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Volume 18, No. 5, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Robin Harms, Tripoli, IA, May 28, 2025

Introducing the 2025 Readlyn 'Old Grump,' Mary Lou Ungs

The Readlyn Community Club proudly announces Mary Lou Ungs will serve the role of 2025 "Old Grump." The crowning ceremony will be held Friday. June 13 of Grump Days with Mary Lou being introduced along with Miss Readlyn candidates and Little Mr. and Miss Grumpsters.

Mary Lou Ungs 2025 Grump Profile

I have lived in Readlyn most of my life. We moved here when I was in kindergarten and I graduated Wapsie Valley High School in 1975. This year will be our 50th class reunion. I lived in California for about 15 years before moving back. I am retired now.



Mary Lou Ungs

My dad, Bob Ungs, was Grump. I think it was in 1997. The Waterloo Courier covered it and it must have been a slow news day because the AP picked it up and he got calls from all over the country wanting to speak to

the Grump. I worked for Ocwen (GMAC) for over 20 years before

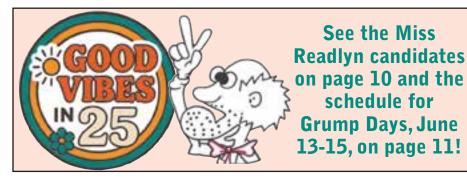
they closed. I worked in customer service.

My parents owned Borderline Pizza. I then worked for CUNA before retiring. I cation, a cruise to Alaska! go to St. Mary Catholic Church in Waverly. I am on the committee for the Bremer year as Grump. County Relay for Life.

This week I am going on my dream va-

I want to emphasize volunteering this

Mary Lou Ungs



June Yard of the Month

If you remember this property 15 years ago, you will appreciate all of the improvements Steve and Renee Duesenberg have made. They've managed to eliminate all of the creeping Charlie with the help of

Weeds on Fire and added many attractive areas.

Upon receiving this award, they were benevolent and thankful to Weeds on Fire for their generosity.



Steve and Renee Duesenberg appreciatively accept Weeds on Fire Yard of the Month award.



Readlyn Elementary ranked 3rd in Iowa based on state testing. The Readlyn Community Club treated the staff for their efforts with bagels and coffee May 12. This rating is outstanding for our youth and community. Thank you teachers and support staff!

Readlyn Elementary ranks 3rd in the state!

By Alyson Forsyth, Wapsie Valley Readlyn/Rural Elementary Principal

U.S. News announced the 2025 best elementary school ratings in the state of Iowa and we are proud to say that Readlyn Elementary was ranked #3! For each state, schools were assessed on their shares of students who were proficient or above proficient in their mathematics and reading/language arts state assessments. The top ranked schools are high-achieving and have succeeded in educating all their students.

As the principal of Readlyn Elementary, I am incredibly proud of my staff and students. Wapsie Valley's mission statement is "Guaranteed Learning For Every Student" and we strive to achieve this every day. The teamwork and dedication the

staff shows is remarkable, they care deeply about every student that walks through our doors. We have been continuing to learn and grow together through our professional development over the past few years including LETRS (literacy training) and Leader in Me. These initiatives have helped us to strengthen our instructional practices and see success in our students. Not only did these initiatives play a part in our success, I believe we reached this huge accomplishment because of the culture of our building.

When you walk into our school you can feel the positivity and witness the students taking ownership of their learning. We are building future leaders in the work we do and take pride in being a part of this wonderful community!



The decorative turtle was a gift from Renee's mom



Readlyn's Grump Bonnie Wittenburg proudly presents the Yard of the Month award to Renee Duesenberg, 207 Goodell.

THE CITY OF READLYN WILL BE SHUTTING ELECTRIC POWER OFF TO THE ENTIRE TOWN ON

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The Duesenberg's love of birds is evident with this feeding area. Tiger lilies came from Renee's sister-in-law and the metal flower was a gift from a neighbor.

See more photos on page 18



Grump's Grumblings

By Bonnie Wittenburg, 2024 Grump

Good Morning.

Anyone like me and so excited about the beautiful spring weather, that I worry it will be gone way too soon? I guess I need to do better about living in and appreciating the moment.

So, I cruised the streets checking out beautiful yards in our town. I found a lot of homes hiding the beauty in their back-



deep cleaning general maintenance cleaning small lawn tasks adult caregiving assistance meal prep/cooking/baking household chores Need something else?

JUST ASK

Need something designed?

yards. So I told our Readlyn Gardeners of several I had not noticed before.

I have visited a few greenhouses myself. It is tough because I like so many, but I am not sure I have the correct area for them all. I hate to "buy and kill." This time of year is my favorite. -- the colors and spring flowers and not so many bugs.

I can hardly believe this reigning Grump's term is over. I hope I served it well. If you find yourself with some available time, contact anyone on the RCC and volunteer to assist with this year's Grump Days. Believe me, any small amount of help is a blessing. Your time and your skill-set can be small. We would love to have you. We are getting close and, with that and graduations, I feel like I may be chasing myself, but loving it all.

I am fortunate in doing daycare for my great-niece and that has become my favorite day of the week. All the little ones remind us life can be beautiful. Hopefully, your days have many smiles in them.

We will see you in the park next month.

Grump Bonnie

Deadline for the June 25 Readlyn Chronicle is

Thurs., June 12 at 5 PM

Send news to



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Jaylin May

Happy May Readlyn!

I am officially a graduate of Wapsie Valley High School!! YAY!! I can't believe that it's really over after all of these years. But, this chapter is closing as many new doors are opening. Graduation was really fun and a day full of many achievements that we accomplished. Walking that stage and receiving that diploma will be a memory I will never forget. Thank you to everyone who made this possible and I can't wait for the many opportunities in life to come.

The weather has been very beautiful out lately and I hope everyone has been spending their time outdoors enjoying this nice weather. I noticed that the irises and lilacs have bloomed! They look quite lovely in the summer sun. The Easter egg hunt on April 19 was a success as a lot of people came out to see the Easter Bunny, collect some eggs, and enjoy the gorgeous weather. It was a wonderful morning to be able to spend some time in the park with the community.

Spring sports have been on a roll as the boys' golf team had their conference meet on May 8 and they placed 13th as a team overall. The girls then had their

conference meet on May 12 and they had some tough competition, but they had nice weather to help with their play. Track has also been going very well as we've had many meets in the nicer weather that allow us to go out and run really good times. We had our conference meet May 8 at Jesup where the girls placed 10th as a team and the boys placed 6th as a team. At the time that I'm writing this, we haven't had our district track meet yet that determines if we qualify for state track or not. I really hope that we can have a successful track season down at the state meet to compete at the highest level. It's always fun down at the Blue Oval and we make so many

Musical was a lot of fun this year as well! It was one of my favorite shows that I have ever performed in. I hope that everyone got the chance to come out to the high school and watch it. I'm glad that I was able to make so many memories with many different people. Thank you to everyone who helped make this show possible and also to the years of helping me throughout my musical career!

Unfortunately, I only get to write one more article after this one. I'm very honored and grateful that I got the opportunity to share news, updates, and information about everything that's going on in my life and in the community. It was a lot of fun and I can't wait to write one more article and crown the new Miss Readlyn!

-Jaylin May



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Shirley Kimball

Shirley Kimball to note 80th birthday

Please help me celebrate my mom, Shirley (Hennings) Kimball, on her 80th birthday June 27, 2025, by participating in a Card Shower for her.

Please mail cards by June 20, 2025, to: Shirley Kimball

106 S. Biltz Drive

Concordia, MO 64020

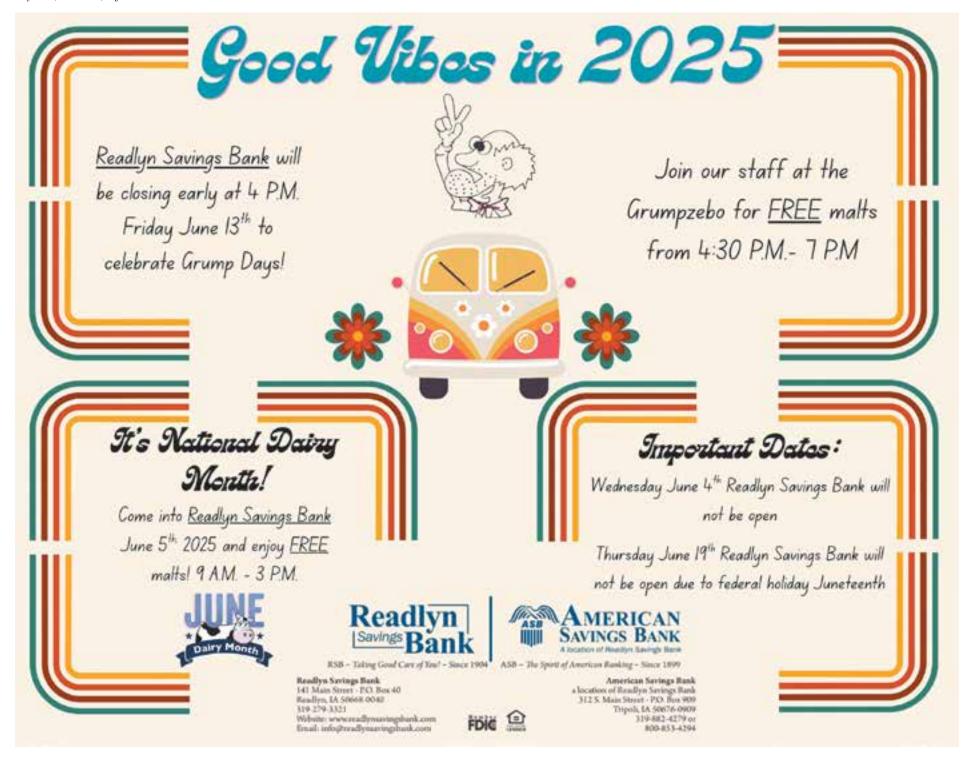
Please include a special memory you may have, or how she helped you, on an index card, and/or a photo you may have of her or the both of you.

With great appreciation, Alyssa (Kimball) Pfannkuch

Readlyn Community Happenings



Veteran gardeners Roger and Marlys Deterding plant petunias on Highway 3 with help from Deb Sauerbrei. *Readlyn Gardeners:* Would you be able to volunteer an hour to enhance the 13 gardens that grace Readlyn? Readlyn Gardeners generally meet for one hour on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. We would gladly appreciate the help. Unable to physically help? Donations are gladly accepted by any Readlyn Gardener to be used for flowers, bulbs, bushes, mulch, fertilizer, etc.





Readlyn Community Library WE PUT THE READ IN READLYN



Beth Kingdon, Librarian

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

Book Donations

Floof by Heidi McKinnon gifted by Fiona Brady (because she LOVES cats!)



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

LIBRARY HOURS

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

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Our Summer Reading Program at the Readlyn library kicks off June 4 and runs through July 25 this year. We're so excited to have such a wonderful line-up of presenters, activities and performers.

This year for prizes, we'll be giving away FREE BOOKS! Come to any or all programs to be eligible-- every child will get at least one book this summer! All ages* are welcome at these events, but we do ask that very young children come to our programs with a caregiver. We hope you'll join us. Visitors are always welcome as well. Watch our Facebook page for further announcements or any unforseen changes.

(*note that our July 9 program is just for teens).



NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Happy May!

I would like to take this time to thank all of our families and community members for their unending support for all of our schools in the Wapsie Valley School District. We would not be able to do many of the awesome things that we do for students if it weren't for your support. Thank you!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for an outstanding 2024-25 school year! Your hard work and dedication that you pour into your students on a daily basis is unmatched. If not for you, we do not have the many successes that we enjoy on a regular basis. Thank you WV staff!

Speaking of staff, we have many staff members who will be retiring at the end of the school year. If you see any of these folks out and about please thank them for their years of service to the Wapsie Valley District. Thank you Kathy Bachman, Deb Buenzow, Roxy Gipper, Dianne McClain, and Brian Weepie. These outstanding staff members will have to watch out next year as we are always looking for substitutes!

You may have seen on social media that Readlyn Elementary School has been ranked by US News as one of the best Elementary Schools in Iowa. Officially, Readlyn is ranked third out of all elementary schools in Iowa. Schools are assessed on the number of students who were proficient or above proficient in their math, reading/language arts state assessments. Half of the formula assessed the scores themselves and the other half incorporated the test results in the context of socioeconomic demographics. In other words, the top-ranked schools are all high achieving and have succeeded at educating all of their students. This is a great accomplishment and a testament to the work we are doing at Wapsie Valley!

I also want to remind everyone that Fairbank Elementary is ranked as a high performing elementary school by our state report card and the JH/HS is ranked as acceptable. All of these accolades are improvements and well deserved as it shows that we are definitely doing the right work with our students. Congratulations to all of our staff, students, and families on these achievements! It's a great time to be a Warrior!

Have an awesome summer and please let me know if you have questions or concerns

Respectfully, Chris Hoover

Wasn't it Yesterday

Olly Olly Oxen Free and the Ice Cream Man

It was just the way it was, a typical no school summer day, in the '60s. All the neighborhood children would gather like clockwork at one yard or another to map



out our recreation strategy for the day. Recreation meaning, as much as we could all play before we heard our Mom's voices yelling down the block, that it was time to come home for lunch. Hearing Mom's voice was like hearing the

By J.D. Francis was like hearing the starter gun at the county fair, beginning the 100-yard dash. We all scattered home in a race. As kids, the sound of that voice meant serious business. Being late for lunch meant answering to Dad's voice when he got home from work. That was territory no kid wanted to go, knowing there could be harsh consequences, such as being grounded from playing. Usually after lunch, all was well, with everyone accounted for and no soldiers lost. After roll call, we'd take up where we left off and got right into an afternoon's worth of games.

The games were endless, as I recall. There was kick the can, tag, Ring Around the Rosie, leap frog, marbles, jacks, follow the leader, London bridge, hopscotch, duckduck goose, and Anty I Over, to name a few. Mercy, I can't stop there. There was red rover, hokie-pokie, and GI Joe, usually played in a sandbox.

Back in the day we had a game for everything. It was those rainy days that really hurt, so we'd all go to someone's home for an inside game of Simon Says, hangman, musical chairs, or maybe a little tic-tac-toe would be in order.

One afternoon on a fair-weather day, we decided on a cordial game of hide and seek, a memory that has followed me around all these years.

I was a shirtless 7-year-old, hiding under the pointy branches of the large pine tree in the neighbor's back yard. I buried myself deep under the sharp needles. (I can still recall the fresh scent of the pine needles.) I was a bit uncomfortable, but determined not to be found, that is, until I heard the distant ringing of the bell and someone began yelling "olly olly oxen free." I knew that ringing bell was the ice cream man on his 3-wheeled ice-box bicycle. Every day at 2 o'clock, he came peddling his bike down the street ringing his bell.

All of us kids on the block got that "starter-gun at the county fair" feeling again and off we ran with our dimes to get a sno-cone or ice-cream bar. A sno-cone was certainly worth an "olly olly oxen free," in the game of hide and seek. All of these years, I have often reflected on that catch-phrase, "oxen free." I never really knew what it meant, or if I was even saying it right. I recently learned by definition...it's a phrase used in children's games, those in hiding can come out into the open without losing the game. So certainly, if your mom calls for lunch, or the ice cream man comes from around the corner, the saying clearly makes sense. I believe attorney, Gary Boveia, could give that standing, in

The changes of everyday life in the last 60 years are painfully obvious, and especially as they relate to children. The outdoors, the playground, the sandbox, the baseball diamond, friends at the end of the block, have all been replaced with a couch, a big-screen TV, a computer, a smart phone and other assorted electronics. Those days of kids in the park, or childhood games, no longer, or barely, exist anymore. Children no longer seem to play together anymore. The city parks are falling silent.

Myself, the days of kick the can and Simon Says have long deserted me, but I'm not too old for the one childhood game I truly believed in, and will never fade from reality. The game of "pretend." I can still pretend back to those childhood days, and pretending still does exist. And if, for one hour, I could bring back those childhood days, you'd find me crawling out from under a pine tree, in the neighbor's backyard, yelling, "Olly Olly Oxen Free." I'd be running towards the snocone man, with a dime in my hand. Yes, I can still pretend after all of these years, for nothing has changed when I do.

jdfranpaint@msn.com

Make an appointment to donate blood in your community

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

A single hospital patient can require a large amount of blood in a single situation. Cancer patients can use up to eight platelet units per week. In the month of June, LifeServe Blood Center is asking individuals to think of those people they know who have been impacted by cancer and are encouraging them to host a blood drive in their honor or memory. Or, you

can simply schedule your lifesaving blood donation by visiting lifeserve.info/schedule or by calling 800.287.4903.

The Denver/Readlyn Communities Blood Drive will be held Friday, June 27, 2025 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Denver Community Center (100 Washington Street).

LifeServe Blood Center is a non-profit, community-based blood center that has served the needs of local hospitals and patients in our regions since 1947. As one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe provides blood products to 175 hospitals primarily in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and Illinois. LifeServe is committed to saving lives by providing premier service to volunteer blood donors and access to a safe, quality blood supply for hospitals and patients. Your donation with LifeServe will help save your neighbor, a friend or family member, or a stranger on the street. YOU make a difference in YOUR community. For more information about blood donation or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 800.287.4903 or visit lifeserve-bloodcenter ore.



New Fair Board Member

Natalie Koepke is a new auxiliary member who has joined the Bremer Co Fair Association.

She is the daughter of Rick Koepke



Natalie Koepke

and Rhonda Koepke and lives on an acreage between Tripoli and Readlyn.

"When I was younger, I was very active in 4-H and FFA," Natalie said. "With that passion and drive, I help with leading

the Clover Explorers Club. I also am the open beef superintendent, and am on the fair board. I have enjoyed helping with the kids and being involved."

In her free time, Natalie raises her own beef cattle and helps the younger generation with their beef cattle.

"With this, I have decided to join the

Bremer County Cattlemen to keep helping make our beef industry a success," Natalie said. "I am excited to continue to help on all the boards that I am on and keep helping these kids in the cattle industry. I also look forward to keep getting to know the people in the Bremer County community at the fairs."

Open Beef Show Tuesday, July 29 at The Bremer County Fair!

The 2025 BCF Open Beef Show will be held at our new fairgrounds 300 39th St., Waverly, IA on Tuesday, July 29. This is a sanctioned show by the Iowa Junior Beef Breed Association.

Registration will be open June 1 and weigh-in will be from 12 noon to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29 in the livestock arena. The Open Beef Show will start at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$40 per entry, per class.

Contact Superintendent Natalie Koepke at 319-464-7300 or bcopenbeefshow@ gmail.com or visit The Showman App for more information.

College News

Gunner Meyer Presents at Midwestern Psychological Association Conference

PELLA, IA -- Gunner Meyer of Fairbank is one of 24 Central College psychology students and recent alumni who presented research at the annual Midwestern Psychological Association, April 9-12, in Chicago. Meyer, a Class of 2026 Psychology major, presented Do Prototypes Impact the Way Mental Health Professionals Perceive a Depressed Patient?

The annual conference brings together students, scholars, practitioners and professionals to share their research and connect with psychological scientists

from across the Midwest and the world. Central encourages students to participate and gain valuable career-building skills and knowledge.

Central College of Pella, Iowa, is a private college known for its active student body, academic rigor and athletics success. Our students learn collaboratively with supportive educators who share a commitment to intellectual engagement, personal growth, career readiness and civic involvement. Founded in 1853 and shaped by its Christian heritage, the college of 1,100 students participates in NCAA Division III athletics and is a member of the American Rivers Conference. Central is an active part of the Greater Des Moines region and just minutes from Lake Red Rock, Iowa's largest lake.

News from Community Lutheran School

The Klinger students helped build a pizza garden to grow ingredients for a delicious homemade pizza when they return next fall! Students are shown planting seeds and plants in the pizza garden! Stay tuned for progress

pictures this summer!





See these photos in full color when you read the *Chronicle* online at: https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us

The first and second grade students learned about bees and pollinators the beginning of May.





















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2025 Red Cord Recipients at Wapsie Valley — (Shown at left) Left to right: Hayden Szurley,

Jaylin May, Lydia Stuber, Hailey Wehling, Kennedy Kane, Natalie Gray, and Tim Seemann.

Deadline for the June 25
Readlyn Chronicle is
Thurs., June 12 at 5 PM
Send news to
ReadlynChronicle@
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Hailey Wehling recognized by Governor Reynolds for academic excellence

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA – May 2, 2025 – Hailey Wehling, a student at Wapsie Valley High School, was recognized by Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer for outstanding academic achievement at the 23rd Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition Ceremony on April 27 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines

The statewide program, sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and its title sponsor the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), honored 424 high school seniors from across Iowa.

"Iowa Farm Bureau has a long his-

tory of supporting students in their educational journey knowing they represent the leaders of tomorrow," said IFBF President Brent Johnson. "From providing more than a half-million dollars in college scholarships annually to our long-time title sponsorship of the Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition Ceremony, we're honored to support and celebrate Iowa's outstanding students."

Each high school was invited to select a senior student with the highest academic ranking for their first seven semesters. Students selected for the award also had the opportunity to recognize their favorite/most influential teacher and will receive a photo plaque of their meeting with Governor Reynolds.

"The principles learned through academic success, like those learned from participation in education-based activities, help develop outstanding leaders and citizens," said IHSAA Executive Director Tom Keating. "The partnership between the IHSAA and the Iowa Farm Bureau, along with the great cooperation of the Governor's Office has made this event possible for many years."

Ninety-eight percent of those recognized participate in extra-curricular school activities, with more than 82 percent participating in at least one interscholastic sport. More than 63 percent of the group plan to continue their education in Iowa.



tial teacher and will receive a **Wapsie Valley** High School senior Hailey Wehling (right) photo plaque of their meeting was recognized by Gov. Kim Reynolds for academic with Governor Reynolds.

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





MISS READLYN 2025: WHO WILL IT BE?

The crowning of the 2025 Miss Readlyn will take place on Friday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m. Here are the six candidates for the coveted title.

Kylie Strottman

Kylie Strottman's parents are Ethan and Sara Strottman; Hooked up Self Storage is her sponsor. Some of her activities include following her love and passion for kids. As a result, she teaches Sun-



Kylie Strottman

and Vacation Bible School, babysits, and participates in a youth group. In school she was a reporter for FFA and is currently vice president, varsity football cheer, and has 50+ hours toward her silver cord. This summer when she is not

day School class

babysitting or helping with FFA events, she will be working in her garden for her Supervised Agricultural Experience or spending time with family and friends at the river and the cabin.

"Dedication" describes Kylie's strength. People know they can count on her to get things done. Her favorite teacher helped her develop her strength as well as achieve her goals by guiding and supporting her. This favorite teacher is her future role model.

After high school Kylie plans to attend Hawkeye Community College for one year to finish her general education degree and then transfer to Allen College for sonography. Ten years from now, Kylie plans to be a full-time ultrasound tech, living in Iowa, and married with a few kids.

According to Kylie, Readlyn is a great place to live because it is tradition-oriented and welcoming to all!

Maya Barnes

Maya Barnes' parents are Nate and Nicole Barnes. She is sponsored by Tru-



Maya Barnes

Serve Insurance. Maya's activities softball, include basketball, cross CAPS, country, choir, musical, work internship, Immanuel Klinger youth group, and she is currently employed at Walmart. Her summer plans include playing softball, working, and going on a church youth trip to New Orleans and a choir trip to New York.

Maya is proud of her work ethic. Her parents pushed her, and she took on that mindset for sports, school, and she will apply it to her future career. Her favorite teacher supported this work ethic by knowing each student's capabilities, holding each of them accountable, and pushing each of them to be the best they could be.

After high school, Maya's plans include attending Hawkeye or UNI for business management and then going into real estate or banking. In ten years, she plans to be living in a house with her husband in a small town, preferably in Iowa, while also working and driving a cool car.

Readlyn's strength? Maya has had three different pastors, and she and all three pastors agree that Readlyn is the most welcoming community.

Claire O'Donnell

Claire O'Donnell is the daughter of Darren and Becky O'Donnell; her sponsor is Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home. She had a busy year participating in volley-



Claire O'Donnell

ball, track, FFA as reporter chapter and officer, Student Leadership, WV Honor Society, Student Improvement Advisory Committee, and High School Ministry at her church. Claire plans to spend the summer attending

volleyball open gyms and camps, summer lifting and conditioning, plus serving her duties as FFA reporter, spending quality time with her family and friends and continue working at Bartels Nursing Home in Waverly.

Next fall, she plans to study biology or kinesiology to become an occupational therapist or physician assistant. In ten years, Claire plans to have a fulfilling career in the medical field and beginning to settle down to start a family.

She likes Readlyn's small-town charm. While a student at Wapsie, a teacher told Claire that her smile brightened her teaching day. Claire continues to smile since she feels you never know what it means to others. Being a strong leader, respectful, organized, and always willing to lend a helping hand are four of her attributes.

Austin Frank

Austin Frank's parents are Jason and Krissy Franck; she is sponsored by Platte

Home Improvement. Austin has been busy this year participating in cross country, track, Wapsie Valley Honor Society,



Austin Frank

and the Silver Cord Program. She also dances at The Studio by Alyssa in Waverly and is an assistant teacher in lower-level classes.

Her summer plans include babysitting, training for cross country, and enjoying outdoor activities like kayaking and

hiking with her family and friends.

Austin feels kindness goes a long way. As a result, she does her best to show kindness to everyone because you never know what someone is going through. Austin's favorite teacher impacted her life by having a good attitude, giving kind help when needed, and getting to know all students really well.

Her specific plans after graduation are undecided, but she is considering going to college for something in the medical field. In ten years she plans to be living in the area to be around her family and hopes to have found a career she enjoys.

"Friendly" is the word Austin uses to describe Readlyn because the people never fail to put a smile on her face. Whether she knows them or not, they always have kind things to say.

Gwen Forsyth

Gwen Forsyth is the daughter of Chris and Alyson Forsyth; sponsoring her is



Gwen Forsyth

TruServe. During high school, she served on the school district leadership team as well as student leadership team; as a member of FFA she was sentinel officer and competed in the Program of Activities. Football cheer captain, basketball cheer, vol-

unteering at Readlyn Elementary and Vacation Bible School, basketball manager, and dance were her other activities.

After her favorite teacher helped

her gain confidence by pushing her, she feels leadership has become one of her strengths. She enjoyed being cheer captain and feels leadership in our small, caring town is very important. Gwen will continue honing her leadership skills this summer as she babysits, volunteers at VBS, Fairbank Days, and at various fairs through FFA. She also plans to travel and take a college course.

Once she completes high school, she plans to apply to the Iowa State Patrol. If accepted, she hopes to work at the state capitol as a state trooper while working on her criminology degree.

Ten years from now, Gwen hopes to be married and starting a family as a state trooper. She loves the Readlyn community, so she also hopes to be living here as an active church member.

Maren Jones

Maren Jones, the daughter of Andrea and Joey Jones, is sponsored by Readlyn Savings Bank. Participating in Grump Days and various town activities, football cheer, and going to the river with her family are some of the activities she enjoys. Her favorite teacher made school enjoyable and made her look forward to class. Maren felt safe and could go to her for anything.

Since she likes listening to other peo-



Maren Jones

ple's opinions, and she's willing to learn and try new things, Maren feels 'open-minded" is the word that best describes her. This summer you will find her lifeguarding at Fairbank Aquatic Center, scorekeeping at trap-shoots, and hanging out with

friends and family.

After graduating from high school, Maren plans to attend a four-year college to get a BSN for labor and delivery nurse. In ten years, she expects to have graduated from college, working as a labor and delivery nurse, and hopefully married with kids.

Maren feels the Readlyn community is like family. Everyone is supportive of each other and everyone knows everyone which makes people feel safe.

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Friday, June 13

READLYN GRUMP DAYS 2025

8:00 am "Grumpsters" Readlyn Annual Golf Tournament- 4 Person best shot at

Maple Hills Golf Course, Tripoli; organized by Readlyn Savings Bank.

4:00 pm Food Stands Open (City Park)

4:30 - 7:00 pm Ice Cream sponsored by Readlyn Savings Bank.

5:00 pm Pedal Pull (sidewalk by school); sponsored by Wapsie Valley FFA.

5th & 6th Grade Ball Games (ball diamond); organized by Kyle Shores.

Balloon Man - Darrel Anderson (park sidewalk); sponsored by Ron & Judy

Leistikow.

Concession Stand opens (Ball Diamond, fundraiser for Readlyn Area Youth).

6:00 pm Crowning of the 2025 Little Grumpsters, Volunteer of the Year, Miss Readlyn

& Grump

7:00 pm Pepper Tournament (gazebo) - No Registration Required

7:00-10:00 pm Music by Flying Gorilla (City Park)

8:00 pm Live Music by Jordan Beem (street dance sponsored by Grumpy's) Main

Street beer garden. No cover charge.

10:00 pm Fireworks (Launched east of V49, across from the ball diamond.) Sponsored

by you and your can donations!

Saturday, June 14

10:00 am Parade - Questions, call Louie Hartman at 319-239-0533.

After parade Food Stands Open (City Park)

11:30 - 2:30 pm Kids in the Park - \$10 wristbands are required; petting zoo, Spike Ball, bouncy

houses, wacky wall, slides, cotton candy, face painting by WV FCCLA, cake

walk, and fun games for kids of all ages!

11:30 -3:00 pm Grumpster's Vendor Fair (Main Street)

1:00 - 4:00 pm Spike Ball Tournament - (City Park) Organized by Denver LEO Club; no charge.

1:00 pm Schafskopf Card Tournament (tent); Call Connie Matthias (319-231-7906).

2:30 pm Minow Races, registration begins at 2:00 pm. Sponsored by Eric Johnston

(Readlyn Outdoors).

2:30 - 4:00 pm Bingo for All Ages! (gazebo); sponsored by Ron & Judy Leistikow; no charge

8:00 pm Live Music by Mitchell Boevers & DJ With a Beat- Nick Tobey (street dance

sponsored by Grumpy's.) Main Street beer garden; no cover charge.

Sunday, June 15

9:00 am Community Church Service with Pastor Jean Rabary from St Matthew & Zion

Lutheran Church; remember your lawn chair!







Douglas Den

1195 Hilton Ave., Plainfield For reservations, call 319-275-4528

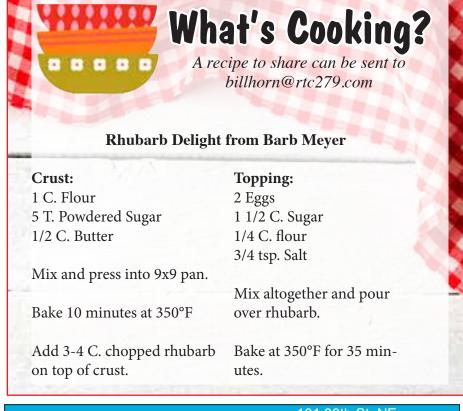
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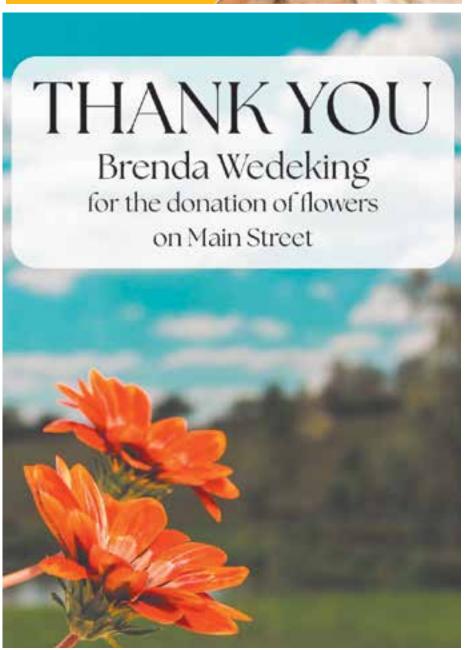




OPen HOUSe

Readlyn Veterinary Associates Wednesday, June 25 • 3:00-6:00 PM





Deadline for the June 25

Readlyn Chronicle is

Thurs., June 12 at 5 PM

Send news to

ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com



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"Financial Fitness"

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

The Game of Life...

At the end of each year, I have had the pleasure of partnering with Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Nitz, and other Wapsie Valley staff to host a "Game of Life" experience for our High School Seniors. The point of the game for the students preparing to enter their college and workforce careers is to experience the cost of everyday decisions and to get clarity on the differences between "needs" vs. "wants" when it comes to their spending. This was our third year and each group that participates is different, and has their own unique experiences. Our hope is that they gain a few valuable ideas that may help set them up to create a stronger financial foundation. When our kids and our communities are financially stable and confident, we all thrive!

About two weeks before the game, the kids are asked to select their top three ideal professions. From there, a bunch of work begins behind the scenes to gather income, student loan expenses, and other data to generate a "starting salary" for each specific scenario. The seniors also have a randomly generated personal life as it relates to marriage, divorce, kids, child support, pets, etc, baking the appropriate expenses into their scenarios.

The morning of the game, the seniors are each given their synopsis: "Here is your life!" This is one of my favorite parts...for a few minutes they all digest the scenario they've been given and proclaim whether or not they have a fair hand before the game has even started. It's a chaotic few minutes but it is funny to sit back and listen.

To begin, their first stop is the bank. The kids are expected to write checks and to balance their accounts after deducting taxes and a student loan payment. From there, they move on to their big purchases: a home, a vehicle, the insurances for the home and vehicle, as well as health, and life insurances. After those stops *and a few mild meltdowns* they can move into smaller purchases – like childcare – Ha! The bills never stop coming!



There are also tables for subscriptions, convenience store purchases, utilities, clothing, and charitable giving. We have amazing volunteers* who come every year to help work each station and sometimes even try to up-sell the kids as a salesperson would in real life. Going face-to-face with a salesperson can be its own learning experience. Of all the tables, there is one very important table: the S.O.S. At any time, the kids can veer away from the game and seek help if they're in a pickle. Lasty there are "fate" and "cop" cards where our volunteers arbitrarily stop by to hand out random expenses that life throws at us.

Afterwards, the students come do a short, post-game-debrief with me. We talk about budgeting, saving, and investing (if they have any money left to invest). We discuss how it's easier to pay yourself first instead of scraping up leftovers at the end of the month and bounce around ideas of how to do that without feeling like you're eating into a comfortable lifestyle. We also talk extensively about advocating for yourself. There are almost always solutions to problems without letting the stress of money degrade your sense of self-worth. Some solutions are easy, some are complex, but ALWAYS advocate for yourself and ask questions. Maybe you need to sell that brand new truck you bought and buy a used mid-sized car. Maybe you need to cancel a few subscriptions or sell that designer bag you bought. Maybe you even need to pick up a second job. Anything to gain traction, get your feet back under you, and win the game! It is so fun to listen to their comments, let them brainstorm, and sometimes just watch them try to process how much your decisions can impact your confidence and comfort financially.

We raise a good crop of great kids in our small communities and if we continue to support them, there is no limit to what they can achieve and give back to the community! Happy last month of school to our WV seniors!! Go make the most of the opportunities in front of you and don't forget your roots!

*SHOUTOUT TO THE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE THIS EVENT HAPPEN! WE HAVE A GREAT RETURN RATE OF VOLUNTEERS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS AND WE ALWAYS GAIN A FEW EXTRA FACES EACH YEAR. YOU GENEROUSLY POUR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT INTO THIS EVENT AND IT DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

Financial Advisor Prime Capital Financial Cedar Rapids, Iowa pciacedarrapids.com (319) 269-7143 Scan Here to Learn More About Me!



Mock Car Crash illustrates the danger of distracted driving

By Claire O'Donnell Wapsie Valley FFA Reporter

On April 24, 2025 a Mock Car Crash was held at Wapsie Valley High School for students in grades 9-12. Wapsie Valley FFA members were responsible for the planning and execution of this event. Those members involved were Kylie Strottmann, Gwen Forsyth, Eric Bryan, Lane Shores, LeeAnn Oltrogge, Mae Wedemeier, Claire O'Donnell and Dallas Tisue. The purpose was to raise awareness for distracted driving before the upcoming prom and graduation season.

At 10:15 a.m., a school announcement made by high school principal, TJ Murphy, notified students that there was a car accident on the school's campus. As students walked outside, they felt a gut punch of emotions. Freshman Kiana Hillsenbeck shared, "I didn't expect to see so much going on; my heart dropped seeing people in the crash scene that I knew personally." Junior Haley Stuber said, "The scene felt very real to me when I first walked out, you could see the victims were in distress and panicking."

Minutes later, first responders and law enforcement from the surrounding communities arrived on scene and immediately took action as they would in real-time. Freshman Lexi Brunscheon said, "Seeing the first responders and the police arrive made it feel that much more real and scary." Three victims were transported by ambulance, and one was pronounced "dead" on the scene.

Once first responders concluded their work on scene, students were directed to the auditorium for the press release and

mock funeral. Officer Shores spoke on the crash and the criminal consequence of texting while driving. The emergency services department then shared the assessment of those in the crash and the injuries which resulted. For the ceremony aspect, Denise and Ron Oltrogge shared some raw emotions in response to the "death" of their daughter. The students' time in the auditorium concluded with a casket being escorted down the auditorium aisle for the mock funeral. The ceremony helped students comprehend the aftermath of someone dying, and what family, friends, and the community would have to go through.

Students were asked to reflect on their own driving habits and speak on how the mock crash impacted them. Mae Wedemeier, a victim in the crash, shared, "Participating in the crash was an eye-opening experience. I didn't think I would get scared, but, once the EMTs got into the car, the crash became a lot more real. I will definitely be reflecting on my own driving habits." Jack Munk, a junior, said, "I will definitely take this mock crash into consideration when I am driving in the fu-

While this scenario portrayed texting and driving, we hope the crash encourages safe and alert driving all around. Thank you to Readlyn EMS, Readlyn Fire, Fairbank EMS, Oran EMS/Fire, Iowa State Patrol, Bremer County Sheriff's Department, Bremer County Emergency Management, Del's Auto Repair, Ron and Denise Oltrogge, Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home, and the Wapsie Valley Jr./Sr. High School Administration for their help with this event!

Plant and Garden Sale is this Saturday

Bremer County Master Gardeners and Friends Annual Plant and Garden Sale is planned for this Saturday, May 31, from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. The sale will be held at Bremer County Extension, 720 7th Ave. SW, Tripoli.

Many varieties of named hybrid daylilies, hostas and much more will be available, as well as decorative garden art items.

There will be something for everyone!

Master Gardeners will be present to answer gardening questions.

All are welcome; the event is open to

For more information, or if you wish to donate potted and named plants, contact Bremer County ISU Extension Office at 319-882-4275.

Best is a Spotlight on Values Award winner

WAVERLY - Seven members of the Waverly Health Center (WHC) team have



Brooke Best

been named March/ April Spotlight on Values award winners. Nominated by co-workers, patients and members of the community, these individuals are examples of WHC's values in action.

Brooke Best, Fairbank, and Alexis Fabian, Waterloo, both social workers, were recognized for the value of compassion. They were nominated for their compassion and hard work finding resources and services for a patient. Their nominator said, "The compassion they showed toward this patient was definitely going above and beyond their role at WHC."

Others nominated were Corrie Ramige of Shell Rock, a marketing specialist; Stacy Hamilton of Waverly, a respiratory therapist; Morgan Jacks of Waverly, a pharmacist; Katie Roose of Parkersburg, in the radiology department; and Julie Cousin, ARNP of Waverly, Shell Rock Clinic, received WHC's Quarterly Provider Spotlight on Values Award.

Wapsie Valley School Board - May 12, 2025

Wapsie Valley CSD May 12, 2025

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Wolfe called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 5:35 PM.

A. Directors: Auel, Aiello, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe. Kaufman-Phone B. Supt. Hoover, Secretary Arndt. & Virtual partic-

2. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0

3. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the 25-26 Tentative Agreement including an increase of \$2,500 for all teachers that are brought up to the state minimum from \$47,500 to \$50,000 and \$2,000 increase from \$60,000 to \$62,000. All other teachers will receive a flat increase of \$2,000 plus an educational-longevity increase based on each employee's indexed percentage from the 25-26 salary schedule. The total package is 3.16% as presented. Motion

4. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve a 3.00 % total package increase for Support staff for the 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carried

5. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve a 3.16% increase for the Business Manager, Director of Maintenance, Principals, & Superintendent for the 25-26 school year, Human Resource will not receive an increase as she received an increase in January of 2025 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

6. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to aprove Emergent Architect firm for their services for the Football/Track project as presented. Motion carried 5-0

7. Board Talking Points-Graduation is Sunday at 8. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to ad-

journ at 6:23 PM. Motion carried 5-0



Readlyn City Council - April 14, 2025

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:45 PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00 PM for the public hearing followed by the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following named council members were present: Rocco Imbrogno, Jason Franck, Joey Jones, Nicole Barnes. Absent: Keith Brunscheon, Others in attendance: Austin Matthias, Steve Aiello, Mike Keeran, Ed Hood, Michelle Harrington, Louie Hartman.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to approve minutes from the March 3 & 24, 2025 council eetings. All said yes. Motion carried

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve bills for payment. All said yes. Motion carried. Motion by Jones and seconded by Barnes to approve clerk and treasurer's reports. All said ves. Motion

Motion by Franck and seconded by Jones to approve budget and library reports. All said yes. Motion

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve police report. All said yes. Motion carried. Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve agenda as printed. All said yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Wedemeier opened the Public Hearing on the FY25/26 Budget. Notice of time and place had been published in the Waverly Newspaper on April 1, 2025. No written or oral objections were received. After all desiring to be heard, motion by Franck and seconded by Jones to close the public hearing. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to introduce Resolution No 2025-03 entitled "RESOLU-TION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026". Roll call vote, AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Jones, NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2025-03 duly adopted.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Barnes to set May 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM as the time for the public

hearing to amend the FY24/25 Budget. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Franck, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Jones to approve liquor license and Sunday sales renewal for MKTC Enterprises, LLC dba Grumpy's along with an outdoor service area and outdoor service area for Grump Days June 13 & 15, 2025. Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Mo-

Michelle Harrington gave an update on this year's Readlyn Grump Days, June 13-15,2025.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve city insurance renewal with EMC Insurance for the year beginning April 2025 to April 2026. Total premium will decrease from \$69,602.00 to \$69,551.00. It was noted we received a dividend of \$9,947,00 for the past year from EMC Insurance. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Franck, Barnes. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Jones to approve Spring Leaf Burning from April 15 to June I, 2025. Subject to any county or state burn bans. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on Spring Clean Up Davs for 2025. Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes approve splitting the city up with residents on 4" Street and North to be picked up on May 13. Residences South of 4" Street will be picked up on May 14. All items will need to be to the curb by 8:00 AM on your designated day. Items that need a sticker must be paid for prior to pick up. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Franck, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Council reviewed job applications for the city clerk/ treasurer positions.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk



2025 Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter: Back row, left to right - Makenna Boevers, Kali Ackerman, Ryker Oberle, Zachary Boevers, Micheal Bryan, Tripp Gissel, Eric Bryan, Jonah Frost, Jack Munk, Tate Wilkinson, Destry Peine, Cole Munk, Lydia Stuber, Dallas Tisue, Martha Rulapaugh, Henry Geerts, Easton Diers, Kylie Belinsky, Kaleah Belinsky, Front row - Claire O'Donnell, Kalle Voy, Gwen Forsyth, Kylie Strottmann, LeeAnn Oltrogge, Wally Kaufman, Ella Schares, Addisyn McElhose, Mae Wedemeier, Evan Wedemeier, Kiana Hilsenback, Natalie Gray, Brinley Schellhorn, Miriam Rulapaugh, Macyn Schultz, Addilyn Fuller. Photo contributed

Wapsie Valley FFA holds annual banquet

By Claire O'Donnell, Chapter Reporter

On March 27, the chapter held the annual Wapsie Valley FFA banquet in the high school auditorium. There were 36 members present along with their families and community members.

Our Discovery Degree recipients are junior high members that have met the minimum requirements during the 2024-2025 school year. Members who received this degree were Kaleah Belinsky, Easton Diers, Cash Kaufman, Makenna Boevers, Henry Geerts, Nora Schares, and Espyn Decker.

Our first-year members were presented their Greenhand Degree for meeting the minimal requirements during the 2024-2025 school year. Members who received this degree were Tripp Gissel, Ryker Oberle, Macyn Schultz, Kiana Hilsenbeck, Martha Rulapaugh, Evan Wedemeier, Reece Hagenow, Hayden Ryherd, Tate Wilkinson, Cole Munk, and Brinley Schellhorn.

Members in their second year were awarded the Chapter Degree for meeting the minimal requirements during the 2024-2025 school year. These members are Kali Ackerman, Michael Bryan, Addilyn Fuller, Kylie Belinsky, Zachary Boevers, Wally Kaufman, Eric Bryan, Gwen Forsyth, Claire O'Donnell, and Lane Shores.

Only 5% of Iowa FFA members earn their State FFA Degree. In our chapter, 9 members have met the minimum requirements of being enrolled in agricultural education for at least two years, actively earned or invested at \$1,500 or 375 hours into their SAE and have completed 25 hours of community service. These Iowa Degree recipients walked the stage at the Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference on April 15 to receive their certificate and degree charm. We are extremely excited to celebrate the following recipients: Jonah Frost, Jack Munk, Kylie Strottmann, Natalie Gray, Destry Peine, Lydia Stuber, Andrew Matthias, Ella Schares, and Mae Wedemeier.

One member from each grade level received a star award for their dedication to this chapter. The Star Potential award was given to Easton Diers. Ashlyn Strottmann received the Star Discovery award. The Star Greenhand award was given to Evan Wedemeier. Zachary Boevers received Star Sophomore, Mae Wedemeier received Star Junior and LeeAnn Oltrogge was named Star Senior. The Star Overall award was given to senior Addisyn McElhose. These members have all demonstrated great leadership and are known as members we can turn to in the time of need.

All FFA members are required to actively participate in an SAE. Two of our chapter members went above and beyond in their SAE this year and received the Chapter Agricultural Proficiency Award. Ella Schares was awarded for her silver rating in Beef Cattle Production Placement. Jack Munk was awarded for his gold rating in Agricul-

tural Processing Placement. He will walk the stage at the Iowa FFA convention on April 14 as he was named the State Champion Proficiency Award Winner in the area Agricultural Processing Placement.

The Iowa FFA and the Farm Bureau likes to recognize students with a cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of the first semester of their senior year with the Academic Achievement Award. The senior members who received this award are Kanen Decker, LeeAnn Oltrogge, Natalie Gray, Lydia Stuber, and Addisyn McElhose. We are proud of them for their dedication to academics over their high school career!

Members who received a 3.49 or above were recognized for Academic achievement. These members were: Kaleah Belinsky, Gwen Forsyth, Jonah Frost, Espyn Decker, Claire O'Donnell, Natalie Gray, Ashlyn Strottmann, Destry Peine, Addisyn McElhose, Evan Wedemeier, Ella Schares, Lee-Ann Oltrogge, Kylie Belinsky, Mae Wedemeier, Lydia Stuber, Zach Boevers, Kanen Decker and Dallas Tisue. We are proud of these members for their hard work in the classroom!

During the banquet, parents who have dedicated countless hours to the chapter were recognized. Denise Oltrogge was awarded with the Blue & Gold Award. The Distinguished Service Award was given to Danielle Voy. We appreciate them both greatly!

The following awards were given to students for their strong leadership and positive impact on our chapter. The Warrior award was given to Kylie Belinsky. Miriam Rulapaugh received the Shield of Friendship award. Cole Munk received the Washington Award. Brinley Schellhorn received the Flag Award. Tate Wilkinson received the Ear of Corn Award. Destry Piene received the Steel Plow Award. Ryker Oberle received the Rising Sun Award. The Advisors Award was given to Claire O'Donnell. Three members also received the Spirit of FFA award; Kaleah Belinsky, Tripp Gissel and Martha

The retirement of the 2024-2025 officer team was held during the banquet. We thank them for their time on the team, and wish the retiring senior officers the best of luck in their future endeavors. The team consisted of the following: President Addisyn McElhose, Vice President Ella Schares, Secretary Mae Wedemeier, Reporter Kylie Strottmann, Treasurer Wally Kaufman, and Sentinel LeeAnn Oltrogge. The installment of the 2025-2026 officer team occurred at the end of the banquet. The new team consists of: President Mae Wedemeier, Vice President Kylie Strottmann, Secretary Evan Wedemeier, Reporter Claire O'Donnell, Co-Reporter Ryker Oberle, Treasurer Zachary Boevers, and Sentinel Gwen Forsyth. The new officer team is eager to start and is excited for the

Wapsie Valley School Board - April 23, 2025

Wapsie Valley CSD April 23, 2025 **Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Pledge of Allegiance
1. President Wolfe called the Public Hearing on the 25-26 Budget and FY 25 Amendment to order at 6:01 PM. Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Kaufman-Aye Sauerbrei-Aye & Wolfe-Aye, Motion carried 5-0

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, Wolfe, Declared a quorum

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

C. Others: Brett Bergman, Vaughn Gross, Jenni Gross, Arizona Franck, Addison Franck, Mira Schaefer, Jason Franck, Jesse Lizer, Mike Brocka, & Justin

2. Mrs. Arndt presented FY26 Budget overview and FY25 Amendment - Discussion was held on proposed tax rate of \$14.02757 due to supplemental state aid being set at 2%. & SAVE dollars transferred to Debt service for bond payment.

3. No public comment on the FY26 Budget or the FY25 Amendment.

4. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 6:02 PM-Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye & Wolfe-Aye, Motion carried 5-0

1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6.02 PM.

2. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the amended agenda striking Mitch Coffin discussion as presented. Motion carried 5-0

3. Jenni Gross and her FCCLA students presented their projects that qualified them for Nationals. The students presented their project as interior designers for an AirBnB with a Disney theme. Also discussed was the itinerary and costs for attending the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL leaving July 3, 2025 and returning July 11, 2025. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the FCCLA National trip to Orlando, FL as presented. Motion carried 5-0

4. Struck-Mitch Coffin discussion

5. Emergent presented vision and schools previously worked with regarding track and football field

6. WV Education Association (Amanda Bockholt) presented their interest-based bargaining proposal to the WV Board of Education.

7. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to accept the interest based bargaining proposal from the WV Education Association. The board commits to engaging in the bargaining process in good faith, with the shared goal of reaching a mutually beneficial agreement that serves the best interests of our students, educators, and the entire school community as presented. Motion carried 5-0

8. Public Comment: Vaughn Gross - Keep in mind the upgrades to the football/track area as would like to possibly add soccer in the future. Justin Davie discussed the track project hoping to install an eight lane track keeping the budget in mind. Parking can be figured out. It's more important to have a great facility

9. Consent Items: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Auel as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the open enrollment request from Nicholas & Haley Tiedt to enroll their 7th-grade son, 9thgrade son, and 10th-grade son to Denver effective the 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-1. Auel, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe-AYES, Aiello-NAY Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve Scott & Beth Albrecht open enrolling their TK son to WV from West Central effective 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0 10. Communication & Reports: Board: Kim Weepie

is an amazing asset to the play Grease!

Superintendent: No report

District, PK-12 Principals: Report included DARE program, PTO sponsored field trip to Nat'l Mississippi River Museum, PK, TK, & Kindergarten open house, PTO Family Fun Night, leader night, Building Leadership team is discussing Student Handbook Policies, FFA & FCCLA state convention, Mr. Gross will be receiving the Iowa Stem grant, prom safety, Mock car crash, Game of life, Grease the musical, & spring

11. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the resignations of Deb Buenzow Special Education Associate, Brendon Howe-7-12 Science Teacher, Emma Menzel-5-12 Band Teacher- all effective end of school year, & Logan Flack - JH Baseball Coach effective immediately and thank them for their service to the students and staff at Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 5-0

Contracts: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the correction from \$26.10 per route to \$15.00 P/H contract for Jordan Smith-Van Driver as presented. Motion carried 5-0

12. New Business: Moved by Sauerbrei Seconded by Kaufman to approve FY26 Budget with a tax rate of \$14.02757 & Amended Budget for FY25 increasing Instruction, Non-Instructional Programs & Total Other Expenditures due to increased expenditures as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the Budget Guarantee that will levy property tax for FY26 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the 2025 graduates pending meeting graduation requirements as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to table the approval of Sharing Agreements with Central Rivers for FY26. IT Managed Services. Work Based learning Coordinator, & Multi-Occupations Coordinator (MOC) as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrei. Seconded by Kaufman to approve the purchase of football helmets (\$6,927.47) from general fund for the 25 season as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the audit for fiscal year 2024 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to table the JH/HS B/G Locker room floor quotes as presented Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Readlyn Elementary gym floor quote from Phillips' Floors (\$39,530) as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve 2026 early graduation pending all requirements

for TJ Joecken as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to go into Exempt Session at 7:38 PM-Roll call-ALL AYES 20.17 (2) Negotiating sessions, strategy meetings of public employers, mediation, and the deliberative process of arbitrators shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 21. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to come out of Exempt Session at 8:01 PM-Roll call-

13. Board Talking Points - Readlyn Rating #3 in the state of Iowa from the US News is AWESOME!!

14. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted-Kim Arndt

April 23, 2025 WV Board Bills

A-TEC RECYCLING \$602.83 AGVANTAGE FS \$5,189.83 AHLERS & COONEY, P.C. \$82.50 ALLI-ANT ENERGY \$343.33 Amazon \$264.87 Arndt, Kim \$449.80 ARNOLD MOTOR \$22.99 BEACHY, RACHEL \$57.39 BLACK HAWK SPRINKLERS \$352.50 BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$277.84 BREMER CNTY SHERIFF \$5,000.00 BUTLER CNTY REC \$3,676.20 Central Rivers AEA -\$4,103.10 CHEMSEARCH \$221.65 CITY LAUNDRY \$1,360.60 CITY OF FAIRBANK \$3,826.42 CITY OF READLYN \$2,981.26 COLUMN SOFT-WARE \$320.93 COURIER COMM \$142.95 CY & CHARLEY'S \$630.80 DUNKERTON CSD \$13.281.71 EAST-CENTRAL IA REC \$495.21 Employee Benefit Systems \$79,624.88 EMS DETERGENT \$17.35 FAIR-BANK FOOD \$20.34 FERGUSON \$153.83 GRIZZLY \$636.67 HERSHBERGER, MARY BETH \$72.26 HILL-YARD \$101.18 IA DHS \$2,615.76 IA REGIONAL UTIL-ITIES \$412.77 Kaufman, Adam \$700.00 KENWOR-THY, STOREY \$1,477.20 KLUESNER SANITATION \$640.00 LITTLE WAPSIE COMM \$175.08 Menards \$203.82 MENZEL EMMA \$171.36 MILLER CATH-ERINE \$85.00 MODERN BUILDING \$392.58 OEL-WEIN CSD \$317.05 OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE \$625.00 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$161.00 PLM-BG & HTNG SHOP \$90.00 RABER, EDNA \$72.26 RAISA A HALLELUJAH \$1,400.00 READLYN TELE-PHONE \$195.28 SAI \$605.00 SAM'S CLUB \$242.64 SCHOOL BUS SALES \$264.46 SCRIBNER, RACHEL \$537.60 SOUTH HARDIN CSD \$40.00 SUPERIOR WELDING \$45.00 TAYLOR PHYSICAL THERAPY \$1,050.00 TEAM LABORATORY \$867.50 TIMBER-LINE \$385.58 U.S. POST OFFICE \$4.85 UBIQUITI STORE \$6.00 VITALSOURCE \$58.00 WEEDS ON FIRE \$2,860.00 WEEPIE, BRIAN \$110.00 WIL-SON RESTAURANT \$62.39 GENERAL TOTAL \$132,978.20 Employee Benefit Systems \$5,431.20 MANAGEMENT TOTAL \$5,431.20 DAKTRONICS \$1,018.75 MARTIN GARDNER \$35,391.64 Menards \$1,179.66 YOUNG PLMBNG & HTNG \$584.22 SAVE TOTAL \$38,174.27 ACCESS SYSTEMS \$1,663.30 CENTRAL IA DISTRIB \$202.00 Central Rivers AEA \$21,739.00 LOCKSPERTS \$738.61 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$100.00 PARENTSQUARE \$1,125.00 WILSON RESTAURANT \$1,845.00 YOUNG PLMBNG & HTNG \$710.74 PPEL TOTAL \$28.123.65 Amazon \$2,697.69 EPS OPERATIONS \$1,444.33 LEARNING A TO Z \$135.00 MENARDS \$82.56 PIN SEEKERS \$420.90 PRAIRIE TRAIL SPORTS \$250.00 Teacher Synergy \$168.80 WVEF TOTAL \$5,199.28 ISHS-MA \$120.00 J.W. PEPPER \$235.43 WEST MUSIC \$885.97 GALLUP TRUST \$1,241.40 Amazon \$977.93 COCA-COLA \$212.25 BCLUW HS \$110.00 BEST BUY \$1,106.85 CASEY'S \$10.96 COURTYARD BY MARRI-OTT \$244.16 DAVIE, JUSTIN \$125.00 EDGEWOOD COLESBURG CSD \$110.00 ELITE SPORTS \$993.09 EMILY KOCH PHOTOGRAPHY \$150.00 GATEWAY HOTEL \$416.64 GT PARKING INC \$16.50 HOBBY LOBBY \$334.70 HOMEWOOD SUITES \$2.030.56 HyVee \$53.71 INDEPENDENCE CSD \$100.00 lowa Dept of Natural Resources \$27.16 IA FCCLA \$20.00 IA SPORTS SUPPLY \$836.50 JESUP CSD \$100.00 JOLESCH ENTERPRISES \$80.00 JONES SCHOOL SUPPLY \$29.90 Menards \$287.55 MODERN BUILD-ING \$52.99 NATIONAL FFA ORG \$813.40 NEARFALL \$810.00 NEVADA HS \$120.00 OLTROGGE, DENISE \$6.99 PANTHER LANES \$463.09 PARKCR \$12.35 PIZZA RANCH \$181.12 Prairie Links Golf \$165.00 Signs and More \$359.10 SUES GOODIES \$136.00 TIMELESS TRADITIONS \$400.00 Walmart \$464.91 WAVERLY CSD \$100.00 WAYZATA RESULTS \$808.50 WILLE, CARMEN \$153.36 ACTIVITY TO-TAL \$13 420 27 COCA-COLA \$256 97 FMS DETER-GENT \$696.00 KWIK TRIP \$40.10 MARTIN BROS. \$14,575.10 MAY, LESLIE \$176.61 PRAIRIE FARMS

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"Catfishing"

ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

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 was 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 favorite memories, fishing growing

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 is Hank's Live Bait and Tackle and now 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 Milwaukee "when I ran out of pop" sitting side-by-side on the river bank (wink!). We would sit there for hours with two poles each propped up on sticks with a different bait on each rod. Dad taught me 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 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 nightcrawler 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 twenty 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 Wapsie River and Cedar 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 setup, 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, nightcrawlers, crawdads, chicken liver, or stinkbait. Stinkbait can be purchased in jars and use

a sponge or stinkbait 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 widegap 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 type 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!









Bagged Shell Corn

A Work in Progress for a Butterfly Garden

Ten years ago, David and Ruth Wittenburg donated memorial money for a butterfly/pollinator garden in memory of David's mother, Marie Wittenburg.

Fast forward to 2025: Readlyn Gardeners gathered by the gazebo as you go west out of town on the bike path, where Ruth and David engineered and directed the construction of the "corn crib/gazebo" with the help of many community members, which was paid for by Herb Clemens' estate. The gardeners determined the dimension and location of the long-awaited butterfly garden, which is positioned on the east side of the gazebo/corn crib.

Larry and Deb Sauerbrei removed and deposited the sod. Deb, along with Ruth, Ruth Happel and Connie Sauerbrei, made a layout of the location of the mainly native plants that should be able to survive the environment as well as attract butterflies



Gene Thurm triple tilled the butterfly garden area.

and pollinators. Plants were selected and purchased with guidance from Pam Wolter, Master Gardener from Denver.

The City of Readlyn purchased black dirt which was graded in the location by Barney Wiersma and Austin Matthias. Deb and Gene Thurm tilled, removed sticks, added 50 bags of premium top soil with peat moss, tilled, added manure, and tilled again. Readlyn Gardeners planted the flowers. Roger and Marlys religiously water them to make sure the plants can thrive. Eventually a bird bath, mulch, and other plants will be added to the garden. The goal is to protect our pollinators as their numbers are drastically declining. We hope others will plant native plants to attract and preserve our pollinators and that the community will enjoy the beauty of the Butterfly/Pollinator Garden!



This is the start of the butterfly garden. Watch it grow over the summer!



The Tin Man (shown at the right) was a gift from Renee's uncle.

June Yard of the Month Continued from Page 1



The many blooms on the golden delicious and McIntosh apple trees indicate the Duesenbergs will be enjoying a bountiful crop.



This garden features an angel from Renee's aunt and a bird from their son for Mother's Day.



Candidates for the Wapsie Valley 2025 Prom King and Queen were, left to right: Jaylin May, Weston Schares, Danica Aiello, Gavin Brown, Natalie Gray, Andrew Matthias, Lydia Stuber, Aidan Oldfather, Bianca Nelson, and Tim Seeman.



Wapsie Valley High School chose Andrew (Chuck) Matthias and Natalie Gray as its 2025 Prom King and Queen.



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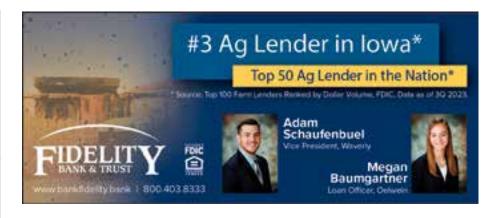


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