cup and it was still full.

He looked up at me and said, "God is under attack in this world. Courts have removed prayer from public places and classrooms. It seems as though Christians are losing their spiritual and moral fiber. There is a slow and direct assault on the Ten Commandments. God has never given up on society," he mumbled to himself.

We were both done eating, but I noticed that not one thing was removed from his full plate. I left enough money down on the table to cover both meals and stood to go. I was thinking it was a good time for me to leave. It was just too cold for him to be in the weather, so I removed my coat and placed it around his shoulders to keep him warm. "I'd like to offer my thanks for the gifts I've received and always give to your brother when he is in need," he said. I never got his name so I asked him if He'd tell me. He said his name was Jesus and that he was the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father, but through Him. I would have sworn on a stack of Bibles, that I'd been speaking with Jesus. It was obvious that nobody saw him, and nobody heard him speak. This was strange and time to go.

I started down the sidewalk towards the Marriott wondering how weird this encounter was when the waitress came running with my coat. She said I left it on the floor in the diner and I'd certainly be needing it on a chilly night like this.

jdfrantpaint@msn.com

Program for Planning and Planting Your 2026 Garden

Learn how to plan and plant your 2026 vegetable garden—what to plant and preparing the soil, led by Ron Lenth. Free garden seeds will be available for attendees. Open to the public!

This will be part of the Bremer Garden Master Gardener monthly program. Monday, March 16, 2026, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. at Bremer County ISU Extension Office, 720 7th Ave. SW, Tripoli.

Following the presentation, the public is invited to attend the Bremer Coun-

ty Master Gardeners and Friends March 2026 meeting, 7:15-8:00 p.m.

For more information contact Ron Lenth, Bremer County Program Director (319) 882-4275. To learn more about the ISU Master Gardener Program visit www.extension.iastate.edu/bremer/master-gardener-program.



Save The Date Annual Spring Event

Saturday, April 11, 2026
2 p.m.

Dunkerton Methodist
Church

All are welcome. More details will come in March. Everyone is welcome. Hoping you can attend.

**Deadline for the
March 25
Readlyn Chronicle
is Thurs., March
12 at 5 p.m.
Send news to:
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gmail.com**



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5:00-7:00 PM

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Celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week

Community Lutheran School students and staff made a joyful noise of praise as they celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week and National School Choice Week with extra fun and meaningful activities throughout the week of Jan. 26-30! We ♥ our Lutheran school!



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Continued from Page 5

Project FAQ: All You Need to Know

Q: If there is no property tax increase, where is the money coming from? A: The project is funded by SAVE and PPEL.

• **SAVE (Statewide Penny):** This is a 1-cent sales tax collected across Iowa. These funds cannot be used for teacher salaries, only for buildings and infrastructure.

• **PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy):** This is an existing levy already in place. We are simply using these "infrastructure-only" dollars to pay for these specific upgrades.

Q: Why do we need synthetic turf instead of just keeping the grass? A: Natural grass can handle far less traffic than turf before it begins to show wear, damage, or becomes unusable. Synthetic turf can be used 24/7. This means our PE classes, marching band, youth programs, baseball, softball, speed and agility can all use the field without ruining the surface for Friday night football.

Q: Why an 8-lane track? A: Most high-level regional and district track meets give preference to an 8-lane track to host. By expanding to 8 lanes, Wapsie Valley becomes a destination for major events, which brings hundreds of visitors to our local area. Also, more lanes allows for quicker, more efficient track meets and allows all of our JH/HS athletes to practice at the same time.

Q: When will the air conditioning be finished? A: Because HVAC work is highly invasive (requiring work inside ceilings and walls), we are phasing the installation to minimize disruption to classes. While the stadium will be ready for the fall 2026 season, the full building-wide AC is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2027-2028 school year as long as everything goes as planned.

Q: Will the community be able to use the new track? A: Yes! We remain committed to being a community-centered district. We will publish "Community Walk/Run" hours for the new track once construction is complete, ensuring everyone has a safe, high-quality place to exercise.

Q: Will we still be able to watch the football games from the back of the end zone? A: Yes! The track will have a fence around it, but we still plan to give our fans a choice of where they would like to watch the game. You can stand behind the fence, sit in the bleachers, or hang out behind the back of the end zone.

Q: Will I be able to walk on the track during football games? A: Unfortunately, the track will be off limits during football games and other activities. There will be designated areas of the track to walk across to get to the back of the end zones but the majority of the track will be roped off. We will publish "Community Walk/Run" hours for the new track once construction is complete.

Q: If I wanted to walk while an activity is going on where could I do that? A: The track will have a sidewalk that goes all the way around the perimeter of the fence. If you would like to walk you can do so on the sidewalk during activities.

Q: Who can I contact if I have other questions? A: You may contact Chris Hoover @ choover@wapsievalleyschools.org with your questions. You may also contact any Wapsie Valley Board member.

Q: Where can I see pictures of the proposed improvements? A: Some renderings have been included with this article. Please understand that the specifics of colors and fonts have not yet been decided.

Q: Where can I look for updates on how the project is progressing? A: We plan to post regular updates on social media pages like Facebook and our website.

Donations for the Heroes' Ball needed; VIP tables available

We are still looking for donations for the Heroes' Ball on March 21! Any item or donated service is tax-deductible, as both the Readlyn Fire Department and Readlyn EMS are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Donations will be used for our live and silent auctions, with all proceeds supporting the future Readlyn Emergency Services Building.

If you or your business are interested in donating, please reach out to Jessica Anderson 319-504-5903 — every contribution helps us move closer to breaking ground.



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Students enjoy district FCCLA event

Wapsie Valley FCCLA participated in the District FCCLA STAR Event Competition today at Dunkerton Community Schools.

Twenty-three members participated in the competition that took place alongside other FCCLA chapters in our area. Sixteen members will be advancing to the State Leadership Conference in late March 2026.

The Iowa FCCLA State Leadership Conference (SLC) is the state organization's largest annual event, bringing together student leaders from across the state to celebrate achievements, build leadership skills, and compete in events related to Family and Consumer Sciences. Held each spring, the conference is considered the culminating experience of the Iowa FCCLA year, where members who advance from District Leadership Conferences have the opportunity to showcase their work and represent their chapters.

During the conference, members participate in STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events and other competitive events that allow students to demonstrate skills in leadership, career preparation, and community-focused projects. These events recognize students' ability to research real-world issues, create solutions, and present their projects individually or as a team.

In addition to competitions, attendees take part in leadership sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities with other youth leaders from across Iowa. The conference is designed to help students grow personally and professionally while developing skills they can use in their schools, careers, and communities.

The 2026 Iowa FCCLA State Leadership Conference is scheduled for March 22-24 in Cedar Rapids, where members will gather to compete, learn, and celebrate their accomplishments for the year.

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 mem-

ber 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 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!!!



“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

As we flip our calendars from February to March, there is a wonderful reverberation of optimism that you can almost feel in the air. I know we live in Iowa and there is still plenty of time for cold and snow and whacky weather, but you also can't help but notice a momentum of people slowly clawing out of hibernation and getting more productive with the new rush of vitamin D!

When you think about spring cleaning, you may also feel a little overwhelmed with everything that comes to mind. Yard work, home cleaning, tax time... maybe by now you've even had to “adjust” your New Year's resolutions? Stay optimistic and don't forget the year is young!

This time of year, I am usually very busy with client reviews, sometimes in concert with our clients' tax advisors. It has been a great last few years in the markets, but gains = taxes and this is the only time of year it “hurts” to recognize that success. While gains in your investment account are almost always the goal, we do our best to stay ahead of any tax implications that come with it so our clients aren't surprised when it comes time to file. There are multiple strategies to help offset gains or harvest losses, or even to mitigate short-term versus long-term tax implications, but at the end of the day we want to make decisions that follow our financial plans and are advantageous to long-term goals rather than just thinking about one fiscal year at a time.

Sometimes, when you have an advisor or team that actively manages your accounts, there can be some confusion about realized gains and losses. You may have not taken any money out of the account, but there may have been trades within the account that grew in size.

Example: If I buy a position for \$100 on January 1, it grows to \$150 a few weeks later so I sell it. I have a realized (short-term) gain of \$50. I might take this \$150 and invest it all into a different position, but I still owe tax on the \$50 gain even if I didn't cash out the account. I would still have a 1099 coming for trades placed with overall growth (this is a GOOD thing!!)

Types of tax implications:

Short-Term Gain (STG): A position was held for less than one year, taxed as ordinary income on any gains above the cost basis.

Long-Term Gain (LTG): A position was held for more than one year and sold for a higher amount than the cost basis, taxed as capital gains rates rather than income.

Types of Investment Account Tax Forms:

Brokerage / Individual / Joint accounts: **1099**

IRA / ROTH IRA / 401(k) accounts: **1099-R** (if there were any required minimum distributions (RMDs) or redemptions)

If your tax advisor or financial advisor aren't helping you navigate what is best for your long-term investments (and legacy of passing onto loved ones!), it would definitely be worth your time to search around for a more full-service professional.

Don't forget the distinction:

Suitability (broker dealers / commissions-based sales): Only has to prove suitability at the point of the investment/sale.

Fiduciary (Fee-based advisors, financial planners/advisors...ME!): Constant ongoing relationship, legally bound to act in the best interest of the client at all times.

Advocating for our clients in good times and in tax times is all part of the job and we are proud to be a small part of their legacy of success!

Anytime is a good time to “spring-clean” the dust off your financial aspirations.

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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READLYN OUTDOORS

By Eric Johnston
Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com



wildlife signs were perfectly frozen and preserved by the freeze of winter.

While most of what I will talk on in this article will target deer, this time of year scouting will help your upcoming spring turkey hunting and even this fall's waterfowl and upland bird seasons. Aerial photo study on those cold winter evenings from the comfort of your easy chair is the best place to start any scouting. Be it private or public ground you hunt, the detail of today's aerial photos are so good you can save yourself a lot of footwork by picking out areas on photos that look good. What that means is with deer you can find terrain features that funnel traveling deer to one area or thicker bedding areas will be seen on aerial photos that give you places to directly start looking for your next tree stand site.

With turkeys, you'll be looking for tall roosting trees and open fields or areas they will use to strut. For duck and goose hunting, you can easily find ponds, marshy areas, and feeding fields. These are just a few ways to utilize technology for your hunting plans. I could honestly write an entire article on aerial photo study. One of my favorite phone apps for aerial photos is called ONX that can be found on your phone's app store.

Once I've found the areas I'd like to check out, it's time to lace up the boots and get some exercise. As I said earlier, the cold winter preserved last fall's trails, scrapes, rubs, beds, and all the deer signs you need to piece game plans together and find new tree stand sites or, for the gun hunter, find deer escape routes and ways to better their deer drives and tactics. The coolest part about scouting in late winter/



"Scouting"

As winter nears its end and spring comes slowly closer, there's no better time to get a jump on your 2026 hunting seasons with scouting.

Scouting is a broad term: exploring, researching, studying maps, online aerial photo, topography maps study, hiking — the list goes on. This month, I'll break down my spring scouting process and some of the cool things you can see and incorporate into your scouting adventures.

As the snow starts to melt and the forest floor emerges, a road map to success starts to show itself as all of last fall's

early spring is you don't have to worry about spooking deer out of your area and ruining your hunt. Deer have months after these scouting trips to move back into these areas that you carefully don't want to penetrate during the season such as thick bedding areas.

I like to start with walking the food sources and working my way to their bedding areas. Once I find their route of travel, from daytime bedding to feeding, I begin to look for stand locations between the two close enough to the bedding area to see the deer in daylight movement yet not too close to spook them with my access to my tree stand. And there's the key word — ACCESS. Spring is the best time to figure out the best routes to access your tree stands to not alert deer of your presence. Now is when you find ways in and out to not have wind blow your scent towards deer bedding and feeding areas and also sneak in unseen. While this step can be tricky, it's absolutely crucial in your success and something I'll really be concentrating on this spring.

My other favorite part of spring scouting is finding shed antlers!! As I do all my scouting, my eyes are watching for antlers that bucks shed over winter. I always wait until the bucks have shed their ant-



lers before spring scouting begins for me. I have started running my trail cameras year round now, so I utilize them to know

when the bucks have shed. Also, it's always interesting what you can learn about wildlife by studying trail cam photos year-round. With the cameras rolling, I can learn travel patterns of turkeys leading into the April and May seasons to improve success. I can also get an accurate count on the pheasant population as I keep a camera over my supplemental feeders and the pheasants utilize the corn and protein that the deer leave behind. Year-round trail camera use can also help you keep tabs on your farm in protection of trespassing to make sure folks stay on the proper side of the fence.

So, as the snow melts, look at those aerial photos, then lace up your boots, and GET OUT-DOORS!



Readlyn Firefighter's

Association:

Annual Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Serving 8:00AM to 12:00PM

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All proceeds will be used toward funding the betterment of the Readlyn Volunteer Fire Department

Thank you for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated!!

Readlyn Volunteer Firefighter's Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2012.

Wapsie Valley School Board - January 19, 2026

Wapsie Valley CSD-January 19, 2026 Work Session, Public Hearing, & Regular School Board Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Aiello called the Work session of the Board to order @ 6:03 p.m.

A. Directors: Aiello, Broten, Kaufman, Auel & Becker (virtual)-Declare quorum

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

C. Others: Tammy Kaufman, Duane Foster, Zane Sittig, Brett Bergman, Patty Spowart, Jon Biederman, Richard Seeman, Danny Adams, Justin Davie, Vaughn Gross, & Garrett Pochop (virtual)

2. Discussions were held on turf vs sod, bleachers, alternative bleacher system, additional add/deducts, & financial scenarios which included \$1.4 million dollars for the HVAC project along with funding for the Track/Football Field Project.

3. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to adjourn the work session at 6:30 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

1. President Aiello called the Public Hearing to order @ 6:30 p.m. Roll call-Kaufman-Aye, Broten-Aye, Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, & Aiello-Aye Motion carried 5-0

A. Directors: Aiello, Broten, Kaufman, Auel & Becker (virtual)-Declare quorum

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

C. Others: Tammy Kaufman, Duane Foster, Zane Sittig, Brett Bergman, Patty Spowart, Jon Biederman, Richard Seeman, Danny Adams, Justin Davie, Vaughn Gross, & Garrett Pochop (virtual)

2. Public Comment - Justin, Zane, Duane, & Danny thanked the board for engaging in the conversation in regard to the track/football field updates. It would not only benefit athletic programs but would benefit youth programs, classroom events, marching band, & community. Vaughn suggested setting aside money for future maintenance on the project. Elementary students could use the turf field for soccer.

3. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:48 p.m. as presented. Roll call-Kaufman-Aye, Broten-Aye, Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, & Aiello-Aye Motion carried 5-0

1. President Aiello called the Work session of the Board to order at 6:49 p.m.

A. Directors: Aiello, Broten, Kaufman, Auel & Becker (virtual)-Declare quorum

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

C. Others: Tammy Kaufman, Duane Foster, Zane Sittig, Brett Bergman, Patty Spowart, Jon Biederman, Richard Seeman, Danny Adams, Justin Davie, Vaughn Gross, & Garrett Pochop (virtual)

2. Continued discussion on the Track/Football Field Project.

3. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to adjourn the work session at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order @ 8:15 p.m.

A. Directors: Aiello, Broten, Kaufman, Auel & Becker (virtual)-Declare quorum

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

C. Others: Tammy Kaufman, Duane Foster, Zane Sittig, Brett Bergman, Patty Spowart, Jon Biederman, Richard Seeman, Danny Adams, Justin Davie, Vaughn Gross, & Garrett Pochop (virtual)

2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel approved the amended agenda adding a motion to the December 15, 2025 minutes for the 26-27 At-Risk Dropout plan as presented. Motion carried 5-0

3. Public Comment: Discussed FCCLA grants and Robotics team making to state for the second time.

4. Moved by Broten, Seconded by Auel to accept the low bid from Cardinal Construction for the Track/Football Field Project including the Base Bid, North Sidewalk (Alternate #1), Electrical conduit under football field (Alternate #2), Water line to visitors side (Alternate #4), & Alternate bleacher system (Alternate #9) for a total of \$2,493,450 as presented. Motion carried-Roll Call-Kaufman-Nay, Broten-Aye, Auel-Aye, Becker-Aye, & Aiello-Aye Motion carried 4-1

5. Consent Items: - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Adam Kaufman, & updating the December 15, 2025 minutes to reflect the following motion. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten to approve the 26-27 At-Risk/Dropout plan as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Open enrollments-Chance Bearbower request to open enroll his 1st grade daughter to WV from Dunkerton after a move to Dunkerton in December 2025 effective 25-26 school year, Emily & Lee Hammond request to open enroll their kindergarten daughter to WV from Oelwein effective the 26-27 school year. Sierra DeLance request to open enroll her 1st grade son & 3rd grade daughter to WV from Dunkerton effective immediately after a change of residency (good cause), as presented. Motion carried 5-0

6. Communication & Reports: Board: None
Superintendent Hoover: report includes work session for football field, & track, Public Hearing, Radon re-testing, Jury Duty, Health Insurance Renewal, & School Business Official interviews.

District/PK-12 Principals: report includes Professional Development, Xmas movie, Lighthouse team, Book Study, Setting Boundaries & Activity updates.

7. Resignations: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the resignation of Cain Cushion - JH Boy's Track Coach-effective immediately, & Kim Williamson - Special Education Para - effective the end of the school year, & Ethan Kleitsch-Assistant Boy's Track Coach-would like to continue coaching in a volunteer capacity as presented and thank them for their service to Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 5-0

Contracts - Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the contracts Stephanie Davie Special Education Paraprofessional-\$13.92 per hour, Gunner Rodgers - JH Girl's Track Coach - \$1,968.00, & WV Before/After School daycare - Jack Forsyth, Kylie Strottmann, Claire O'Donnell, Ava Meyer, & Isabella Buck - All \$11.00 per hour as presented. Motion carried 5-0

8. New Business-Moved by Broten, Seconded by Kaufman to approve changing the start time of board meetings from 6:30 PM to 6:00 PM effective the remainder of the school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to approve the 2027 early graduates pending all requirements are made for Olivia Brockmeyer, Kali Ackerman, Brooke Joecken, Addilyn

Fuller, & Hayden Ryherd as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to set the 26-27 Preschool Tuition fee of \$400 and the milk price of \$32 per year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approval of 28E Agreement with Oelwein Online (O2) Tuitioned-In

Agreement with WV for the 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carries 5-0

9. Board Talking Points - None

10. Moved by Broten, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn @ 8:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

Readlyn City Council - Jan. 26, 2026

The Readlyn City Council met in an open budget work session at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 26, 2026. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Nicole Barnes, Keith Brunscheon, Jason Franck, Rocco Imbrogno and Joseph Jones. Absent: None. Others in attendance included: Kris McGrane. The council members were provided additional budget information and provided suggestions for the FY2027 budget. No formal action was taken. The work session adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, February 9, 2026 to review bills. Rocco Imbrogno was the only member present.

The Readlyn City Council met in open session at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 9, 2026 for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Nicole Barnes, Jason Franck and Rocco Imbrogno. Absent: Joseph Jones and Keith Brunscheon. Others in attendance included: Steve Aiello, Barney Wiersma, Luke Guthrie, Scott Broten, Clint Watts, Ethan Kleitsch, Austin Matthias and Kris McGrane.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Imbrogno to approve consent agenda items, which included the regular council meeting minutes from 1/12/2026, the budget work session minutes from 1/26/2026, the claims list from 1/13/2026 to 2/9/2026, the January 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer's & Financial) and the renewal of the Kwik Trip Inc., Kwik Star #708, Class "B" retail alcohol license (LG). All said yes. Motion carried.

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

The mayor updated the council on a few things, including helping with the FY27 budget and public works department projects.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve receiving reports from the city clerk, police, public works, parks, library, East Bremer Regional Recycling Authority (EBRRA) and Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation. All said yes. Motion carried.

Scott Broten provided an updated on the fundraising for the construction of a new emergency services building in Readlyn. The association received an updated estimate in the fall of 2025 of \$1.9 million for the total cost of the project. They are estimating on having approximately \$1.1 million by the end of the year and would like to start the process of construction. A couple options were discussed on how to move forward and city attorney Luke Guthrie was present to assist with questions. Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Franck to approve taking the steps for the city to hire an engineer and to start moving forward with gathering information on the construction of a new emergency services building. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve appointing Bernard Wiersma as the City Superintendent, Electric Utility Superintendent, Water Superintendent and Sewer Superintendent and Austin Matthias as Park Director. Roll call, all said yes. Motion carried.

Franck provided an updated design to the city council for the city electronic sign located along Reed Avenue. Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to approve moving forward with the design presented and repairing, repainting and updating the city electronic sign located along Reed Avenue. Roll call, all said yes. Motion carried.

City clerk McGrane provided information on the research he gathered on a new copy machine and telephone system contract. After discussion, McGrane will gather additional information for the next meeting. No action was taken.

McGrane provided updated information on the FY2027 budget. McGrane advised that a maximum tax levy must be set for a public hearing. Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve setting the maximum FY2027 proposed property tax levy rate at \$16.00722.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to approve setting the FY2027 proposed property tax levy rate public hearing for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6PM at Readlyn city hall.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

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

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Fettkether Fertilizer Co. LLC

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PRime Ag Services - Channel Seedsmen

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Steve Rathe (319) 269-8083

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Seth Walker (319) 352-1619
Tyler Hemer (319) 269-7675

Readlyn Vet. Association

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Rock On Wheels

Roger Wheeler
Randy Wheeler (319) 231-3859

Smidt Crop Management, Inc.

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

Stokes Welding - 412 7th St.,

Janesville • (319) 987-2801
Cell: (319) 230-7770

Weber Farm Inputs - Pioneer

Ryan Weber - 319-231-8882
Kyle Devoe - 319-240-9137

Weeds On Fire Custom Application

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Dan at (319) 269-6753

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Attorney at Law
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patdillon@50674law.com

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wendymohlis@gmail.com

Stumme, Collins, Gritters & Epley, PLLC

Attorneys
171 E. Main, Denver, IA 50622
Phone: (319) 984-5479
www.waverlydenverlaw.com

Town & Country Real Estate

Louie Hartman 319-239-0533
hartmanlouie@gmail.com
www.towncountryhome.com
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Connie Rochford, Broker
Office 563-578-8899

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American Savings Bank-Tripoli
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Becky South ~ 319-464-2614

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Home: (319) 279-3545

Security Mutual Insurance

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www.myerspolaris.com

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319-352-4112



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



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
 2649 230th Street
 Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758
 Sunday services 8:00 AM
 Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month
 Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM



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



Zion Lutheran Church
 240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668
 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
 (319) 279-3643
 Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:05 - 9:45 a.m.
 Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday
 Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:00 p.m.

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