

Readlyn City/Wapsie Valley School election will be held Nov. 4

Eligible voters of Bremer County will head to the polls for the 2025 City/School Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00

p.m. Voting in Readlyn will take place at the Readlyn Community Library, 309 Main St.

All ballots will contain school offices.

Ballots for voters residing inside the corporate limits of Readlyn will contain city offices in addition to school offices.

Candidates for the City of Readlyn include Dan Wedemeier for Mayor and Joseph Jones and Keith Brunscheon for City Council (vote for two).

School Board candidates for the Wapsie Valley Community School District include Director District 2 At Large - Scott Broten Jr., Director District 3 At Large - Angela Auel, and Director District 5 At Large - Amy Becker.

Any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling place has the right to vote in the voter's vehicle. For further information, contact the Bremer County Auditor's Office at 319-352-0340 or e-mail swolf@co.bremer.ia.us. For TTY access, dial 711 + 319-352-0340.

Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

Pre-registered voters are required to provide an approved form of identification at the polling place before receiving and casting a regular ballot. Voters who are not pre-registered — such as voters registering to vote on election day — and vot-



ers changing precincts must also provide proof of residence.

A voter who is unable to provide an approved form of identification (or prove residence if required) 1) may have the voter's identity/residence attested to by another registered voter in the precinct, 2) prove identity and residence using Election Day Registration documents, or 3) cast a provisional ballot and provide proof of identity/residence at the county auditor's office by 12 noon on Monday, November 10, 2025. Election Day Registrant attestors must provide an approved form of identification. For additional information about providing proof of identity and/or residence visit: <https://sos.iowa.gov/voterid> or phone 319-352-0340.

Sample ballots are available on the Bremer County Elections website at <https://bremercountyelections.iowa.gov/>.



Community rallies to support Readlyn Emergency Services Building (RESB)

The Readlyn community continues to show incredible support for the future Emergency Services Building, with fundraising efforts gaining momentum and generous contributions pouring in.

Thanks to a matching pledge from RTC Communications, every dollar raised through the end of the year from any business will be doubled—making each business' contribution go twice as far in helping us reach our goal.

A major boost came from L&L Ag Repair, who generously donated \$15,000 to the cause. Their commitment to community safety and support is deeply appreciated. To celebrate this generous gift, L&L Ag joined our RESB team for a photo, capturing the spirit of partner-

ship and shared dedication to the future of emergency services. Pictured above, Clint Watts, Rocco Imbrogno, Kevin & Deanne Leistikow with L&L Ag Repair, Deb Buchholz, Cassy Hesse and Scott Broten.

We also held a successful gun raffle, raising just under \$6,500. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Scheels of Cedar Falls for their sponsorship and to the entire community for participating. Congratulations to our lucky winners: Kenrick Schares was the first winner receiving the Henry Golden Boy 22 LR, Clinton Watts was our second winner receiving the Savage Axis 350 Legend rifle, and Aaron Ryan

Continued on Page 10

Santa Claus is coming to town!

Saturday, November 29, will be an exciting day in Readlyn!

Since Santa had such a good time last year, s/he actually will be at the Readlyn Fire Station from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Santa requested that we once again include these events:

- Treat bags furnished by the former Grumps.
- Hot chocolate donated by John and Wendy Galyean.
- S'mores professionally toasted and donated by Readlyn's firemen.
- Parade at 6:00 p.m.; line up on 3rd Street by the Historical Society at 5:45 p.m.
- Lighting of the Christmas tree after the parade; donated by Brent and Amy Leistikow. Music will be provided by the Wapsie Valley Choir.
- Ham drawing once the tree is lit. (Must be present to win.)
- FIREWORKS thanks to YOUR pop can donations.
- Free-will collection.

It will be an excellent way to culminate your Thanksgiving!



Please Come Join Us!

Readlyn Gardeners

Winter Porch Pot

FREE Demonstration

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

2:00 TO 3:00 PM

READLYN FIRE STATION

We will be demonstrating how to make your own winter porch pots.

We will have some available for purchase.

Sale proceeds will go to help cover costs to maintain town flower gardens.



Light Pole Decorating Contest!

Sponsored by Readlyn Community Club — See details on Page 6

Grump's Grumblings

By Mary Lou Ungs, 2025 Grump



First I would like to say thank you to the Readlyn Community Club for a WONDERFUL town picnic. It was a hot day, but we had great food, entertainment, the splash pad and the balloon man! It was a lot of fun, but we missed a lot of you. Please try to make it to community events. It is a lot of work to put them together.

I also went to the Laura Ingalls Wilder event at the library. It was fun to hear about Laura's life and what food she would have made for her family.

I also was at the showing of the movie "Country" sponsored by the Bremer County Suicide Prevention Coalition. There was a nice crowd and a good talk about suicide prevention before the movie. The 988 phone number is available 24/7 and is free. It was fun to see some familiar faces (and arms) on screen.

Take care of yourselves and please come to community events.



This beautiful quilt (at left) will be raffled at the annual St. Matthew Lutheran Church fall dinner in Readlyn this Sunday, Nov. 2. The dinner will be held from 3-6 p.m. (see details below). Raffle tickets for the quilt may be purchased for \$1 per ticket, or six tickets for \$5. Make plans now to attend the fall dinner!

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Readlyn

Fall Dinner

Sunday, November 2, 2025 • 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Church in Readlyn

DINE IN AND CARRYOUTS AVAILABLE

Roast Beef
Turkey
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
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Cranberry Salad
Rolls
Pies and Bars

Adults \$15
Ages 5-10 \$10
Ages 4 and under
FREE

Miss Readlyn Comments

By Kylie Strottmann



Hello, Readlyn Community!

September has been such a busy month, but I wouldn't trade it for anything! Between working, babysitting, and dancing, my free time is always filled with things I love. Most of my weekends are packed with activities—from babysitting and dancing to FFA events—and, while it keeps me constantly on the go, I wouldn't have it any other way.

As the temperatures start to cool down, I'm so excited for fall to finally arrive—it's my favorite season! A highlight of my month was October 8. I was able to be a part of the Feed the Farmer Event and Gift of Grain Scholarship Drive, where ten senior FFA members, including myself, de-

livered meals to local fields. It was such a rewarding experience and a great way to give back to the farmers who work so hard every day. This event was especially meaningful to me, as it gave me the opportunity to support my own family members who dedicate countless hours to providing meals for others in our community.

This year, I also joined the student leadership team at school, which has been such a great experience so far. Later this month, on October 28 from 12:30-2:30 p.m., our group will be heading to Readlyn to help clean up and beautify the community grounds. We couldn't be more excited to give back and make a positive difference!

Huebner earns GOLD & Bold award

The University of Northern Iowa's GOLD & Bold awards recognize the accomplishments of three outstanding young alumni every year. This year, the university is recognizing Grant Helle, '19, Juana Hollingsworth, '16, and Sarah Huebner, '16 as the 2025 award recipients.

Sarah Huebner of Readlyn is a 2016 graduate of UNI, where she earned her degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology. Now a Wildlife Ecologist with the Smithsonian Institution, Sarah leads the creation of its first born-digital wildlife collection, built entirely from camera trap imagery. Based at the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, she curates Smithsonian WILD—a free, open-access archive of expertly labeled wildlife images designed to support research, artificial intelligence



Sarah Huebner

development, and global conservation efforts.

Her work bridges science, technology, policy, and public engagement, making conservation data widely accessible and actionable. She draws on deep field experience, including studies of lions and elephants in South Africa, and a strong record of collaborative science. While earning her Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Management at the University of Minnesota, she co-founded Snapshot Safari, a camera trap network spanning six African countries, and helped launch the Labeled Image Library of Alexandria (LILA), a public image database supporting machine learning and species identification.

Across all of her work, Sarah is committed to building inclusive, data-rich tools that help people and wildlife thrive together. She remains actively connected to UNI through guest lectures, student engagement, and citizen science, living out the university's mission by making science accessible, impactful, and inclusive.

Sarah is a graduate of Community Lutheran School and Wapsie Valley schools.

Thank You

Mom asked us to thank everyone for their cards and well wishes as she celebrated her 100th birthday. She read every card and enjoyed reading the well wishes, notes, and shared memories sent by so many old friends, relatives, and former neighbors.

Thank you for helping make Mom's 100th birthday a very special day.

The family of
Arlyce Harms Heideman

College News

Named to Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic

DAVENPORT, IA -- Camryn Wolfe of Fairbank was named to the 2025 spring trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport and Port Orange, Florida.

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Readlyn Community Happenings

Readlyn HS Class of '58 holds reunion

Eleven members of the Class of '58 from Readlyn High School met at the Clock Tower in Sumner for lunch on Sept. 11. A good time was had reminiscing about the last 67 years since graduating.

Thirty-one students were in their class and 13 are deceased. They will get together again next year with Carol and Judy organizing it.

Thank you, Shirley, Alice and Gloria for doing it this year. Door prizes were won by Delbert and Lois.



RHS Class of '58 — Front row, left to right: Shirley (Oltrogge) Warnke, Lois (Lau) Meyer, Delbert Oltrogge and Carole (Klemp) Hadley; back row, Gloria (Pooch) Shildroth, Carol (Lobeck) Strottman, Judy (Kuethe) Henn, Alice (Salisbury) Sanderson, Ron Leistikow, James Hagenow and Ron Schweer.

**Deadline for the Nov. 26
Readlyn Chronicle is
Thurs., Nov. 13 at 5 PM.
Send news items to:
readlynchronicle@gmail.com**

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Beth Kingdon, Director



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

Memorial Donations

In memory of Kenny Piehl

Roger and Connie Buhr
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Becky South
Bonnie Piehl

In memory of Kathy Heinemann

Becky South

Memorial Books

In Memory of Kenny Piehl

Lost in a Book by Chris Britt
given by Dean and Lois Buhr

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HOURS

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

Upcoming Library Events



Memories of the Cedar Valley Road

with author Linda McCann

November 12 - 3:30 pm

*The Readlyn Historical Society is partnering with us
on this event and will be open following the program!*



COOKIE WALK & BAKE SALE

Saturday Dec. 13

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

free will donation



Help us help you!

Take the survey on our website
to help us tailor our services to
your needs!

<https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us> - the survey
is in the 2nd row at the top of the page on
a computer, or under the menu on mobile
devices.

Will there be a Readlyn Community Picnic next year?

September 17, 2025

18 members attended the 11:30 Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Panther Lanes in Tripoli, IA.

The birthday celebrated for the month of September was Larry Ladage. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to him. There was one anniversary celebrated for the month of September. It was Ron and Judy Leistikow's anniversary. We all sang "Happy Anniversary" to them.

We all signed and mailed a get-well card for Don Heineman as he was in the hospital and is now having rehab. He is at the Sumner Nursing Home now for rehab.

We all signed and sent a get-well card to Vicki Pavelec as she broke her wrist and will be having surgery. We all signed and sent a get-well card to Judy Leistikow as she had surgery on her toe and is recovering at home. We all pray for their speedy recovery.

Lois Thacher read thank you notes from Sharon Funk and Lorene Sommerfelt for the

Join us for Pepper Tournament Nov. 1

The first pepper tournament of the 2025-26 year was held at Grumpy's on Saturday, October 4 with 14 players participating. The winners and their scores were:

- 1st: Sean and Lorna VanNatta - 216
- 2nd: Ron and Judy Leistikow - 213
- 3rd: Roger and Connie Buhr - 181
- 4th: Grace Kuethe and Barb Meyer - 173

Thanks for playing. The next tournament will be Saturday, November 1 at Grumpy's at 1:00 p.m.

memorials we had given them in memory of their spouses that they both had just lost in August.

The secretary's minutes for August 27, 2025 were read by Lois Thacher. Larry Ladage made a motion to approve the notes as read. Wilda Albrecht seconded it. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht. The balance in the account after expenses was \$192.00. Roland Schmidt made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Janet Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The group discussed the Annual Readlyn Community Picnic on September 14 at the pavilion by the splash pad. The attendance was low and the Readlyn Community Club had spent a lot of time to put this on. Those that attended enjoyed it! There may not be another one next year.

NEW BUSINESS: Reminder: The Readlyn Community Library and the Readlyn Historical Society are sponsoring "In the Kitchen with Laura" September 30 at 3:30 p.m. at the Readlyn Library.

October 4, 2025 will be the free movie of "Country" at Grumpy's. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and movie is at 6:30 p.m. Dr David Brown from the ISU Extension office of Ames will address mental health concerns. Food and beverages can be purchased.

October 16, 2025 will be the Oktoberfest celebration at the Poor Farm. Tickets are available for \$20 a person for the fabulous German meal and entertainment. Ron Leistikow and Charlie Albrecht have tickets for sale.

October 26, 2025 will be the Zion Luther-

an Church in Readlyn Fall Dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free-will donation and a quilt raffle.

The next Senior Citizens meeting will be October 15, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at the Panther Lanes in Tripoli, IA.

Doris Hagenow made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Shirley Kuker seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

We played bingo after our meal and meeting. The first winner of traditional bingo was Shirley Kuker; the second winner was Doris Hagenow. They both won two scratch tick-

ets donated by Lois Thacher. Larry Ladage won the 4 corners bingo and so did Wilda Albrecht. Larry Ladage won a Kwik Star gift card donated by Ron and Judy Leistikow and Wilda Albrecht won a BOO door wreath donated by Lois Thacher. The blackout bingo winners were Luann Happel who received a gift card to Kwik Star donated by Ron and Judy Leistikow. Wayne Kuethe was the second winner of the blackout bingo and he won \$5 from Ron and Judy Leistikow.

Lois Thacher Secretary
Come join the fun!

Jennifer Jaschen Attorney At Law

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New Light Pole Decorating Contest comes to Readlyn

Sponsored by Readlyn Community Club

Now is your chance to use your creativity to help decorate Main Street for Christmas.

Sign up for the Light Pole Decorating Contest at Readlyn City Hall, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., or email cityhallreadlyn@rtc279.com.

Decorate poles from November 15 until 12 noon, November 29; decorations must be removed by January 10.

Each Readlyn Community Club member can cast one vote from November 30 - December 7.

Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top three winners on December 13.

Let's dress up Readlyn's Main Street for Christmas!

Wapsie Valley Education Foundation Hosts 23rd Annual Fall Feast & Fundraiser

The Wapsie Valley Education Foundation invites community members to attend the 23rd Annual Fall Feast & Fundraiser on Friday, November 21, at the Fairbank Legion. This beloved annual event brings together families, friends, and supporters to celebrate and strengthen the Wapsie Valley community.

For more than 22 years, local volunteers, business owners, and residents have joined forces to invest in the success of Wapsie Valley students. Proceeds from the event directly support programs, teacher grants, and scholarships—helping to build a proud tradition of excellence within the district.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a meal prepared by Costas, followed by live music from Airyn Duffy. The auction kicks off at 7:00 p.m., featuring both live and silent items, along with a general raffle. Auction and raffle details can be found on the Foundation's Facebook page.

Community members or local businesses interested in contributing an auction item are encouraged to reach out to any WVEF board member by November 19 to coordinate their donation.

Those unable to attend can still contribute by donating by mail or online:

- Mail donations to: WVEF, PO Box 203, Fairbank, IA 50629

- Online donations: wapsievalley-schools.com/198355_2

Suggested contributions range from \$5 to \$50, with every dollar making a difference for Wapsie Valley students. The Wapsie Valley Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, and 100% of funds raised go directly toward student programs and scholarships. All donations are tax-deductible.

Join in supporting local education and be part of what makes Wapsie Valley strong!

For questions, contact the WVEF Board at (319) 269-7143 or visit the Foundation on Facebook for event updates and auction previews.



Patriotic painting on old Klinger garage

Klinger resident Harry Arends, who moved here 4 years ago, said the old Richmann garage building needed painting and, him being a Navy veteran, he decided he wanted to say thanks to all veterans who served their country. He put new siding on the sixty foot long building, made cutouts of the veterans painted black, installed two 5 ft. by 8 ft. flags, and an 8 ft. by 16 ft. flag. In addition, he has solar lights on the display that lights it all beautifully. We all say a big thank you to Harry Arends for his patriotic display and for his service to this country.



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Wasn't it Yesterday? *The Mind's Eyes*

I've heard it said that the best things in life are free. No need for a purse, no wallet necessary, and money clips are taboo. So much can be enjoyed from the free things in life. This, not to be confused with, nor am I referring to, the free sample bottles at the pharmacy, or the free toothpaste or shampoo packets we receive in the mail. It's those, the natural wonders of this earth, free for the using, absorbing, and enjoying. The places to go, the things we see, feel and touch, no down payment, no deposit and no charge. It's done so easily, drifting away, in search of those, not so secret, not so distant, spaces and places. For, just as a helpless romantic may believe in happy endings, I believe in those "best things," those free things in life. They're for the taking, and no farther than the distance it takes to simply imagine them to be true. For there is none so better, none more enjoyable, and not to mention, entirely free for the "hauling," that of which we can imagine in our own minds. For the mind's eyes see with a 20/20 vision, sharp and clear, around any

corner, through any wall, and far beyond the distance of forever.

When you need more out of life than simply breathing, or a burden is one more piece of luggage to carry, hitch a ride by "thumb," on the Imagination Express. Climb aboard, the tickets are round trip, and free of charge. No checked bags, no carry-ons allowed. Every seat is first class and every seat is your own possession. You're the captain, the conductor, the engineer, the pilot, the stewardess, and you have all the controls. No whistle-stops, no waiving red lanterns in the dark of night.

Take the ride into the hidden places of fantasy, and make your escape, if only for a little while. Leave behind all that might have been true yesterday. Just lay it away, and let it all go, and set yourself free.

The Imagination Express has no schedule, no clocks, and boards at any time of the day, any day of the week. The destinations are as close or as far away as you care to stay on board.

Take a journey to distant places never seen, and still make it home before dark. For you see, the best things in life truly are free. We are each with our own boarding passes and each with our own imaginations, that allow it to be so. So, accept my invitation and climb aboard!

jdfrapaint@msn.com



By J.D. Francis

Obituary

Kenneth "Kenny" E. Piehl

Kenneth "Kenny" E. Piehl passed away Friday, September 12, 2025 at Northcrest Specialty Care in Waterloo.



Kenny Piehl

Kenny was born November 6, 1937 in Creston, Iowa and adopted by Fred and Ester (Tiedt) Piehl. Kenny attended Readlyn High School and graduated with the class of 1955.

Following high school graduation, Kenny served from 1956-1958 in the U.S. Army, touring 18 months in Japan. After his service, he married the love of his life, Bonnie Erhardt on September 10, 1961 at St. Matthew's Church in Readlyn.

During and after high school, Kenny worked at local businesses such as Dell's Auto, Waverly Lumber, and Waterloo Corrugated Box. Kenny spent the remainder of his working years with H&W Motor Express Trucking where he retired in 1998 after 27 years.

Kenny also drove local Amish around the area for a period of time. Outside of his work in the truck, Kenny enjoyed the road on two wheels, riding his motorcycle, which was a passion that led him to meet Bonnie. Off the road and on the farm, Kenny and Bonnie spent countless hours raising, training, racing, and showing their many horses. Another favorite pastime was their cabin in Clayton, Iowa where the family enjoyed boating on the Mississippi River.

Kenny took great pride in donating his body to science to help benefit the future generation of healthcare professionals.

A special thank you to those who visited Kenny during his days of illness; he greatly appreciated the company.

The family would also like to thank Cedar Valley Hospice for their help and grace in taking care of Kenny in his last 5 and a half months with them.

Visitation was from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn, Iowa as well as 9:30-10:30 a.m. prior to Saturday service.

Funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 20, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn, Iowa.

Lunch was served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church following Saturday's service.

Kenny is survived by his wife of 64 years, Bonnie, and a son, Darrin Piehl; three grandkids, Autumn (Ethan), Zach (Allison), and Drew (Angela); seven great-grandkids, Aubrey, Lorelei, Clara, Dominic, Alena, Aspen, and Everlie; a sister, Shirley Petrack; along with niece Rhonda (Dennis) Westgard; and nephews, Brian Landers, and Randall (Debbie) Landers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Ester Piehl; son, Trenton Piehl; brothers-in-law Leo Landers, Jim Petrack, and Bob Erhardt; and a special uncle, Louie Piehl.

Memorials may be directed to Community Lutheran School, Readlyn Fire and EMT, Readlyn Library, and St Paul's Lutheran Church, Readlyn.

Woods Funeral Home assisted the family.

Send news to: ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

MEDICARE QUESTIONS?

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Review or change your plan during that time!

Amy Rechkemmer

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"Currently I represent 9 organizations which offer 52 products in your area. You can always contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Programs for help with plan choices."

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12, 1:00-6:00 P.M.

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, WAPSIE VALLEY JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL



St. Peter Lutheran Church Oran, IA

Italian Supper

Saturday, November 1, 2025

5 to 7 pm

Featuring:

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Spaghetti
& Meatballs,
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Wapsie Valley FFA

Fairbank Omelet
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FCCLA attends leadership rally

By Chapter Reporter Mykel Moothart

On Wednesday, October 1, 2025, Wapsie Valley FCCLA Leadership Team traveled to Kirkwood Community College to participate in the Iowa FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally. This event brings members together from across the state to kick-off another year in the FCCLA program. This event has workshops, networking opportunities, and mini competitive events. All members present participated in a mini competitive event.

Layla Thompson, senior, participated in the Child Safety Flier challenge. Layla designed a flier helping to bring awareness to Safe Sleep Practices with Infants.

Landry Kane, sophomore, participated in the Grilled Cheese challenge. Landry cooked in the commercial kitchens at the Hotel at Kirkwood and designed a grilled cheese with Texas toast, colby jack cheese, and bacon.

Thomas Brown, junior, participated in the Child Safety Flier challenge. Thomas designed a flier that provides crucial safety information to parents about raising infants and young children.

Mykel Moothart, sophomore, participated in the Grilled Cheese challenge. Mykel also participated in the commercial kitchens at the Hotel at Kirkwood and designed a grilled cheese with ciabatta bread, mozzarella cheese, pepperoni, spinach, and garlic butter.

Addison Franck, freshman, participated in the Chapter T-Shirt challenge. Addison designed a shirt that incorporated Wapsie Valley, FCCLA, and the chosen state theme for the year. Addison was awarded second place in the challenge.

Arizona Franck, freshman, participated in the Chapter T-Shirt challenge. Arizona designed a shirt that incorporated Wapsie Valley, FCCLA, and the chosen state theme for the year. Addison was awarded first place in the challenge.



Mykel Moothart



Addison Franck (left) earned a second place and Arizona Franck earned a first at the FCCLA rally.



Wapsie Valley FCCLA Leadership Team, 2025-2026

Left to right: Thomas Brown, Jenni Gross (Adviser), Mykel Moothart, Addison Franck, Arizona Franck, Layla Thompson and Landry Kane.

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Community Rallies to Support Readlyn Emergency Services Building (RESB)

Continued from Page 1

was our final winner receiving the Springfield Armory 9 mm pistol!

The Readlyn Emergency Services Building team would like to recognize and thank the following recent donors for their generous support: Hesse's D-H Farm, Grace Kuethe, Crane Creek Fire, In Memory of Jim Schneider, In Memory of Kathy Heinemann, Dean & Lois Buhr, L & L Ag Repair, In Memory of Kenneth Piehl, Allen & Evelyn Harms, Randy &

Glenda Kleitsch, In Memory of Geraldine Bravener, Scott & Rosene Broten, Ron & Denise Oltrogge, Mark McElhose, Ashley Kohagen, Todd & Jessi Block, and Eric & Aubrey Johnston.

Together, we're building more than just a facility—we're strengthening the future of emergency services in Readlyn. Thank you for your continued support! To make a donation, please see our attached donation slip for convenient ways to provide your support.



The Bremer County Suicide Prevention Coalition sponsored a showing of the movie "Country" which was filmed in this area in 1984. It was about the farm crisis and a family fighting to keep their farm. There is also a suicide in the movie. David Brown PhD, LMFT, CFLE Behavioral Health State Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, talked before the movie about suicide prevention and awareness. Did you know farmers are 3 times more likely to commit suicide than most other occupations? If you are in trouble or know someone who is having problems, there is a number to call — it is 988 and is open 24/7.

Donation to RESB

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

- 1) Mail to : RESB PO 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.

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Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Many Community Lutheran School students sang the hymn "Praise and Thanksgiving" at St. Paul Lutheran Church on October 12. CLS is a ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Readlyn, IA. "Providing a Christian environment for a quality education while inspiring students to go forth living Christ-centered lives as witnesses of the one true faith in God's Kingdom."

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Three Musketeers come through again!

Thanks to Cal Kuker Welding and city men Barney Wiersma, Austin Matthias and Dan Wiedemeier plus the three Musketeers pictured above, Readlyn City Park now has a state-of-the-art basketball hoop that can be adjusted in height. The second one will be installed at a later time.

After Ed ordered and picked up the basketball hoops, it was discovered that the installation required more work than they bargained for. Since the old posts

were cemented in, this was the first unplanned road block.

Next, the right tools had to be rounded up. In addition, Cal had to design and weld a plate onto the pole. Mayor Dan's tractor was used to hoist up the heavy hoop. This may sound fairly simple, but it was a time consuming and arduous task. Accolades to these volunteers for their work and the Readlyn Community Club for donating the hoops.



The guys are hard at work installing the second of the donated basketball hoops at the Readlyn City Park. The hoops were provided by Readlyn Community Club.



Kate and Violet assisted author Sarah Ulthoff with a recipe from the 1920s at a special presentation at the Library.

Next program at the Readlyn Library will feature Cedar Valley Road on Nov. 12

Fans of Laura Ingalls Wilder had a treat recently. Literally. On Tuesday, September 30, Readlyn's Community Library and Historical Society had the pleasure of hosting author Sarah Ulthoff, an expert of the Laura Ingalls Wilder books in the Library's Conference Room. Ulthoff dressed for the time period, approximately 1920s, and treated her audience to what it was like to be in Laura's kitchen. There were approximately 30 people in attendance.

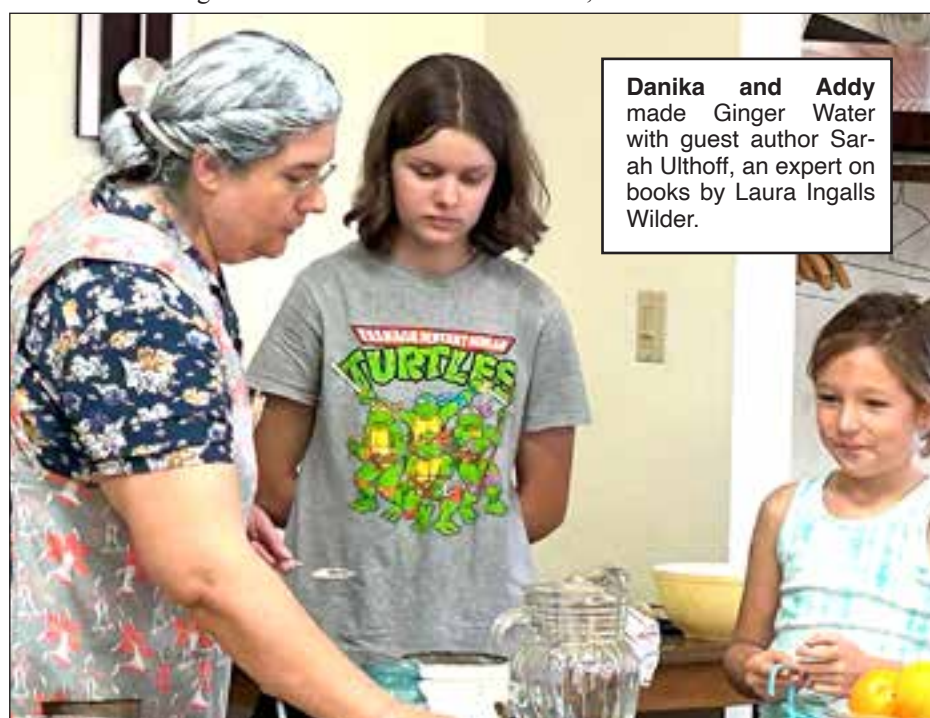
Ulthoff explained furniture and kitchen tools of the time period, approximately 1920, and their uses. Did you know that Fannie Farmer invented the standard system for cooking measurements in the late 1800s?

Several volunteers from the audience assisted in making a few of Laura's reci-

pes using kitchen utensils of the period as the author described a typical day in Laura's life. The recipes made were Baking Powder Biscuits and Ginger Water which was described as a great way to hydrate in hot weather. Also, Laura's special, award-winning recipe for Gingerbread was shared.

For more information about author Sarah Ulthoff, go to <https://trundlebedtales.com/index.html> or visit the Library in person.

Mark your calendars for the next joint event between the Library and the Historical Society on Wednesday, November 12 at 3:30 p.m. Linda McCann, author of Iowa history, will be giving a presentation about the Cedar Valley Road. The Museum buildings will be open after the presentation, too.



Danika and Addy made Ginger Water with guest author Sarah Ulthoff, an expert on books by Laura Ingalls Wilder.



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“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

One of my guilty pleasures lately is a British Baking Series on Netflix. I usually have it on as background noise if I am cleaning up the house or working from home. I love to see the artsy creativity contestants use to interpret the challenges and the risks they take to stand out and avoid elimination.

Even though I am lost in their baking processes, I do notice that if the bakers miss one tiny detail like a minute too long in the oven or an icing that is just a little too heavy, things get messy and fall apart quickly.

It is interesting to compare that concept to any process in life.

In investing, there are a million “recipes” to draw inspiration from and it can often feel overwhelming when trying to balance risk and reward.

When starting out, earning income and getting money saved is a beautiful, simple habit to adhere to. We see so many “accidental millionaires” who were simply offered a 401k + match and just stayed on that long “boring” path all through their working years. They never got too cute about what they were invested in. They just plowed money away and took advantage of company matches, profit sharing benefits, and **time in the market** above all else.

When monies begin to accumulate, you might want to get a little more tactical about what investment vehicles you participate in. Just like any recipe, this is a good time to fine tune risk and time management pursuant to your goals. After being through a market correction or two, you might better understand how you digest risk. You will better identify how conservative or aggressive you really are when it comes to the emotions of long-term investing. Many people hire an advisor at this juncture. Whether for financial advice or emotional support, they enjoy the idea that there is a second set of eyes on the process to avoid a potential disaster.

Finally, when approaching and entering retirement, it is a great time to balance out growth and preservation to ensure you’ve got enough money to last through retirement, and perhaps, even leave a legacy. A time to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

In contrast to the time and elimination constraints of a baking competition, investing over a long period of time leaves plenty of room for mistakes to be made and recovery plans to be implemented. Your advisor should feel more like a teammate than a judge and help offer solutions rather than restrictions.

Control what you can control, save what you can save, and leave the pressure of details to us!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

A stylized, handwritten signature of Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones in black ink.

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READLYN OUTDOORS

By Eric Johnston

Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com



“NNPBS 2025”

Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com

Can you believe we've (almost) reached November? November is my favorite month of the year as with November comes the best whitetail deer bow-hunting of the season. And, as you read this, if it's daylight outside, you can bet the farm I'm in a tree stand filming hunts for my daughter, Delana, and my YouTube channel, The EDJ Whitetails. As my mind is 100% on whitetail deer right now, I'm not going to talk about them this month. What I am going to talk about is NNPBS.

Many of you might not realize this, but the largest team bass tournament series in the upper Midwest actually holds an address right here in good ol' Readlyn, Iowa, owned by Eric and Aubrey Johnston. This month, I'm going to take you through our championship weekend that happened October 11 - 12, 2025.

NNPBS is No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series LLC. Co-founded by Eric Johnston and Adam Farmer in 2021, what started as an idea over some beverages between two lifelong friends has grown in five short seasons to the largest team bass tournament series in the upper Midwest housed on the Mississippi River in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. After a decade of running club tournaments together and feeling as though our hands were tied, not having the ability to utilize ideas and ways to make tournaments we operated better due to club voting etc., we decided to form NNPBS and own and operate it our way.

In the beginning stages, we thought if one day we built the series to 30 boats participating in each tournament we would

be doing well. In April 2021, we held our first tournament hosting 46 teams, tournament two in May held 72 and we've never had fewer teams since, each tournament.

Now averaging 88 teams per regular season event through five seasons, we've had our hands full. Our wives soon joined our team as they could see we were a touch in over our heads with the extremely quick success. To put things in perspective, the 2nd largest attendance tournament behind us during regular season events currently averages 26 teams. We have been perpetually humbled and honored to host these anglers each year.

The premise of the game is we host five regular season tournaments each year. Tournaments are one day, anglers fish from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and catch their best five bass for the day and hold them in their boat's livewell. At 2 p.m., we broadcast the weigh-in on our Facebook page and teams are scored by the total weight of their five bass. Bass are then held in a release boat tank owned by Ritter's Fish Market and released in DNR-approved locations on the river.

Each team pays an entry fee and we pay out 90% of all entry money brought in back to the anglers out to the top ten. On a typical regular season tournament, the winning team will take home around \$3,000 and plaques for their winnings. Throughout the five regular season events, we score teams with points earned at each event. The top 20 in yearly points qualify for our season ending championship, the No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series Classic, along with crowning our "Team of the Year" for finishing first in overall season points. We also host a "Wildcard"



Classic winners Mike Brueggen and Clayton Weber

tournament where the top five finishers in the Wildcard advance to the classic.

This year, we hosted our classic October 11 and 12 in Prairie du Chien. We start each classic weekend with a Friday evening dinner for our qualifying anglers. This year, our dinner was at the Duck Inn Lodge in Prairie du Chien. Anglers were treated to beverages, smoked pork sandwiches with sides, and a gift to each angler for qualifying, all courtesy of NNPBS. The Duck Inn Lodge is a very cool facility and we can't thank the Cejka family enough for allowing us to host the dinner there. Also, a big thank you to Mike Taylor and Nicole Zitzner for preparing our dinner. Anglers at the dinner enjoyed time with fellow competitors telling fish stories and laughing. During the dinner, we announced special rules for the classic and give a State of NNPBS rundown for the year and look ahead to the next. This year's announcements were big in the future of our series. Adam relayed to me early in the 2025 season he would like to step away, and we made this announcement to our anglers. We also introduced the new faces that will step in to help take care of the duties Adam held. It was very emotional for me as we are brothers and it'll be very different without Adam

around, but as I announced to our anglers, NNPBS will always be founded by Eric Johnston and Adam Farmer and my goal is to make Adam proud of the future of NNPBS.

With the conclusion of the meeting, we prepared for day one of the classic. Day one launched out of Genoa, Wisconsin, and anglers were allowed to fish pool 9 of the Mississippi and weigh at 2 p.m. After the day one weigh-in, Mike Brueggen and Clayton Weber led the tournament with five bass weighing 16.83 pounds. The weather Saturday was cool and windy with little sunshine which kept weights on the lower side. The battle was close as the gap between 1st and 10th place was a mere 2.33 pounds.

Day two dawned with much different conditions, as it was cloudy and windy, but much warmer. Day two of the classic was held right in Prairie du Chien and anglers could fish pool 10 only. The combined weight for two days would be the angler's score for the weekend. After leading day one, Mike and Clayton were the team everyone was chasing and they certainly rose to the challenge, bringing a five-fish bag to the scale of 17.77 pounds and securing the victory as they had the best weight day two as well! For their championship, Mike Brueggen and Clayton Weber took home two trophies, an \$8,000 check from NNPBS and sponsors, and an additional \$8,000 from Nitro Boats in contingency program money totaling a \$16,000 payday on a no-entry tournament from NNPBS.

It's hard to believe what Adam, Aubrey, Monica, and I have built over these last five seasons! Now Aubrey and I intend to take it even further in the future and make Adam proud!! Congratulations once again to Mike Brueggen and Clayton Weber for their win! Also a special shout-out to Michael Gearhart for all his help with us over the years and Grace Schmadeke for her help this past season! And the biggest thanks goes to the anglers and fans of NNPBS for their continued support! For more info, check out NNPBS No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series on Facebook or at nononsensebass.com.

And until next time GET OUT-DOORS!!



The 2025 NNPBS crew, left to right, are Grace Schmadeke, Monica Farmer, Adam Farmer, Aubrey Johnston, Delana Johnston, Eric Johnston, and Michael Gearhart.



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NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Hello, Warriors!

The 2025-26 school year is off and running. Homecoming happened Sept. 15-19 and there will be plenty of pictures to share.

School Board Elections

In November, the Wapsie Valley School Board will be holding elections for 3 board positions. District 2 (Brent Sauerbrei-will not be rerunning), District 3 (Angie Auel-is rerunning), and District 5 (Jeannie Wolfe-will not be rerunning) are up for reelection. PLEASE NOTE: You do NOT have to be from a specific district to vote for the candidates. You may vote for any candidate in any district. It does not matter which district you live in when voting.

Tuesday, November 4, 2025: School Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Iowa School Performance Profiles

Each school in Iowa receives an overall score based on its performance on accountability measures. Schools also receive a score for each group of students, such as students with disabilities (student groups must have 20 or more students to receive a score). The measures are:

- **Chronic Absenteeism and Attendance Growth:** This includes two indicators: o Chronic Absenteeism: The percent of students who miss 10 percent or more of school days for any reason, excused or unexcused – for vacation, health conditions, suspensions, etc.

- **English Language Growth (ELPA21):** For students whose first language is not English, this measures a student's progress in obtaining English language proficiency across the domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking. This measure is based on Iowa's English language proficiency assessments, ELPA21 and the Alt ELPA.

- **Graduation Rate (High Schools):** The percent of students who graduate from

high school within four or five years.

- **Growth:** This examines student growth by looking at assessment scores over time to determine whether a student performed better or worse than their academic peers (students at the same grade level with similar scores).

- **Participation Rate:** The percent of students who participate in state assessments. While this indicator doesn't directly impact school accountability scores, low participation does impact the Proficiency indicator and school rating categories.

- **Postsecondary Readiness (High Schools):** This includes two indicators:

- The percent of students earning college credit while in high school.

- The percent of students participating in work-based learning while in high school.

- **Proficiency:** The percent of students in a school who are proficient in English language arts (ELA), math and science based on assessment results.

The rankings that are given to schools are: Exceptional, High Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, and Priority. Exceptional is the highest ranking while priority is the lowest.

I am happy to report that the Wapsie Valley School District, as a whole, received rankings that were higher than any other year previously. Fairbank Elementary, the Junior High/High School, and our rural buildings have all been labeled as 'Commendable' (deserving of positive recognition due to its merit or virtue). Readlyn Elementary has been labeled 'High Performing' (consistently achieving outstanding outcomes). All of these rankings are outstanding accomplishments on behalf of our students, staff, families, and community! Congratulations to all!

Thank you for your continued support of the Wapsie Valley School District. It is greatly appreciated!

Chris Hoover, Superintendent



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Wapsie Valley School Board - Sept. 15, 2025

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular School Board Mtg

September 15, 2025

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:31PM

A. Directors: Auel, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe. Aiello (excused)

B. Administration: Principal Forsyth, & Murphy. Supt. Hoover & Myers (excused)

C. Board Secretary: Kim Arndt, Others: Vaughn Gross-virtual

2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the amended agenda adding 9d. Approval of Fairbank walk in Freezer repairs, & 9e. Approval of Shared Curriculum Director with Keystone AEA as presented. Motion carried 4-0

3. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the FFA fruit sales fundraiser and their National FFA convention in Indianapolis for the 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0

4. Public Comment - None

5. Consent Items-Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Auel and open enrollments: Melissa Swalin request to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to Jesup effective 25-26 school year, Ethan Hannan request to open enroll his 10th-grade daughter to WC and Savanna Dudley Hannan request to open enroll her 5th-grade son and 9th-grade daughter to WC after a move into the WV district effective 7-30-25. Matthew Begley request to open enroll his kindergarten son to WV from Oelwein effective 25-26 year, Jamie Pavelec request to open enroll her kindergarten son from Oelwein to WV effective 25-26 year, Melissa & Tommy Stewart request to open enroll their 4th-grade twin sons, 5th-grade daughter, and 10th-grade son to WV from WC as presented. Motion carried 4-0

6. Board-Nothing to report

Superintendent-Report included, HVAC update. ISASP, Track & Football Field update, Fairbank playground, & Readlyn before/after school program.

District & Principals: Report includes: Homecoming, Professional Development, Back To School Night, School, Field trips, Building light-house teams, Worked based programs, Buchanan County Color Guard, Student leadership group, & Activity Updates.

7. Personnel - Resignations-Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the following resignation: Jennifer Nuss Co-Student Council Sponsor and contracts Danny Adams-Co-Student Council Sponsor-Base 1/Year 0-\$1,066, Jennifer Nuss-Yearbook Advisor-Base 1/Year 0-\$1,312, Bill Cowell-Part-Time Custodian-\$10.92 P/H, Andrea Rademacher-Special Education Associate-\$13.04 P/H, Malena Rumelhart-Mentee-\$500-2.5 days, Amy Buzynski-Mentor-\$625-2.5 days, Kate Nitz-Mentor-\$1,250-5 days, Corynn Downs-Mentee-\$1,000-5 days, Samantha Westcott-Special Education Associate-\$13.79 P/H as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Addendums: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the following addendums-Valerie Westphal-Lead Cook- \$14.43 P/H-includes \$.45 increase, Emily Schmidt-BA+15 step 4 to BA+24 step 4-\$47,203 (base)+\$5,545 (TSS)=\$52,748, Angie James-MA/22 to MA +15 step 22-\$61,587 (base)+\$9,898.15 (TSS)=\$71,485.15 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

8. New Business-Will bring early retirement options for fiscal year 2026 to the meeting in October.

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve FY25 Special Education Allowable growth of -\$290,707.53 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the purchase of 2024 Chevy Express -12-passenger van \$45,180 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to keep the Fairbank walk-in freezer shell and replace all inside parts (\$18,100) as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the Shared Curriculum Director with Keystone AEA for 39 days (\$26,949) for the 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0

9. Board Talking Points-None

10. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to go into closed session at 6:45 PM with a roll call vote-Auel-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye Closed session 21.5 (i) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, perfor-

mance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed Session. Exited closed session at 6:53 PM.

11. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel-Roll call vote Auel-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye to provide district paid family health insurance, family dental insurance and family vision insurance effective June 1, 2026 and terminating when Kim Arndt reaches medicare eligibility. Kim's retirement effective date is June 30, 2026 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

12. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 6:54 PM. Motion carried 4-0 Respectfully, Kim Arndt

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