

An amazing addition to Readlyn: Second Hand Boutique!

Located in the former insurance building at 234 Main Street, Readlyn, Brittany Kemper has established her business, Second Hand Boutique, featuring a myriad of products. Well-stocked items vary from vintage décor, all types of clothing, household items, sports equipment, as well as toys and games. As seen in the photos, this location enables customers to efficiently shop since each room focuses on a specific type of product.

Benefiting from her experience while working at Fredricksburg's second-hand store, Brittany's store creates a comfortable and organized environment for shoppers. Her love of thrifting and repurposing developed when she had a cleaning business and had clients mentioning they had items they intended to throw away. Her

insight kicked in and she saw the value of these unwanted items. When you visit her store, you will easily see that her collecting and repurposing have amassed a great number of useful articles.

A dressing room is available so customers can make sure their purchase is just right. In addition, a bin with a security camera is at the back of the store for donations. Her ambitious future plans include possibly inviting monthly vendors to place baked goods or other items in her store.

Store hours will vary slightly, so check out Second Hand Boutique's Facebook page where hours will be listed weekly. Hours will also be posted at the store.

Take Grump Mary Lou's advice and, "Come check it out!"



The vintage decor display.



Clothing for children.

See more photos on Page 8



The openness of this room is designed to welcome children to explore.

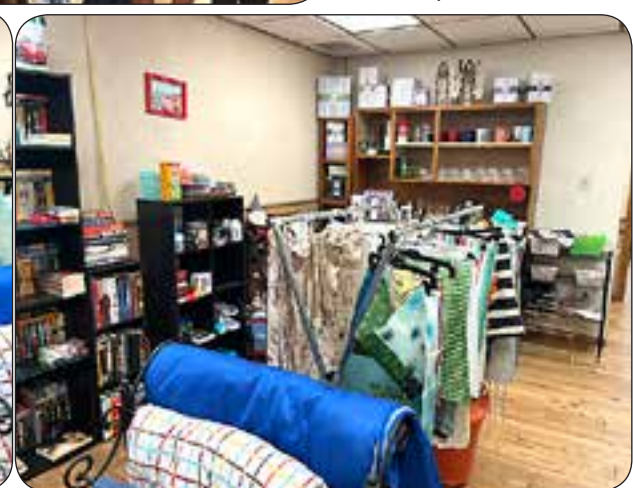
Grump Mary Lou Unga said, "We had the pleasure of being the first three shoppers at Readlyn's newest business. Come check it out!" Left to right are owner Brittany Kemper, Unga, Kim Kohagen and Linda Buchholz.



Women's room features a wide variety of sizes and selections.



Household items can be found in abundance. Each room in the Second Hand Boutique focuses on a type of product.



See more photos on Page 8

Wittenburgs earn July Yard of the Month honors

Bonnie and Rod Wittenburg, 112 Malone, Readlyn, are July's winners of Weeds on Fire's Yard of the Month; they ecstatically accept this well-deserved award. Besides having flower beds surrounding the house, meticulously edged by Rod, their lawn is dotted with thematic gardens as you'll observe in the photos.

Bonnie attributes her gardening skills to becoming a Readlyn Gardener a number of years ago. She admired the gardens in town and wanted to make her yard look nicer with blooming flowers all year long. Thanks to tips from the gardeners, especially Bonnie Erickson, the photos demonstrate that she achieved her goal. Bonnie's advice: "If you don't like it, change it; plants are like haircuts, they will grow back after a trim."

Rod and Bonnie appreciate Weeds on Fire for offering this award. Typical of Wittenburg's generosity, they donated their monetary gift back to the Readlyn Gardeners.

Please note: While traveling on their golf cart throughout Readlyn, they see so many deserving yards for this award. Since so many lovely backyards cannot be seen, please feel free to send nominations for Yard of the Month to Bonnie Wittenburg, 319-231-4476, or email bonniewittenburg5@gmail.com.

Interested in honing your gardening skills like Bonnie did? Use the same information to join Readlyn Gardeners. They generally meet each Monday at 9:00, temperatures dictate the start time, for just one hour.



A few of the metal sculptures (above and below) were scored at flea markets and garage sales.



Bonnie and Rod enjoy relaxing on their deck.



The porch is a warm welcome to their home.



Early spring flowers (above and left) make beautiful bouquets. The unique peony is from the Peony Farm.

Grump's Grumblings

By Mary Lou Ungs, 2025 Grump



I can't believe this is my last article as Grump! This year has flown by and I have had a great time being your Grump.

I want to thank my cousin, Cindy, for being my driver and using their convertible for parades, the Community Club for all the wonderful events they sponsor, the Garden Club for keeping the gardens around Readlyn beautiful, thank you to Brenda Wedeking who donated the beautiful flowers on Main Street.

Thank you to the Historical Society who helps us remember our past and for making us a part of the passport project



(check it out at the library) and the Readlyn Library for all the programs and projects during the summer (and all year long).

Thanks to the fire department and the first responders and police department for keeping us safe.

Welcome to the new business in Readlyn and thanks to all the "old" businesses who help support Readlyn.

Thanks to the great teachers who keep our education standards in Readlyn so high. Thanks to the city and the workers who keep things working. Thanks to all the volunteers who keep things going. Thanks to the churches who remind us who really deserves thanks and praise!

If I have forgotten someone or an organization, I am sorry. Readlyn is so full of great people and places, I almost forgot to mention our great parks or the Splash Pad, the bike path, or the patriotic rock.

Readlyn is a great place to live, and I have been honored to be a small part by being your Grump. It is the people that make Readlyn great. Keep it up!

Miss Readlyn Comments

By Kylie Strottmann



It's hard to believe how fast this year went. Between graduating, dance, work, babysitting, church activities, and everything else, life has been busy, and this year flew by before I knew it.

Being Miss Readlyn has been a lot of fun. I've enjoyed getting to represent our community and share a little bit about what's been going on in my life throughout the year. It's also been fun looking back at each month and realizing just how much can happen in such a short amount of time.

As I get ready for what's next, I'm excited to start a new chapter. This fall, I'll be attending Hawkeye Community Col-

lege and continue to figure out where life will take me. While there are definitely a lot of unknowns ahead, I'm looking forward to the opportunities and experiences that come with them.

I want to thank everyone who followed along throughout the year and supported me along the way. Readlyn is a great community, and I'm grateful to have grown up here.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Miss Readlyn this past year. I've had a blast, made some great memories, and met some wonderful people along the way.

Best wishes to the next Miss Readlyn—I know you'll have an amazing year!

Deadline for the July 29 Chronicle is Thursday, July 16 at 5 p.m.
Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

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Speaker: Twila Belk,

"The Gotta Tell Somebody Gal"

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For the third year, Brenda Wedeking has generously donated hanging baskets to decorate Main Street. Since this is our country's 250th birthday, red flowers were a perfect choice. The citizens of Readlyn thank you very much!

As promised, the Readlyn Community Club purchased the swing for disabled children (pictured at right) from the profits of their UTV ride. Thank you, Austin Matthias, for installing it in the City Park. We hope it brings joy to those who can benefit from it.

Mentioning improvements, our always loyal and dedicated RCC members Ed Harrington and Rod Wittenburg updated the electrical outlets and light switch in the gazebo. Readlyn is blessed to have these ambitious members. Kudos!!





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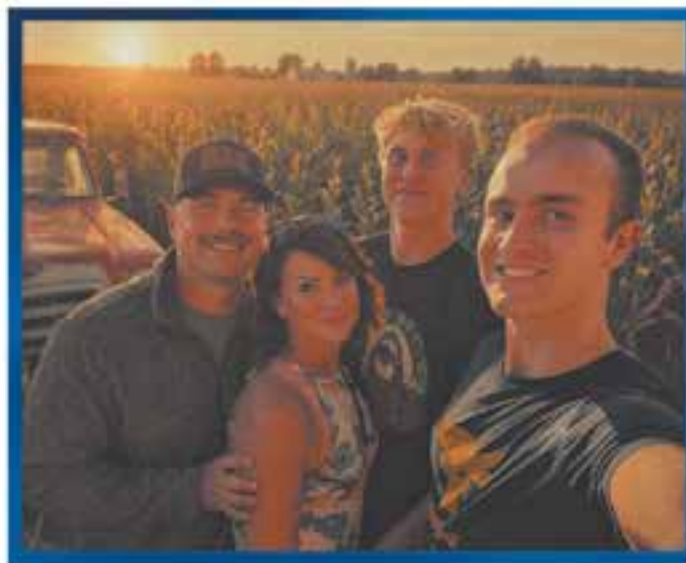
Agents:

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Hi! My name is Megan Bruns. I grew up in Story County and have called Bremer County home since 2008, settling in Readlyn in 2024. I'm a proud mom to two sons, Austin (23) and Tyler (19). I also work a few evenings at Bremer Brewing Company in Waverly. In my free time, I enjoy fishing with my boyfriend, Jeff, going for walks on the trail, practicing yoga, and spending quality time with my boys and my two dogs, Hamish and Dirk. I'm truly excited to be part of Readlyn Savings Bank and feel grateful to live and work in such a wonderful community. I look forward to all the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead!



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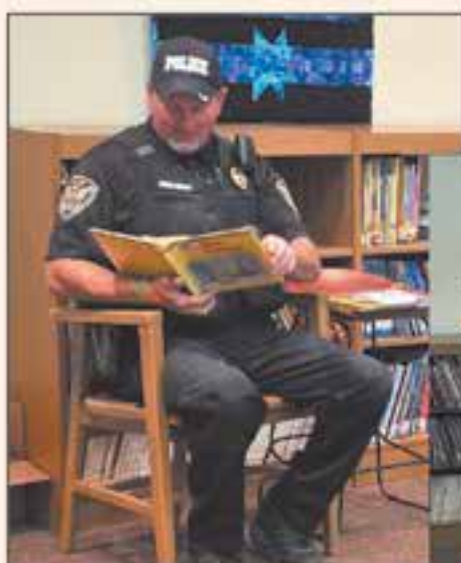
Beth Kingdon, Director



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ENJOY A FEW PHOTOS FROM OUR SUMMER READING EVENTS SO FAR!



CONTEST!

We're accepting entries into the Teen Photo Contest until July 1. For more information, contact the library or visit: <https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us/summer-reading-program/teen-photo-contest>



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

you can HELP

The library has an opening for a Trustee. If you're interested in serving on the library board and live within the city limits of Readlyn, contact the library for more information! The Board of Trustees typically meets one evening each month.

Wasn't it Yesterday? *Isn't It Time?*



By J.D. Francis

It's long been a struggle, as I feel the dark of night falling in on me, like the winter blanket it soon will become. It makes it easy to pull the window shades down low, to close the gap in each sill.

A simple clap of the hands, powers every light in the room, my only saving grace, that I might not feel so all alone. My wife was visiting my daughter in Iowa City, so this night was destined to be a long one. I had total confidence that the drink in my glass would parallel my thirst, before any chance of it evaporating. My over-stuffed easy chair was calling for a tenant, and I was happy to oblige.

It wasn't much of an effort to push the remote for the TV, as my conversation was one-sided, and the 4 walls were as equally narrow minded.

I knew the television was going to be the closest thing to company I desperately needed.

Lit up on the big screen was everything I didn't want to see. A bleeding father was carrying his severely injured daughter, while running through war-torn streets, for any kind of safety he couldn't find. Bombs were landing all around him, and all the while, I was slow-sipping my drink in the comforts of my over-stuffed chair. It left me weak with an uneasy feeling.

As I watched the father running with

his bleeding child, I couldn't help but think how that father was in some way my own brother, though we have never met before. The blood on his arms was just as red as my own. His heart was beating with the same hopes, the same desires, the same dreams, the same heartaches, and the same longing for the future, as my own heart was echoing. We are truly one in the same person, in so many ways. I knew that well.

I, too, am a father, and that little girl he was desperately trying to save, was in so many ways, a child I would be proud to call my own. No matter her religion, her belief, or the color of her skin.

We all share this same earth. Isn't there enough for everyone? Each and every one of us has so much in common. How can we put people on the moon, and yet, not keep them here on earth? Does there have to be an all or nothing? Does someone have to lose, to clear the way for someone to win?

In America a child might go to bed fearing a spider might be in their bed. In other countries less fortunate, a child recites, "if I die before I wake" as they turn in for the night, fearing a bomb will level their "sod shanty" before they do awake.

Isn't it you, isn't it me, isn't it love, isn't it life, isn't it all of us together, and isn't it time?

We all share this same earth, and all with that same end result, earth's one-way pass to Heaven. Isn't it God, isn't it Jesus, isn't it everlasting life, isn't it mankind, and isn't it time?

jdfrantpaint@msn.com

Historical Society welcomes new member; enjoys visits from students

Following are highlights of the Readlyn Historical Society Board meeting held on Monday, May 18:



Mary Lou Ungs

Mary Lou Ungs was welcomed as a new member. We look forward to working with her.

A couple of classes from Readlyn Elementary visited the museum in May. Visitors are

always welcome! 2026 Summer Hours are the first Wednesday of the month, May-September from 2-4 p.m. or by appointment by calling 319/961-8379.

It was agreed to move ahead with a new website for the museum. The Grump Days Parade entry is finalized.

Details of the Annual Ice Cream Social were discussed. The Social will be held on Sunday, August 9 from 3-5 p.m. at the museum.

Thank you to the Readlyn Garden Club for planting and caring for flowers at the museum. We love the red, white and blue color scheme.



Mrs. Foelske's 4th grade class from Readlyn Elementary toured the Readlyn Historical Museum on May 19.



FFA State Leadership Participants: Front row, left to right: Brinley Schellhorn, Miriam Rulapaugh, Kylie Strottmann, Addilyn Fuller; middle row: Martha Rulapaugh, Clare Murphy, Jack Munk, Destry Peine, Tripp Gissel, Cole Munk, Easton Diers; back row: Ella Schares, Evan Wedemeier, Eric Bryan, Tate Wilkinson, Ryker Oberle, Clare O'Donnell, Ashlyn Strottmann, Mae Wedemeier.

Wapsie Valley FFA Excels at 98th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference

By Brinley Schellhorn, Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Reporter

Wapsie Valley attended the 98th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa April 19-21, 2026. This year's convention was nothing short of incredible, as each of our members pushed themselves to new heights and achieved goals they've been working toward since the very start of their FFA journey.

Ashlyn Strottmann competed in FFA Creed Speaking LDE and was recognized on stage for her top ten placing at state and a Gold Rating.

Kylie Strottmann presented in the Chapter Website LDE and was recognized on stage for placing 4th at state and a Gold Rating. Gwen Forsyth also played a key role in the creation of the chapter website.

Evan Wedemeier was recognized on stage for placing 4th at state and a Gold Rating in the Secretary's Book LDE.

Jack Munk was recognized during the Teach Ag Day Signing with the IAAE. Jack will be attending Iowa State University, majoring in Agricultural Education with the plans of becoming an Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor after graduation.

Mae Wedemeier was honored on stage as the State Runner-Up in the area of Dairy Production Placement during Proficiency Award Recognition.

The Ag Biotechnology Team made up of Addilyn Fuller, Clare Murphy, Ryker Oberle, and Clare O'Donnell, placed 16th in the state and received a Silver Rating.

The Poultry Evaluation Team with Eric Bryan, Easton Diers, Tripp Gissel and Tate

Wilkinson placed 23rd overall in the state and received a Gold Rating while ranking 3rd in the live poultry portion of the CDE.

Farm Business Management Team members Cole Munk, Jack Munk, Destry Peine and Evan Wedemeier placed 23rd overall in the state and received a Gold Rating.

Martha Rulapaugh and Brinley Schellhorn competed in the Chapter Quiz and both received a Gold Rating.

Ryker Oberle and Ella Schares represented the chapter as voting delegates during the business session.

Eric Bryan, Miriam Rulapaugh and Kalle Voy earned their Iowa FFA Degree, which is the highest individual honor that the Iowa FFA Association can bestow upon a member.

Mae Wedemeier ran as a state officer candidate, a rigorous process involving two days of interviews, exams, and speeches. In the largest candidate class in history, Mae made the State Reporter ballot. While not elected, we are incredibly proud of her growth, leadership, and passion for FFA.

The 98th Annual Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference was a memorable experience that showcased the hard work, dedication, and passion of our members. From competitive events to leadership workshops, our chapter represented itself with pride and professionalism. While awards and recognitions are worth celebrating, the true impact of convention lies in the growth, connections, and memories made along the way. As we return home, we are motivated to apply what we've learned, continue building our chapter, and strive for even greater success in the year ahead.

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Senior Citizens have various topics at their May meeting

May 18, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., the Readlyn Senior Citizens met at Bents Smokehouse in Readlyn for their meeting and bingo. Fourteen members were in attendance.

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

Birthday for the month was Luann Happel. There were no anniversaries. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Luann.

Secretary's Report was read by Janet Ladage, in Lois Thacher's absence. Charlie read the Treasurer's Report. He stated the balance today after income and bingo prizes will be \$143.00. A motion was made by Shirley Kuker and seconded by Mary Chapin to approve both the Secretary and Treasurer Reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Janet talked about the first Farmers Market at Bents, which was held Tuesday, May 12. It had a fair amount of vendors, considering it was the first one and early in the year for produce. The next Farmers Market is Tuesday, May 26 at Bents from 5-7 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: Ron talked about some of the events for the upcoming Grump Days which is June 19 and 20.

The *Chronicle* comes out next week and he encouraged everyone to read carefully to find out the entire list of events.

One new addition that was brought back from previous years is the Kiddie Parade, which starts at 9:00 a.m. and goes around the park.

Janet brought up an upcoming event on Wednesday, May 27 at the Denver Public Library. Missy from NE Iowa Agency on Aging will present a program on Health and Wellness. She will be preparing a recipe and we would get to taste. She then will talk about health and wellness. If any ladies are interested in going, please talk to Lois Thacher. Lois also asked if anyone would be interested in attending this at Bents on the last Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. each month starting in July.

Bents tried out ordering at a table, when we came in today. They wondered what everyone thought of doing it that way. Everyone seemed to think it was OK.

A motion was made by Luann and seconded by Shirley to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

We played bingo. Winners were Mary Chapin, Mary Lou Billhorn and Barb Meyer. Shirley Kuker won blackout bingo. Congratulations!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 17 at 11:30 p.m. We will also play bingo.

Janet Ladage, Acting Secretary



St. Matthew 2026 Confirmation Class — Left to right, Makenna Boevers, Rachel Schumacher, Landen Rice, Gabriel Meyer and Kennett Hesse.



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Wittenburg's July Yard of the Month

Continued from Page 1



The garden bench made by Ron Ingersoll, was purchased at a local fundraiser. Another work in progress featuring hostas, bleeding hearts, hydrangea, primrose and impatiens.



Story: "Someone yells, 'Come and get it,' to the four-footed rabbits eating the plants. "The rabbits are winning."



The glass on the right side of the birch tree is a solar art piece done by Ruth Wittenburg's daughter.



This grows so nicely. It makes us think of happy kids on the river.



On the right, the rhododendron replaced hostas; very happy with its progress.

Welcome to Second Hand Boutique

Continued from Page 1



Brittany Kemper opened her Second Hand Boutique, 234 Main, Readlyn on June 3. She is shown here with her son, Corbin.



The first room when you enter Second Hand Boutique has much to offer.



The men's room offers a variety of items.

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Readlyn Emergency Services Building Committee Provides Project Update

The Readlyn Emergency Services Building (RESB) Committee would like to provide the community with an update on our ongoing efforts to build a new emergency services facility for Readlyn Fire and EMS.

Recently, many community members have heard that RESB has been placed on the short list to potentially receive funding through Congresswoman Ashley Hinson's office. While this is exciting news and we are grateful for the opportunity, it is important to understand that this potential funding alone will not allow us to reach our overall fundraising goal. We remain committed to actively fundraising and continuing to push forward with community support.

We have made tremendous progress thanks to the generosity of local residents, businesses, organizations, and supporters. Every donation, volunteer effort, and shared message has helped move this project closer to reality. While we are proud of how far we have come, there is still important work ahead to make this much needed investment in emergency services happen for our community.

One upcoming fundraising opportunity is our 50/50 raffle during the Bremer County Fair Combine Derby on July 31. We encourage everyone attending to stop by, support the cause, and help us continue building momentum.

Community members wishing to contribute can donate in several ways:

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

As a reminder, all donors contributing \$1,000 and above will receive permanent recognition within the new building as a lasting tribute to their support of emergency services in our community.

Since launching our campaign, we have been humbled by the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and supporters who have stepped forward to support this project.

The following donors have helped move this project forward since our last donor update in February, and we are incredibly grateful for their support:

Community & Individual Donors

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Barb Meyer
Ben & Jaci Hogan
Ben & Jess Anderson
Ben Huebner
Bill Westendorf
Brandon Nading
Brian & Brenda Meyer
Brian & Dorothy Ott
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Staci Buhr

Zach & Kerrigan Kuhlmann Business, Organization & Group Donors

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Readlyn 4th Grade Service Learning Group:
Addison Broten, Cullun Knight, Randy Dawson, Holden Shultz, Gabriel Salcedo Kramer - April 2026
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Tenenbaum's Jewelry
The Marvin and Helen Schumacher Family Fund
The Red Hat Gems
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Memorial Gifts

- In Memory of Anna Bahlmann
In Memory of Brian Bockholt
In Memory of Clarence Huck
In Memory of Don Heineman
In Memory of Dr. Carl & Ruth Venzke
In Memory of Gerald Baldwin
In Memory of Karan Boevers
In Memory of Keith Fettkether
In Memory of Kenny Piehl
In Memory of Larry Boerschel
In Memory of Larry Ganske - Served 1986 - 1998, by Joe & Julie Regenold
In Memory of Larry Schurer
In Memory of Larry Schweer
In Memory of Mike Bellile
In Memory of Patricia Hunter & Hanna Wiersma
In Memory of Roland Schmidt
We are incredibly thankful for the support shown so far and look forward to continuing this journey together. With continued community support, we can make this vision a reality for generations to come.

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.

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Bremer County Corn & Soybean Growers Association Announces Scholarship Recipients

The Bremer County Corn & Soybean Growers Association is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2026 scholarships. Four outstanding graduating seniors, each connected to the association through their own or their parents' membership, have been selected to receive \$500 awards in recognition of their academic achievement, community involvement, and commitment to agriculture and their future careers.



Claire O'Donnell and Mae Wedemeier

Mae Wedemeier

Mae Wedemeier of Maynard will attend Iowa State University to pursue a degree in Agricultural Communications. She grew up working alongside her brothers on the family farm, where her responsibilities have included calf care, milking, barn sanitation, field work, and assisting with harvest.

Mae has been an active leader in the Wapsie Valley FFA chapter, serving as Chapter President in 2025-2026 and Chapter Secretary the previous year. She earned a State Runner-Up finish in Dairy Cattle Production Placement at the FFA state level and was recognized with the Northeast District Academic Achievement Award. Academically, she was a member of the Honor Society, is ranked in the top five of her graduating class, and received the NICL Academic Achievement Award.

Outside of school, Mae participates in wrestling, softball, cross country, and track, and is involved in her school's musical and speech programs. She has served as a Student Advocate at School Board meetings and is a member of the Antioch Christian Church Youth Group. She is the daughter of Scott and Catherine Wedemeier of Maynard.

Claire O'Donnell

Claire O'Donnell of Readlyn will attend

the University of Northern Iowa to study Kinesiology, with the goal of becoming a physical therapist or occupational therapist. Her commitment to serving others has driven her involvement both inside and outside the classroom throughout her high school years.

Claire graduates as the Valedictorian of her class and has been recognized with the Governor's Scholar Award, NICL All Academic Award, IGCA All Academic Award, and AVCA Best and Brightest Award. She served as a Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter Officer, holding the position of Reporter in 2025-2026 and Human Resources Committee Chair the year prior. She is a four-year member of the Honor Society and the Leader in Me program.

In her community, Claire has served

as Miss Readlyn Runner-Up, volunteering at numerous local events, and is active in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waverly. She has worked as a Dietary Aide at Bartels Nursing Home and as an After School Childcare Associate at Wapsie Valley Readlyn Elementary, and is completing her Certified Nursing Assistant certification. She is the daughter of Darren and Becky O'Donnell of Readlyn.

Other Winners

Other scholarship recipients included Macy Tiedt of Tripoli and Bailey Brown, Dysart.

The Bremer County Corn Growers Association congratulates all four recipients and wishes them the best as they begin the next chapter of their education and careers.

Pastor Rabary honored for 30 years as ordained minister

On Sunday, June 14, the Parish Council presented Pastor Rabary with a certificate recognizing him for 30 years as an ordained minister during the worship service.

St. Matthew's and Zion members surprised him with two tickets to the FIFA cup game in Texas on June 25.



Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary



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Annual Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

3-5 p.m.
Twenty-five cents per bowl

Hosted by the
Readlyn Historical Society.
The museum will be open to tour.



NEW POSITION

AMANDA EIKE

Readlyn Campus
Resource Staff & Cook



Hello! This will be my third year at CLS! I absolutely love it and feel blessed to be able to both work and have four kids attend here! I am blessed with six amazing kids! Elijah- starting first year at Hawkeye Community College for Cyber Security. Jace- Junior at Wapsie High School. Isabella- 7th grade at CLS. Knox- 4th grade at CLS. Paxton and Paisley- 1st grade at CLS. I love being able to watch and cheer on my kids at their different sport teams they are involved with. I am big on scrapbooking and I take so many pictures! I love crocheting and learning new things to make. My daughters have started a new fun hobby of making pony beads creations as well as bracelets. We enjoy camping, visiting zoos (I love otters), attending sporting events, and exploring nature.



WELCOME TO

EMILY LARUE

Kindergarten
Paraeducator



Hello! I am Emily LaRue! I have two Associates Degrees from Hawkeye Community College. I was a Para at Denver Community Schools for a school year before becoming a stay at home mom for the last 6 years. I live here in Readlyn with my family! I love spending time with my family and friends, thrifting, going to the racetrack in the summers and spending as much time outside as possible! I am so excited to be a part of the CLS family and to help kids learn and grow in faith!



WELCOME BACK

WENDY MATTHIAS

Three Year Old
Preschool and Daycare
Teacher



My name is Wendy Matthias. I went to Ellsworth Community College. Previously, I worked at CLS for 7 years in the 3 year old preschool room. I am happily married with 2 sons in high school. I enjoy country living with 3 dogs, 5 cats and 12 chickens. I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, camping, nature walks, and board games. I am looking forward to working with the excellent staff and helping share the love of Jesus with the students. I look forward to the joy and laughter that Mrs. Imbrogno infuses into the 3 year old classroom.

Community Lutheran School is a Telly Award Winner!

The Community Lutheran School overview video has been awarded a Silver Telly Award in the 47th Annual Telly Awards! This promotional video was created in partnership with Legacy Creative. Legacy Creative is an Arizona based marketing company that "partners with Christian schools to tell their stories and expand their reach."

If you're not familiar with the Tellys, they're widely considered the premier

award for video and television content. They've been around since 1979 and receive over 13,000 entries each year from around the world. Entries are judged by an industry council of more than 250 experts from organizations like Adobe, Netflix, HBO, BBC, and Meta — so this is a legitimately competitive field with a very high bar.

The other Silver Award winners in our Educational Institution category this year

include Texas A&M, Georgetown, and Penn State. So Community Lutheran is standing right alongside some major universities on a national stage! That speaks volumes about the quality of the CLS story and what is happening every day at CLS!

This award really is a reflection of what makes CLS special. Pastor Miguel, the CLS staff and families - the authentic passion and heart that came through in that video is exactly what the judges

recognized - that's something that can't be manufactured.

Here's the direct link to the winner page if you'd like to check it out:
<https://www.tellyawards.com/winners/2026/promotional-video/general-educational-institution/community-lutheran-school/361110/>

Congratulations to the entire CLS family and Legacy Creative!

CLS Celebrates a Year of Faith, Growth, and Achievement

Community Lutheran School is closing the year with gratitude for the many ways God has blessed our students, staff, and school community.

Our annual Fruit of the Spirit Award Night honored students who consistently reflect Christ-like character in their daily lives. Families and teachers celebrated those who show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Students in grades 5–8 also enjoyed

a memorable trip to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, where outdoor adventures, team challenges, and evening devotions helped strengthen friendships and faith.

This spring brought additional reasons to celebrate: Community Lutheran School earned two national Awards of Excellence from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA)—one for our school overview video and one for the CLS website. These top-tier honors are judged against schools and organizations

across the country.

We are also thrilled to share that the CLS overview video received a Silver Telly Award, one of the premier international awards for video and television content. With more than 13,000 entries judged by industry leaders from organizations such as Adobe, Netflix, HBO, BBC, and Meta,

this recognition reflects the excellence of our school and the story we are blessed to share.

As we wrap up the school year, we give thanks for the learning, growth, and joy that filled our halls. God has been faithful, and we look forward to all He has planned for our students in the year ahead.





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HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!

Our town celebrations were a success and ramped us up for an even bigger celebration of our great nation this 4th of July! This land has seen many highs and many lows but the potential for your future as a US citizen still holds true for anyone willing to embrace the hard work and dedication that is embedded in our foundation.

When any of us look to our futures, it is easy to overthink all the ways things can go wrong and we have a hard time convincing ourselves to also overthink the potential for things to go right! Time traveling all the way back to when this “new land” was discovered and our first governments were being formed, imagine if those men and women could see what their pioneering ideas would have turned into. So many great things have come from our American History:



 Music & Performing Arts

Jazz & Blues: Rooted in African-American traditions, these genres birthed the fundamental concepts of modern improvisational music and profoundly influenced global musical structures.

Rock & Roll & Hip-Hop: Developed in the mid-20th century, these uniquely American genres became global phenomena that continuously dictate worldwide fashion, language, and youth rebellion.

 Entertainment & Mass Media

Hollywood & Cinema: The dominant force in global film production, Hollywood shaped the modern blockbuster and set the standard for storytelling, visual effects, and celebrity culture.

Animation: Pioneered by companies like Disney, American animation revolutionized visual storytelling and established universally recognized pop-culture icons.

 Technology & Digital Communication

The Internet & Computing: The invention of TCP/IP protocols by American engineers, coupled with the rise of tech giants like Apple, Google, and Microsoft, created the foundation for the global information age.

Social Media: Platforms created in the U.S. (such as Meta, YouTube, and X) dictate how the world connects, communicates, and consumes news.

 Food & Business

Fast Food: The franchising model developed by American corporations (like McDonald’s and KFC) fundamentally altered global dining habits and urban convenience culture.

Coffee Shop Culture: The American corporate coffee model (e.g., Starbucks) transformed casual dining and remote working spaces globally.

 Lifestyle & Consumerism

Blue Jeans: Originating as durable workwear for miners and laborers, jeans became an enduring global fashion staple and a symbol of youth culture.

Theme Parks: The modern amusement and theme park industry (perfected by Disneyland) revolutionized global family entertainment and tourism.

 Ideas & Ideals

The American Dream: The philosophical concept of upward social mobility and personal freedom has attracted immigrants for generations and shaped global perspectives on ambition and success.

National Parks System: The U.S. pioneered the concept of preserving vast natural landscapes for public enjoyment and conservation, a model subsequently adopted worldwide

There is work to do in every crevice of our existence but just like when we look in the mirror, there is also a lot to be proud of and a lot to celebrate. Our future is very bright. I hope everyone has a safe and patriotic holiday and can continue to embrace what makes us great – it always has been and always will be: WE THE PEOPLE!

PATRIOTISM:

The devoted love, support, and defense of one’s country. It combines national loyalty with a willingness to serve fellow citizens, and involves a deep attachment to a nation’s culture, history, and values.

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones



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READLYN OUTDOORS

By Eric Johnston

Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com



"Catfishing"

As many of you know, through the years of my articles, I love bass fishing and tournaments. And, yes, that part of the sport of fishing makes my world go round through the open water season. But what many don't know is I love to catch anything that swims, I absolutely love fishing for all species! One of my favorite species to fish growing up is catfishing. And it just so happens we have some great catfishing opportunities right in our backyard. This month, I'm going to talk about a fun, inexpensive species to fish for, the catfish.

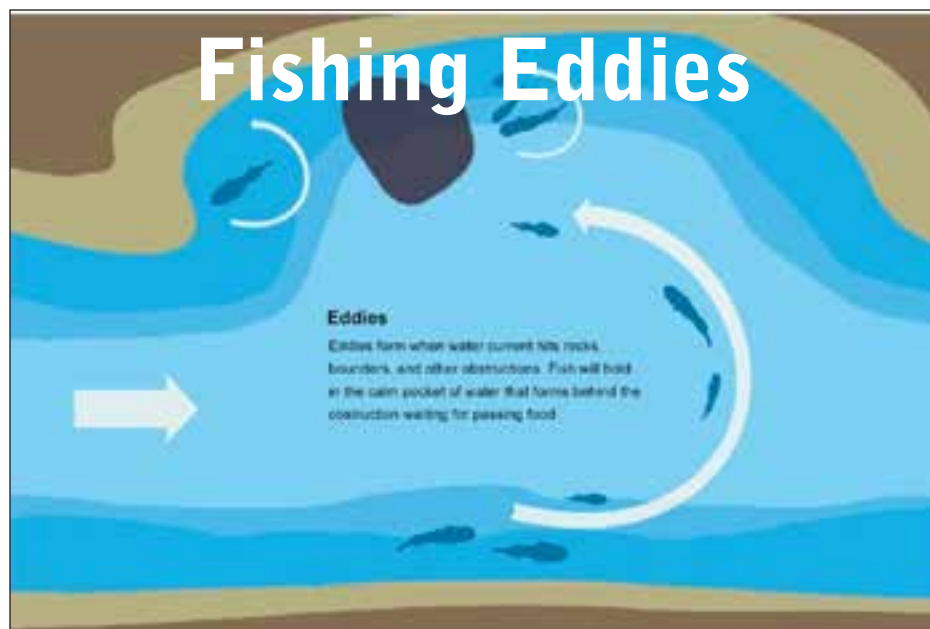
I still remember following my dad down an old dirt path along the Cedar River, the hot sun beating down and the grasshoppers jumping out of the dry grass as we made the long trek to our favorite catfishing hole. It was always so exciting for me. Back then, I only got to see my dad on the weekends and I would wait all week in excitement to get to go to dad's, as I knew we would be catfishing all weekend. I was probably only nine or ten years old at the time and I'm sure dad was just using this as a way to inexpensively get some fishing in when my family didn't have a lot of money. But what he probably didn't realize at the time is he was creating some of my fa-

vorite memories fishing growing up.

It was always so cool to me to ride to the local bait shop for catfish bait. I was always in awe at the large bait tanks full of all the different sizes of minnows, chubs and crawdads. I loved the smell and the sounds of the tank pumps as we visited the store for our bait of choice for the day. It was my wildest dream to one day be involved with that shop. That shop was Hank's Live Bait and Tackle and is currently one of my biggest sponsors on the tournament scene. It's funny how things work out sometimes.

Anyway, back to following dad down that path, as I said it was usually hot and it was all my little arms could handle carrying the bucket of chubs and our gear down the path. Dad and I had kind of "built" our favorite fishing hole. There was naturally a rocky point that had created a current break, but we added to it. We carried rocks and piled them further out into the water creating an even bigger current break and a deep hole in the water where catfish like to live. On the bank, we found a bunch of bricks and built a makeshift fireplace. A lot of our fishing would go well into the night and a small fire was a necessity as we would usually bring some hot dogs or a can of beans for a snack while fishing.

If I recall correctly, that's even where I



got to share a sip or two of dad's Old Mill-waukee "when I ran out of pop," sitting side-by-side on the riverbank. We would sit there for hours with two poles each propped up on sticks with a different bait on each rod.

Dad taught me at the time how to target the two different catfish species in the Cedar. If you targeted channel catfish, we generally used dead chubs or stink bait and if we were after flathead catfish we needed to use live chubs, as flatheads would only bite live bait. We both became obsessed with catching a big flathead. Our goal was always to break that twenty pound mark and I still remember the night we did.

We were in our usual spot and it had been a slow evening with only a few fish caught. Dad had decided that he wanted to try some bigger bait and had thrown a night crawler out on the bottom to try to catch a sucker or carp to have that bigger bait. He had casted out a small spinning rod to do this and propped it up. We put some hot dogs on the fire and heard the drag on that little rod take off!

Dad grabbed the rod and the fight was on. What had been put out to catch bait was now the tool to get our elusive twenty pounder in! The drag on that little reel was screaming and we both feared it would run out of line. Dad expertly took his time and the fight lasted at least 20 minutes. As the giant flathead started to tire out, dad handed me the rod and waded into the water and grabbed the fish and threw it up on the bank! We high-fived and hugged over that fish. We had achieved a goal and, as long ago as that was, I still remember every detail.

It's very easy to get into catfishing, and

as I said earlier our local Wapsi and Cedar Rivers are absolutely full of them. To get started, I recommend a rod at least 6' 6" and no lighter than medium heavy action. I prefer heavy as catfish fight hard! I like to use no lighter than 20 lb. test line and you can use either spinning or casting reels, whichever you prefer.

For a bait set-up, use a heavy barrel sinker with a split shot behind it as a sinker stop. Stop the sinker at least a foot and a half above the hook to let the bait float up off the bottom. Baits of choice are chubs, night crawlers, crawdads, chicken liver, or stink bait. Stink bait can be purchased in jars and use a sponge or stink bait holder on a treble hook. If you use chicken liver, I like a treble hook for that as well as it holds the liver better than a standard hook. For all the other baits, I like to use a 1/0 wide gap hook. Cast your baits along current breaks that create slack water behind them. I like to cast right where the current meets the slack water. Dead trees in the water are great places for catfish to hide as they create current breaks and deeper water.

There are many great accesses nearby to start finding these types of areas for catfish. A good place to start is with an Iowa Sportsman's Atlas and generally wherever there's a public area along the river, you will find good catfishing. Or simply take a family drive along the river and you can find great areas to start. When catfishing, bring the kids along, as it's a very relaxing way to fish throwing your bait out on the bottom and relaxing along the river. Bring snacks and you'll more than likely make some great memories just as I did all those years ago.

Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!



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Wapsie Valley School Board - May 18, 2026

**Wapsie Valley CSD
Regular Meeting Minutes & Bills
May 18, 2026**

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Vice President Auel called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:01 PM

A. Directors: Auel, Broten, Jr., & Kaufman. Aiello (excused) Declared a quorum

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

C. Others Present: Jenni Gross, Angie James, Kari Pleggenkuhle, Michael Gruetzmacher, Jeannie Wolfe, Ryan Harter, Tina Kaufman, Tara Sullivan, and virtual participants.

2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten, Jr. to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0

3. Public Comment: Jenni Gross - Discussed the shortage of Family Consumer Science Teachers and Family, Career & Community Leaders of America sponsors in Iowa. Also, spoke of the importance of having these programs in schools. Angie James gave progress on the Fairbank Playground and noted the Max & Helen Guernsey Foundation will be donating \$35,000. Angie James and Kari Pleggenkuhle would like Stacy Besch to come to Wapsie Valley and educate students on human trafficking in Iowa. Michael Gruetzmacher spoke on the support he has for Ryan Harter. Ryan Harter gave background of experience with public schools and would like to be considered as an appointed board member.

4. Consent Items: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten, Jr., to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Kaufman including Shania Kumbier requesting her kindergarten son to open enroll to Waverly CSD effective the 26-27 school year. Katelyn Kallaus requests her kindergarten daughter and 5th-grade son open enroll to WV from Dunkerton as presented. Motion carried 3-0

5. Communication & Reports: Board: Discussed the change order for the Track/Football field project which included the soft area in front of the bleachers. The core testing didn't come back acceptable. The \$19,000 change order will reduce the contingency in place. Also discussed the bus inspection summary.

Superintendent Hoover: It's School Board Recognition month!! Thanks to all board members for your support and deduction to WV! Report includes Track/

Football Field project, TJ Murphy transition to Supt., and summer projects.

District & PK Principals: 6th-grade JH orientation, Student Engagement Leadership, Concerts, Awards night, Professional Development, Graduation, Retirees, Field Trips & Activities.

6. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten, Jr. to approve the resignations of Kim Arndt-Retiring-School Business Official effective 8-31-26, Logan Flack-JH/Assist.Varsity Baseball Coach-effective immediately, & Amanda Bockholt-Website-effective 8-31-2026 as presented and thank them for their service to the students and staff at WV as presented. Motion carried 3-0

7. Contracts: Moved by Kaufman, seconded by Broten Jr. to approve Timothy (TJ) Murphy - 26-27 Superintendent - \$130,000 (Contract) + \$13,596 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (cell annually) = \$143,896, Dean Youngblut - 26-27 7-12 Principal - \$96,000 (Contract) + \$13,596 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (cell annually) = \$109,896, Kim Arndt - Letter of Assignment - \$58.37 P/H, David Dennler-26-27 Facilities Operations & Maintenance Manager-\$62,382.23 (Contract) + \$13,596 (difference family/single insurance + \$300 (cell annually) = \$76,278.23, Tina Kaufman-26-27 Human Resource Director/Central Office Employee \$60,415.68 + \$13,596 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (Cell annually) = \$74,311.68, Holly Myers-26-27 Fairbank Principal \$87,978.97 (Contract) +\$13,596 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (cell annually) \$101,874.97, Alyson Forsyth-26-27 Readlyn/Rural Principal \$91,278.19 (Contract)+\$13,596 (difference family/single insurance) + \$300 (cell annually) \$105,174.19, Jason Helgens - 26-27 Contracted Substitute Teacher-\$133.90 per day, Angela Berg - District Librarian (as required by law) \$21.00 P/H - 6 days for the 26-27 school year, Amber Whitney-26-27, 9-12 Science Teacher-MA/9-\$64,128.67 (Contract), Manny Huebner - JH Baseball Coach - Base 1/Year 0 - \$2,132, Daniel Nuss - JH Baseball Coach - Base 1/Year 0 - \$2,132, Stefanie Davie - JH Softball Coach - Base 1/Year 0 - \$2,132, Logan Flack - Head HS Baseball Coach - Base 1/Year 2 - \$3,553 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve the addendum for Sydney Reynolds from BA/5

(\$51,131.51) to BA + 15 (\$51,361.40) effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

8. New Business: Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve end-of-school-year per diem hourly pay for certified teachers, with a \$30.00 per hour minimum as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the 26-27 Facility Operations & Maintenance Manager agreement with Janesville as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Kaufman Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the Sharing Agreements with Central Rivers for 26-27, & Special Education Director, \$58,596 (76 days), Technology Services, \$77,800 (3 days a week), Work Based Learning Coordinator, \$29,298 (38 days), Work Experience Coordinator, \$29,298 (38 days) as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Appointment to Fill Board Vacancy (District 5) Broten Jr. nominated Jeannie Wolfe, Kaufman nominated Ryan Harter, nominations ceased. Moved by Broten Jr. to appoint Jeannie Wolfe. Vice President Auel relinquished the chair and passed the gavel to Board Member Broten, Jr. in order to second a motion. Acting Chair Broten Jr. assumed the leadership of the meeting. Motion Seconded by Auel-Vice President to approve the appointment of Jeannie Wolfe to fill board vacancy (District 5) as presented. Roll Call Broten Jr.-AYE, Kaufman-NAY, & Auel-AYE Motion carried 2-1 Acting Chair Broten Jr. returned the gavel to Vice President Auel, who resumed presiding over the meeting. Moved by Kaufman to appoint Ryan Harter to fill board vacancy (District 5). The motion died for lack of a second.

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to table the purchase of 290 Chromebooks for the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve the quote from CDW (\$14,513.40) to purchase 15 Del Pro teacher laptops as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve Kyle Knight, & Reyce Burgart 2027 early graduates as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve 26-27 Science (\$9,567.84/TAG (\$6,732.64) Consulting Agreement with Chelsie Byram as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the 26-27 Cooperative Boy/Girl Swimming Sharing Agreement with Waterloo West as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Service plan with Central Rivers AEA for the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Spanish Instructional Service agreement with Central Rivers for the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

9. Board Talking Points: Broten Jr. - A lot going on in the district - Congratulations to Lariaunna Rochette for qualifying for World's in archery that will be held in Daytona Beach.

10. Moved Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr. to adjourn at 7:16 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Readlyn City Council
June 8, 2026

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, June 8, 2026 to review bills. Keith Brunscheon and Rocco Imbrogno were present. Joseph Jones was absent.

The Readlyn City Council met in open session at 6:00 PM on Monday, June 8, 2026, for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Keith Brunscheon, Jason Franck and Rocco Imbrogno. Absent: Nicole Barnes and Joseph Jones. Others in attendance included: Steve Aiello and Kris McGrane.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve consent agenda items, which included the regular council meeting minutes from 5/11/2026, the claims list from 5/12/2026 to 6/8/2026, the May 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer's and Financial), the Lucky Wife Wine Slushies/Top of Iowa Lucky Wife LLC special class "C" retail alcohol license from 6/18/26 to 6/22/26, with outdoor service in downtown Readlyn and adding the approval of Bents Smokehouse & Pub LLC alcohol temporary outdoor service extension from 6/19/26 to 6/21/26. All said aye. Motion carried.

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

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

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Resolution 2026-11, approving Quit Claim Deed releasing Reversionary interest in Lot 7, Park View Second Addition, Readlyn, Iowa. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Franck to approve Resolution 2026-12, approving the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) Mutual Aid Program Agreement. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Resolution 2026-13, approving a Fire and First Responder Service Agreement between the City of Readlyn, Iowa, and Maxfield Township, Bremer County, Iowa. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve combining some of the bank accounts at Readlyn Savings Bank which includes closing #151 Historical Society, #720 Splash Pad, #682 Emergency Equipment, #467 Readlyn Housing Rehab, #127 Green City Energy and #984 Main Street Reconstruction and transferring funds to the checking account, while keeping them separated in the cities accounting software. All said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to approve the first reading of Ordinance 366, an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Readlyn, Iowa, by amending provisions to collection fees of solid waste and increasing the fees from \$17.00 to \$21.00 per month and \$55.00 to \$65.00 per month for dumpsters. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Wedemeier advised the City of Readlyn is scheduled to be sprayed for bugs on June 17th.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk



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