



Ruth and Dr. Carl Venzke planted these hostas many years ago.

Fritz & Mike Miller earn August Yard of the Month Honors

Frances (Fritz) and Mike Miller, 316 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, are August's winners of Weeds on Fire's Yard of the Month. There were broad smiles all around when the award was presented.

Fritz says gardening has become second nature, being raised by parents that had a massive vegetable garden each year. While a vegetable garden isn't something that they have on their property, they've put lots of time and thought into planting and nurturing their perennial beds. Through the process, they have gained some knowledge about what plants work where, but Fritz wanted to learn more, so she joined the Readlyn Gardeners. It's a privilege to work alongside some ladies and gents that know plants and plant care and have worked for many years improving Readlyn's beautiful flower beds.

An important part of their backyard flower beds is bird habitat. Mike's grandparents, who built the home in 1950, planted a burning bush which is still alive and well, various hostas, and a rose bush

which was Dr. Carl Venzke's (Mike's uncle) pastime when he wasn't caring for farm animals and Readlyn resident pets. It's been a joy to maintain and add on to what the previous two generations started. And the birds love it, too!

Fritz and Mike encourage anyone that is interested in learning plant care, and is able to commit to some weeding and mulching each Monday morning at 9 a.m., weather permitting, with some very knowledgeable, friendly folks, to consider joining the Readlyn Gardeners.



The Blessed Mother, surrounded by clematis, belonged to Fritz's parents.



The Orioles have arrived for the summer. The bird feeder will be joined by many more for a winter bird habitat.



The red milk can becomes a practical plant stand.



Fritz and Mike Miller, 316 Elmer, are August's Yard of the Month winners. From the front yard to the back (below), they have created a lovely landscape and bird habitat.

See more photos on page 7



They weren't on the Potomac (actually, they weren't really on a river at all), but these "Founding Fathers" of Readlyn Telephone Company were at the Grump Days Parade last month! For more highlights of the celebration, see pages 10-12!

Grump's Grumblings

By Ed Traeger, 2026 Grump



As the "New" Old Grump of Readlyn I would like to recognize that this year's 2026 Readlyn Grump Days celebration was a GREAT SUCCESS! And, after attending recent Readlyn Community Club meetings, I assure you that future Readlyn events are in excellent hands.

Your committee is comprised of many hard-working, fun-loving, community members with solid leadership in President Michelle Harrington!

Great Upcoming Events:

Your RCC plans include regularly scheduled BINGO Nights. Also, join us for the Historical Society Ice Cream Social on August 9, 3-5 p.m. And, especially this week, please don't be afraid to bid on the pie I will be baking for the Bremer County Fair Auction.

Quote of the Month

by Charles Darwin:

"It is not the strongest that survive, nor the most intelligent to survive. It is the one that is most adaptable to change."

I have had to adapt many times in life, yet this is the most unimaginable leap for me to transform into "The One Old Grump!!!"

As discussed on Readlyn Talk:

My first big challenge as Grump was to be called into service during that brutal mid-July "Black-Out" electrical storm.

I went out into the constant lightning, pouring rain, and gale force winds, to talk that squirrel down from the transformer and restore electricity to the City of Readlyn...

Now, some people want to give credit to Barney, Austin, and the Alliant Energy team, and... I suppose they deserve some recognition, too.

Miss Readlyn Comments

By Ava Meyer



Hello, Readlyn!

I am so honored to be crowned Miss Readlyn in this amazing community. I strongly believe that you are who you surround yourself with, and being surrounded by such amazing family, friends, and neighbors has truly made me who I am today, allowing me this opportunity. I can't wait to meet all of you!

But first, let me tell you a little about me! Last year, in the beginning of September, I took on the role as a student leader for FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). If you are unfamiliar with this group, it has a student-run organization that brings students together through Christ. It allows public school students to talk and learn about Jesus on campus before and after school hours. My role was to meet with my team each week to come up with a lesson and then share it with my fellow peers on Monday mornings. I'm so excited for my senior year and what more

my team and I can make of this growing group! Also, a huge thank you to everyone who donated or has helped support us; your generosity does not go unnoticed.

When I was little, I was a dance fanatic! As I got older, I found out that balancing junior high sports and dance was very difficult. So, in seventh grade, I had to make the tough decision of quitting all classes and leaving the dance world behind. Last summer, I realized that dance was a big part of who I am and I did not want to pass up the opportunity to be able to do the thing before I can't anymore. So, I decided to sign up for dance again at Studio by Alyssa, and safe to say I missed it! So, to top off my dance career for my senior year, I made the decision to try out for the competition team this year! I am so excited to be surrounded by such talented dancers each week!

I'm thrilled about this new chapter and eagerly anticipate what this year holds!



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Special Women's Gathering will focus on 'Laughing at the Days to Come!'

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Martha Circle, Readlyn is hosting a Women's Gathering on Sunday, August 16 at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

Speaker Twila Beck, "The Gotta Tell

Somebody Gal," will speak on "Laughing at the Days to Come!" Jennifer Jaschen will be singing.

We will have a luncheon and door prize. The event is FREE and everyone is welcome!

Grump Raffle Winners Announced

These are the raffle winners of the six bikes donated by Jason and Sheila Bents of Bents Smokehouse:

Benji Burnell, Miranda Biermann, Judy Leistikow, Ryker Robinson, Mark Wiersma and Rod Wittenburg.



Grump Days Schafkopf Winners — Left to right, 1st place Ron Leistikow; second place Dave Harms; third place Nicole Barnes.



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- Water paints
- Ziplock Bags

- Play-Doh
- Headphones
- Pencil Box/Bag
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Donations can be dropped off in the Readlyn Savings Bank lobby until Thursday, August 20th at 12 P.M.



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Book Donations

In Memory of Don Billhorn

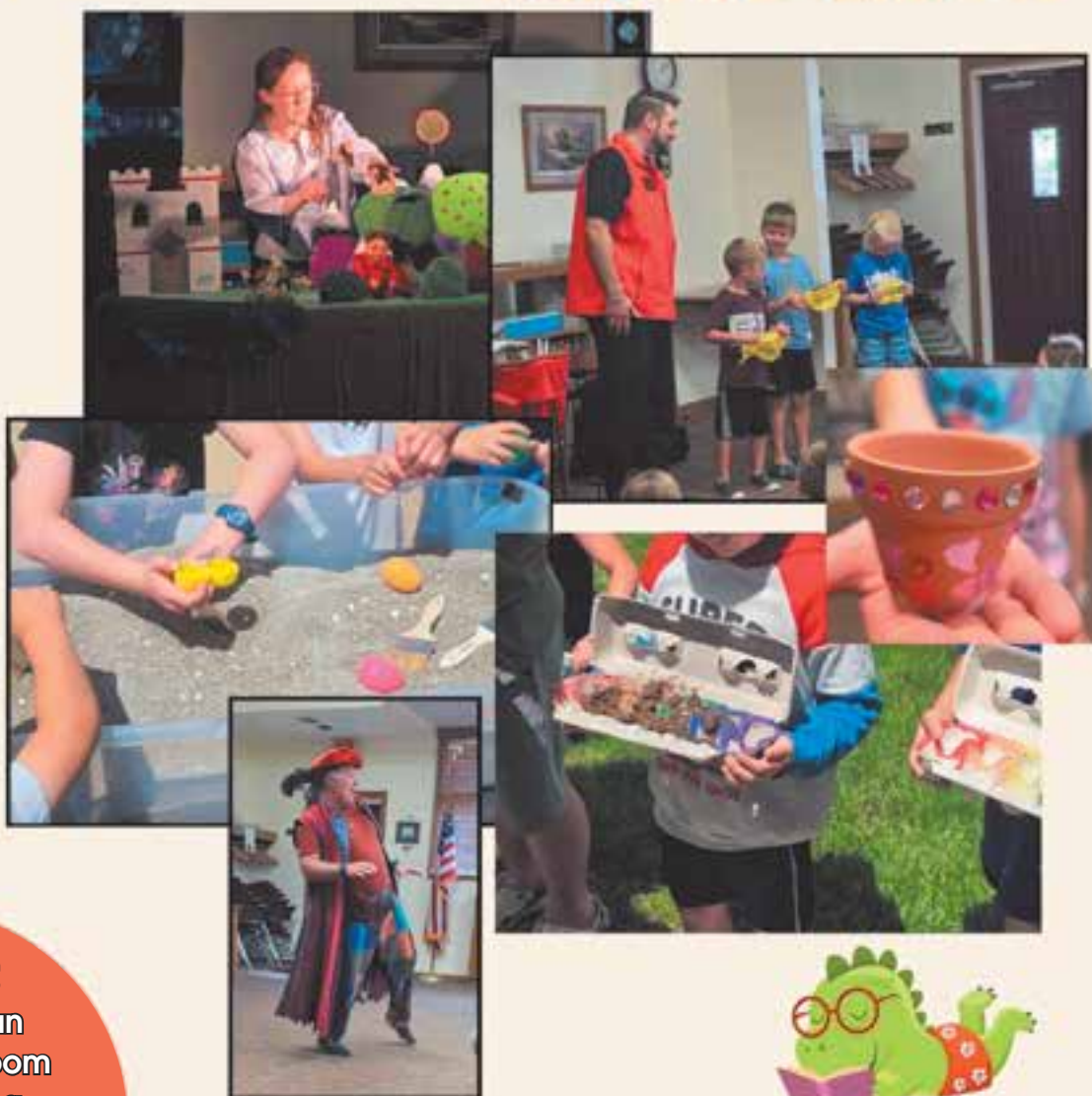
Mungo on His Own by Matthew Burgess – given by Dean and Lois Buhr

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Rocket Puppies by William Joyce – given by Jeff Brunscheon and family

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more SUMMER READING



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Wed - 10am - 5pm
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Wasn't it Yesterday? *The Writer*



By J.D. Francis

A writer is careful not to allow you to get to know them too well. For, it's likely you'd see that something was wrong, or figure out that something was missing. A writer is cautious not to let it show, so they choose to be heard

with the "written" word, rather than allow you to look in their eyes. That is my story anyway.

A candle glows soft, when the daylight deserts and a darkened silhouette shows against the window shades, like the negative of a still photograph. Could it be something someone had said, something he had seen, or the anywhere he'd rather be, so he begins to write. An invisible therapy of sorts, he begins to write away the issue that holds him hostage, in the quiet midnight hour. He proceeds with the feeling of a glass half full, knowing tomorrow the glass may be only as much as half empty. He has the control to offer you what he cares to give away, or conversely, calculate exactly what he needs to hold back or keep within himself.

Maybe it's a song, a poem, a short story, or a journalistic overview of the news of the day. A writer will take you by the heart and lead you on to places that they, themselves, have never been or seen. With eyes "wide closed" they can see it all clear, the fantasies, the realities, the reflections, the disguise, the candy smile, or even the "blue" in the hazel green eyes, and so he begins to write.

Just as striking the match will light a fire, the writer begins and the ink will flow across the page. Words lay exposed on the page, like stones without feelings. Words without a tune, a melody, nor music, until he finishes with his feelings that brought him to his candlelit desk to begin with.

With raw, stark, words he paints a portrait, a flowering masterpiece of colorful thoughts that resonate through the quiet, dark of night.

Not much more than a lonely risk taker, with every right to be wrong, he'll bend and twist the meaning of each word like guitar strings beneath fingers, soft and warm. The writer doesn't think, he feels as he creates meaning from nothing, by breaking your heart or making your every dream come true.

Who, but a writer, can wander this world and never be lost and yet pray they'll never be found? Who else can spell it out plain, that life is only a flash or a flicker, and yet on the next page, begin a story about tomorrow, as if tomorrow is a promise for all to behold. Who else can seek out the hidden truth in "make believe," and with make believe, make you believe it's real. Who, but the writer, can find the reality in every passing daydream... but only after he begins to write.

Off on a journey to places less travelled, a writer most likely has never seen where he's already been. Each footprint, only one step ahead of his fears of failure. The words he writes are his to hide behind, like a "stone wall" to shelter from the doubts, or the pain he feels inside.

Soon the dawn will break and a darkened silhouette will fade against a candlelit window shade. Once again, he'll find his way home after an evening of "fountain pen" travels. He feels sadness in his own way, for a writer, with all of his words, with all of his travels, can't bring himself to write that word, that one sensitive word. He is painfully aware that there is nothing emptier, nothing lonelier, than that one word that frightens him so. That single word of goodbye. So, he continues on with an ending to a story that will just have to wait another day. The writer, his words, and me.

jdfrantpaint@msn.com

Senior Citizens recommend Health and Wellness 365 starting today at Bents

On June 17, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., the Readlyn Senior Citizens met at Bents Smokehouse in Readlyn for their meeting. Thirteen members were in attendance.

Mary Lou Billhom, Acting President in Ron Leistikow's absence, led us in prayer and opened the meeting.

Birthday for the month was Roger Deterding. We sang "Happy Birthday" to him. Roger and Marlys Deterding celebrated their 21st anniversary and Don and Mary Lou Billhorn celebrated their 62nd anniversary.

Secretary's Report was read by Janet Ladage, in Lois Thacher's absence. Charlie Albrecht read the Treasurer's Report. He stated the balance today after income was \$156.00. A motion was made by Don Billhorn and seconded by Larry Ladage to approve both the Secretary and Treasurer Reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mary Lou mentioned a few of the high-

lights of Grump Days coming up. Pepper is Friday at 7:00 p.m. and balloon man will be there from 4-8. Check the poster for a complete schedule. Janet passed around a thank you from Lois Thacher.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Lou showed the Passport Pamphlet that is available at the library and explained it. This is available until October 1.

Janet explained the Health and Wellness 365 Class that will begin on Wednesday, July 29 at 11:00 a.m. at Bents. You will learn about a variety of topics related to nutrition, physical activity and aging. There is a recipe sampling every month. Everyone is invited to attend.

A motion was made by Shirley and seconded by Marlys to adjourn. Meeting adjourned. We did not play bingo this month.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 15 at 11:30 a.m.

Janet Ladage, Acting Secretary

Grump Days Pepper Tournament winners are announced

The winners and their scores from our Grump Days Pepper Tournament were:

1st: Roger and Connie Buhr - 122

2nd: Millie Crawford and Judy Henn - 120

3rd: Grace Kuethe and Barb Meyer - 105

4th: Suzy Heineman and Shirley Kuker - 85

Thanks to those who played!

Bremer County Fair continues this week

Theme: "Make Memories Stick in 2026!"

Go to www.bremercountyfair.com for on-the-spot updates and total schedule of events!

Wednesday, July 29

8:00 AM - 4-H Battle of the Clubs Daily Scavenger Hunt Starts
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM- 4-H/FFA Swine Show- Large Livestock Building
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM- 4-H Exhibit Hours- Leistikow Family Event Center
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM - 4-H Snak Shak Food Stand Hours - Leistikow Family Event Center
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Coloring Contest, New Design Each Day! - Leistikow Family Event Center
10:00 AM -11:00 AM- Kids Just Dance Competition - Leistikow Family Event Center
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM- Kid's McFun Zone Activity Play Area - West Promenade
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Human Pallet Maze Attraction - On the Grounds
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Fine Arts Exhibit Hours -Leistikow Family Event Center Conference Room
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM - Pretty Bird Paradise Attraction -West Promenade
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM- Dairy Promoters Hours- Food Vendor Row
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM- Lantz Exotics Petting Zoo & Pony Rides - On the Grounds
11:00 AM - Close - Bremer County Cattlemen Stand Hours - Food Vendor Row
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM- Select Food Vendors Open- Food Vendor Row
12:00 PM - Foam Zone- West Promenade
12:00 PM - Bingo Hour- Leistikow Family Event Center
12:00 PM - 7:00 PM- Commercial Exhibits Hours- On the Grounds
1:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
1:00 PM - Swine Release- immediately following Swine Show
1:30 PM - 4-H Grilled Cheese Challenge- Leistikow Family Event Center
2:00 PM - Kids Celebration -West Promenade
2 00 PM - 3:00 PM - 4-H Clover Bucket Bottle Calf Show- Livestock Show Arena
2:30 PM - Mini Donut Eating Competition - Binzeebo #3 - Sponsored by the Donut Hut
3:00 PM - 4-H/FFA Dairy Show- Livestock Show Arena
3:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus- East Side of Carnival
3:00 PM - 10:00 PM -Carnival by Get R Fried Midway
3:30 PM - Foam Zone- West Promenade
4:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show- West Promenade
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Cow/Calf Check in - Large Livestock Building
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Darrel the Balloon Man - On the Grounds
4:30 PM- Food Vendor Row Opens
5:00 PM - Kids Celebration • West Promenade
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM- LIVE Music by Ally Bagenstos- Binzeebo #4
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM- Free Pork Burger Giveaway - Sponsored by Bremer Co. Pork Producers
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM- Bremer Co. Fair Express Kiddie Train Rides - On the Grounds
5:00 PM - Close- Entertainment Pavilion Hours
6 00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
6:30 PM - Foam Zone- West Promenade
7:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show- West Promenade
7:00 PM - Redneck Rally (Featuring Chain Races,Couple Cruiser Class & More!) • Track
9:00 PM - 12:00 AM - Live Music by GTP Band - Entertainment Pavilion

Thursday, July 30

8:00 AM - 4-H Battle of the Clubs Daily Scavenger Hunt Starts
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM- FREE Breakfast by the TACO Shack- Vendor Row
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM- 4-H/FFA Beef Show - Livestock Show Arena
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM- 4-H Exhibit Hours- Leistikow Family Event Center
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM- 4-H Snak Shak Food Stand Hours - Leistikow Family Event Center
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM- Coloring Contest,New Design Each Day! - Leistikow Family Event Center
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM- Lego Challenge- Leistikow Family Event Center
10:00 AM -7:00 PM- Kid's McFun Zone Activity Play Area- West Promenade
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Human Pallet Maze Attraction- On the Grounds
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Fine Arts Exhibit Hours - Leistikow Family Event Center Conference Room
10:00 AM - 8:00PM - Pretty Bird Paradise Attraction- West Promenade
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM- Dairy Promoters Hours- Food Vendor Row
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM - Lantz Exotics Petting Zoo & Pony Rides • On the Grounds
11:00 AM - Close- Bremer County Cattlemen Stand Hours- Food Vendor Row
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Select Food Vendors Open - Food Vendor Row
12:00 PM - Foam Zone- West Promenade
12:00 PM - Bingo Hour- Leistikow Family Event Center
12:00 PM - 7:00 PM -Commercial Exhibits Hours- On the Grounds
1:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM- 4-H/FFA Rabbit Show- Rabbit Tent
2:00 PM - Kids Celebration - West Promenade
2:30 PM - Frozen T-Shirt Challenge- Binzeebo #3
3:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM- Sheep/Goat Check In/Weigh In-Ray Lageschulte Swine Barn
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM -Iowa Corn Education Trailer- On the Grounds
3:00 PM - 10:00 PM -Carnival by Get R Fried Midway
3:30 PM - Foam Zone- West Promenade
4:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Bovine Obstacle Course- Livestock Show Arena
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Darrel the Balloon Man- On the Grounds
4:30 PM - Food Vendor Row Opens
4:30 PM - Sweet Corn Feed - On the Grounds -Sponsored by Bremer County Farm Bureau
4:30 PM - Watermelon Feed - On the Grounds -Sponsored by Bremer County Farm Bureau
4:30 PM - Bremer County Cattlemen Meal Deal- Food Vendor Row
5:00 PM - Kids Celebration -West Promenade
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM- Bremer Co. Fair Express Kiddie Train Rides - On the Grounds
5:00 PM - Close- Entertainment Pavilion Hours
6:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
6:30 PM - Foam Zone- West Promenade
6:30 PM - ECI Tractor & Truck Pull- Track
7:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show- West Promenade
9:00 PM - 12:00 AM - Live Music by Caryn Stewart/Music by Crayon - Entertainment Pavilion

Friday, July 31

8:00 AM - 4-H Battle of the Clubs Daily Scavenger Hunt Starts
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM- Free Breakfast by Farm Credit Services - Cattlemen's Tent
8:00 AM- 11:00 AM - 4-H/FFA Goat Show - Livestock Show Arena
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM- 4-H Exhibit Hours- Leistikow Family Event Center
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM- 4-H Snak Shak Food Stand Hours -Leistikow Family Event Center
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM- Coloring Contest, New Design Each Day! - Leistikow Family Event Center
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Spoons Game Challenge - Leistikow Family Event Center
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM- Kid's McFun Zone Activity Play Area -West Promenade
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Human Pallet Maze Attraction - On the Grounds
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Fine Arts Exhibit Hours -Leistikow Family Event Center Conference Room
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Pretty Bird Paradise Attraction - West Promenade
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM- Dairy Promoters Hours- Food Vendor Row
10:00 AM- 10:00 PM - Lantz Exotics Petting Zoo & Pony Rides - On the Grounds
11:00 AM - Kids Celebration - West Promenade
11:00 AM - 12 00 AM - 4-H Clover Bottle/Bucket Goat/Sheep Show - Livestock Show Arena

Continued on Page 6

Frank & Norma Zahn work to restore mobility, independent living

Independence is an import aspect of living with dignity. The essence of this thought was on Frank Zahn’s mind for years, but only recently did he get a chance to deliver on it.

Frank’s brainchild, a program to help individuals with limited mobility gain independence, is called RIM, or Restore Independent Mobility.

One day, while helping in New Orleans, LA, where Frank and his wife, Norma, stayed for five years to do their volunteer service, they saw a truckload of wheelchairs and other mobility equipment being taken to the dump because they had been ruined in the flood.

That’s where it dawned on Zahn that there could be a better way to handle this. “I wished I could fix them,” he said.

But it wasn’t until 2014, when the couple settled in Waverly, Norma’s hometown, that Zahn had a chance to work on repairing some equipment for friends, and the opportunity to turn the idea into a workable reality presented itself. With the help of the Waverly Lions Club, RIM was born.

“Our mission is to put affordable power of mobility under the people that need it for their own independence and well-being,” Frank said.

If someone is interesting in donating, RIM specializes in powered units only and does not accept walkers, canes or un-powered wheelchairs.

If someone needs a mobility power unit, the Zahns may be contacted at 319-348-5363 or by email: info@rimobility.org.

“All you owe is the cost of the repair to the unit (usually the price of the battery) and the promise to donate the unit back to us when you no longer have the need for it,” Zahn explained.

Conveniently located in Denver, the Zahns are also available for repairs on your own power unit for a free-will donation.



Powered wheelchairs are available at RIM in Denver. The business also repairs and accepts donated wheelchairs.



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2026 Bremer County Fair Schedule

- Continued from Page 5*
- 11:00 AM - Close - Bremer County Cattlemen Stand Hours - Food Vendor Row
 - 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Select Food Vendors Open - Food Vendor Row
 - 12:00 PM - Foam Zone - West Promenade
 - 12:00 PM - Bingo Hour - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM - 4-H/FFA Sheep Show- Livestock Show Arena
 - 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Commercial Exhibits Hours - On the Grounds
 - 1:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
 - 1:30 PM - Open Mic Joke Show - Entertainment Pavilion
 - 2:00 PM - Kids Celebration - West Promenade
 - 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM - Barnyard Battles - Horse Arena
 - 3:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
 - 3:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Carnival by Get R Fried Midway
 - 3:30 PM - Foam Zone - West Promenade
 - 4:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
 - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Can You Handle the Heat Competition Sign-Up - Entertainment Pavilion- Limited to 6 contestants
 - 4:30 PM - Food Vendor Row Opens
 - 5:00 PM - Celebrity Showmanship Livestock Show - Livestock Show Arena
 - 5:00 PM - Kids Celebration - West Promenade
 - 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Can You Handle the Heat Eating Competition - Entertainment Pavilion
 - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Bremer Co. Fair Express Kiddie Train Rides - On the Grounds
 - 5:00 PM - Close - Entertainment Pavilion Hours
 - 6:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
 - 6:30 PM - Foam Zone - West Promenade
 - 7:00 PM - Combine Demolition Derby - Track
 - 7:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
 - 8:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
 - 9:00 PM - 12:00 AM - Live Music by Wildcard - Entertainment Pavilion
- Saturday, August 1**
- 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM- 4-H Exhibit Hours - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 9:00 AM - Registration begins for Cute Baby Contest - Entertainment Pavilion
 - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM - The Fairs Omelet Challenge - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - 4-H Snak Shak Food Stand Hours - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Coloring Contest, New Design Each Day! - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 10:00 AM - Cute Baby Contest - Entertainment Pavilion
 - 10:00 AM - Sheep/Goat Obstacle Course - Horse Arena
 - 10:00 AM - 4-H Communication Presentations - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Kid's McFun Zone Activity Play Area - West Promenade
 - 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM- Commercial Exhibits Hours - On the Grounds
 - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Fine Arts Exhibit Hours - Leistikow Family Event Center Conference Room
 - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM- Human Pallet Maze Attraction - On the Grounds
 - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM - Pretty Bird Paradise Attraction - West Promenade
 - 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM - Dairy Promoters Hours - Food Vendor Row
 - 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM - Lantz Exotics Petting Zoo & Pony Rides - On the Grounds
 - 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM - Open Dairy Show - Livestock Show Arena
 - 11:00 AM - Food Vendor Row Opens
 - 11:00 AM - Kids Celebration- West Promenade
 - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Bremer Co. Fair Express Kiddie Train Rides - On the Grounds
 - 11:00 AM - Close - Bremer County Cattlemen Stand Hours - Food Vendor Row
 - 12:00 PM - Foam Zone - West Promenade
 - 12:00 PM - Bingo Hour - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 12:00 PM - 10 00 PM - Carnival by Get R Fried Midway
 - 12:00 PM - Close - Entertainment Pavilion Hours
 - 1:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
 - 1:30 PM - Husband Calling/Mom Calling Contest - Entertainment Pavilion
 - 2:00 PM - Kids Celebration - West Promenade
 - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Amazing Race - West Promenade
 - 2:30 PM - W-SR Robotic Team Lego Station - Lego Car Races - Leistikow Family Event Center
 - 3:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
 - 3:30 PM - Best Beard/Mullet at the Fair Contest - Entertainment Pavilion
 - 3:30 PM - Foam Zone - West Promenade
 - 4:00 PM - 4-H/FFA Ribbon Auction - Livestock Show Arena
 - 4:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
 - 5:00 PM - Kids Celebration - West Promenade
 - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Bremer Co. Fair Express Kiddie Train Rides - On the Grounds
 - 6:00 PM - Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
 - 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Carnival Wristband Special
 - 6:30 PM - Tough Truck Madness - Track
 - 6:30 PM - Foam Zone - West Promenade
 - 7:00 PM - Doc Magic Variety Show - West Promenade
 - 8:00 PM- Royal Legacy Circus - East Side of Carnival
 - 8:30 PM - 11:30 PM - Live Music by Arch Allies - Entertainment Pavilion

For a complete Schedule, log on to:
www.bremercountyfair.com

Community Lutheran School Welcomes New and Returning Staff

Community Lutheran School in Readlyn is pleased to welcome several new and returning members to its dedicated team for the upcoming school year.

Amanda Eike joins the Readlyn Campus as resource staff and cook. Amanda is beginning her third year at CLS and feels blessed to work where four of her six children attend. Her family enjoys camping, visiting zoos and exploring nature together. Amanda’s creativity and energy make her a wonderful addition to the CLS community.

Emily LaRue joins CLS as a kindergarten paraeducator. Emily holds two associate degrees from Hawkeye Community College and previously served as a paraeducator in Denver Community Schools. She lives in Readlyn with her family and enjoys thriving, racing and spending time outdoors. Emily is excited to help CLS students learn and grow in faith.

Wendy Matthias returns to CLS as a three-year-old preschool and daycare teacher. Wendy previously served seven years in the preschool classroom and brings a wealth of experience and joy to her teaching. She lives in the country with her husband, two sons, and a lively collection of pets. Wendy looks forward to sharing the love of Jesus with her students and working alongside the CLS staff once again.

Community Lutheran School is also seeking a four-year-old preschool classroom teacher and a 5th–6th grade homeroom teacher with a strong science background to join its growing team and support students in a Christ-centered learning environment.

Community Lutheran School is blessed by the gifts and dedication of these staff members and looks forward to another year of faith-filled learning and growth.

August Yard of the Month Continued from Page 1



The flower basket is one of hundreds of baskets woven by Fritz.



Bleeding heart.



The firelight hydrangeas will turn purple.



Cornflowers tolerate full sun and some heat.



The 20-year-old spruce trees, a gift from neighbors Ron and Ella Matthias, were brought from Ohio.



Potted plants add color to any corner.

Obituary

Don Anderson Billhorn

Don Anderson Billhorn passed away at the age of 90 on Monday, July 13, 2026.

Don was born on March 29, 1936, in his grandmother's house in Manchester, Iowa, the son of Wilma and Alfred Billhorn. He graduated from Manchester High School in 1954 and enlisted in the Army in 1956. After basic training, he was stationed in Germany for 19 months, where he was a surveyor. He loved to talk about his travels and experiences while he was overseas, including driving one of the captains on a few occasions.

Don married Mary Lou Arneson on June 27, 1964, in Caledonia, Minnesota. They spent the early years of their marriage in Manchester before settling in Readlyn and raising their two girls, Carolyn and Jennifer. Don was a livestock buyer for Dubuque Packing Company. He retired as a maintenance supervisor for Bremwood Lutheran Services Children's Home. In his retirement, he enjoyed driving the school bus for Wapsie Valley school district.

Don was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, where he taught Sunday School and served on the church council as a member and as president. He believed in serving others, and contributed to the community through several board memberships, including Readlyn City Council, the Boy Scout Council, ELCA NE Iowa Synod Council, Community Club, Readlyn Library Board, Maple Hills Country Club board, Bremer County Extension Council and Condemnation Board, along with a proud honor of being Readlyn's 2007 Grump!

Don loved fishing in northern Minnesota each year with family and neighbors, and escaping on a twice-a-year guy's trip to fish

in Canada. Don loved history and enjoyed family trips to Civil War sites, and in retirement, he and Mary Lou traveled to places like Alaska, Nova Scotia, and Europe. They also spent time in southern Minnesota in their camper on Mary Lou's family farm, giving the grandchildren a taste of early driving practice on their golf cart. He always enjoyed supporting all of the grandchildren in their many activities! We will miss his quick wit and sense of fun, from being the struggling student Ricky when his girls played school to his entertaining impressions. Don was proud to be a grandfather to six grandchildren and a great-grandfather to three great-grandchildren.

Don is deeply missed by his wife, Mary Lou, who he just celebrated 62 years of marriage with; daughters, Carolyn (Allen) Lewis of Eldridge and Jennifer (Sean) Kastli of West Des Moines; grandchildren, Nicholas, Carston, Collin, Madolyn, Addyson, and Griffin; great-grandchildren, Lilith, Frederick, and Valerie. He's survived by his brother, Jon (Barb) Billhorn, DeWitt, and many nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Wilma Billhorn; parents-in-law, Eloys and Orlin Arneson; and sister and brother-in-law, Lyle and Mary Ellen Lapham.

Visitation was held on Friday, July 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn and for one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church. A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 18, at Zion Lutheran Church with Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary officiating. A lunch followed the service. Burial of cremains will be held at a later date in Portland Prairie Cemetery, rural Caledonia, Minnesota.

Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church, the Bremer County First Responders, and the Readlyn Library.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.



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Send news to readlynchronicle@gmail.com

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Bremer County Master Gardeners listened intently as Readlyn Gardener Deb Sauerbrei gave background information regarding one of Readlyn's 14 gardens.

Garden Tour

On June 15, Readlyn Gardeners hosted a tour of the City's gardens for Bremer County Master Gardeners. They were thoroughly impressed by the gardens as well as the dedication of the Readlyn Gardeners.



Frederika Schafkopf Tournament winners named

On July 5, 22 people got together in Frederika for their Fourth of July celebration schafkopf tournament. Winners were:

- 1st place: Roger Deterding
- 2nd: Brady Bruns
- 3rd: Sharon Sprague
- 4th: Sam Richmond

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Phone: 319-553-3400

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READLYN GRUMP DAYS 2026

JUNE 19-21



First place: Readlyn Community Club



Second place:
Readlyn Gardeners



Third place: 4-H Group



Best Golf Cart:
Michelle and Ed Harrington



Food
Stands



Mary Lou Billhorn (left) received the Volunteer of the Year award from RCC president Michelle Harrington.



Petting
Zoo



Raffles



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!



2026 Royalty



Readlyn's Old Grump 2026 is Ed Traeger (photo at left). Miss Readlyn 2026 is Ava Meyer (above center). She is shown with Miss Readlyn 2025 Kylie Strottman (left) and Miss Readlyn runner-up Isabella Buck. The Li'l Grumpsters (above right) are Bronson Bockholt and Embry Schultz.



Kids' Parade



Pedal Pull



Kids in the Park



Photos courtesy of Mary Ungs
See more on Page 12

Thank You!

Readlyn Community Club has countless people to thank for making "Happy Birthday, America!" Grump Days a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS:

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READLYN GRUMP DAYS 2026

JUNE 19-21



Past Grumps

Balloon Artist

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Fairbank, Iowa

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.

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“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

Summer is winding down and soon the kids are heading back to school!

For most of us adults, that doesn’t change our daily work routines much, but it’s a beautiful reminder to pause and reflect on our own education, especially when it comes to financial literacy.

The truth is, many Americans didn’t receive a strong financial education growing up, and current numbers show we still have room to grow. Recent surveys reveal that American adults score a poor average of 47% on financial literacy questions... the lowest in a decade. By gender, men tend to score around 50%, women around only 44%.¹ Generationally, Baby Boomers average nearly 60%, while Gen Z sits at 38%.² The gap grows even in the age of endless information.

It’s easy to feel overwhelmed. We’re bombarded by influencers whose success depends on clicks and views, not content accuracy. AI can deliver data quickly, but it can’t replace personalized guidance built over time. And while some people thrive doing it all themselves, most of us don’t have the time or bandwidth and would better benefit from personal support, structure, and realistic expectations.

If you add in today’s pressures of constant spending temptations, keeping up with trends, and the sheer volume of consumption and it’s no wonder so many feel stretched:



57% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck.³

1 in 3 working adults couldn’t cover a \$400 emergency expense.³ Yikes.

The good news: This is in your control to fix. **The bad news:** This is in your control to fix.

I like to think of money like a hammer. In the right hands, it builds. In the wrong hands, it can do damage. The tool itself isn’t the problem. It’s who has it and how we choose to use it. Everyone reaches that “I need to get serious” lesson in their own time. That car or truck felt soo good driving off the lot but the payments didn’t stop when the wheel wells started to rust. That home or car repair caught you when you were finally starting to get ahead and now you have to start all over. Sometimes the moment is born of something more tragic like an unexpected loss of income or a health concern or a divorce. People begin to feel like saving for their future is futile because they are too busy drowning in today. Wherever you are right now, according to the above stats: you’re not alone, and it’s never too late to begin building something better. My greatest joy is helping people move from feeling overwhelmed to feeling confident and secure. You deserve to breathe easier today and look forward to tomorrow. “Back to school” can be for anyone and on any topic and at any age!

Education is empowerment. I’m cheering for you!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones



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3 <https://www.tiaa.org/public/institute/publication/2025/financial-literacy-and-retirement-fluency-in-america>

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Supporting the Future of Readlyn Fire & EMS

Summer in a small town means long days, busy schedules, and neighbors helping neighbors.

We hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer! It's certainly been a warm and busy one for our volunteers at Readlyn Fire and Readlyn EMS.

Summer is one of the busiest seasons for many of our members. Beyond responding to emergencies, you'll find them coaching youth sports, volunteering at community events, cheering on their children and grandchildren from the baseball and softball fields, supporting local 4-H and FFA activities, and giving back in countless other ways. Like so many families in our community, they spend their summers balancing work, family, and a full calendar, all while remaining ready to answer the call whenever someone needs help.

Over the past several months, our members have also been hard at work serving the community through controlled house burns, CRP burns, emergency medical calls, fire responses, trainings, and

countless volunteer hours. Whether it's responding to an emergency, helping a neighbor, or preparing for the next call, our firefighters and EMS providers are proud to serve this community every day.

As the Readlyn Emergency Services Building Committee continues working toward a new facility, we are incredibly grateful for the support we've received from our residents, local businesses, and surrounding communities. Every donation, every fundraiser, and every encouraging conversation helps move this project forward.

This summer, we'd love to invite you to join us at two upcoming events that support the future home of Readlyn Fire and Readlyn EMS.

Community Dinner
Thursday, August 13
5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Readlyn Fire Station

Bring your family and join us for an evening of great food and great company! We'll be serving burgers, hot dogs, no

mess chili dogs, along with a variety of delicious sides and desserts. The meal is a free-will donation, with all proceeds benefiting the Readlyn Emergency Services Building campaign.

While you're at the Community Dinner, we encourage you to take a few minutes to tour our current fire station. Whether you ask a firefighter, an EMS provider, one of their spouses, or even one of our fire kids, someone will be happy to show you around, answer your questions, and share why a new emergency services building is so important.

Our current station has proudly served the Readlyn community for more than 100 years, but it no longer meets the needs of today's emergency services. From limited space for modern apparatus and equipment to outdated facilities, there are many challenges our volunteers face each time they answer a call.

This evening is about more than raising money. It's about celebrating the incredible community we call home, sharing the vision for the future of Readlyn Fire and EMS, and giving everyone the opportunity to see firsthand why this project matters.

A new emergency services building isn't just about bricks and mortar. It's about ensuring our volunteers have the space, equipment, and resources they need to continue serving our community for the next 100 years.

Bremer County Fair 50/50 Cash Raffle
Friday, July 31
Bremer County Fair Combine Derby
If you're planning to attend the Com-

bine Derby, be sure to support the Readlyn Emergency Services Building campaign by purchasing a 50/50 Cash Raffle ticket.

Throughout the evening, members of Readlyn Fire and Readlyn EMS will be on site providing emergency standby coverage for the event. You'll also see volunteers, spouses, and family members selling raffle tickets throughout the fairgrounds.

Tickets will only be available for purchase at the Bremer County Fair during the Combine Derby and are cash only.

Ticket prices:

- * 1 ticket for \$5
- * 5 tickets for \$20

The winning ticket will be drawn during the final intermission, with the winner taking home half of the jackpot. You must be present to win.

Whether you're cheering on the derby, visiting with friends, or supporting the raffle, we hope you'll stop by, purchase a ticket, and say hello. Every ticket sold helps move the Readlyn Emergency Services Building project one step closer to becoming a reality.

Thank You

Our volunteers are proud to serve this community, and this project is truly a community effort. Every meal enjoyed, raffle ticket purchased, donation made, and conversation shared brings us one step closer to building a facility that will serve Readlyn for generations to come.

Thank you for believing in this vision and for continuing to support the volunteers of Readlyn Fire and Readlyn EMS. We look forward to seeing you at both events this summer!



Donate to Wapsie Valley Complex Project

The Wapsie Valley Athletic Complex Campaign continues to make tremendous progress thanks to the generosity of our communities, local businesses, alumni, families, and supporters. Every donation helps move this exciting project one step closer to the finish line while creating opportunities for Wapsie Valley students for generations to come.

Many community members have asked why additional fundraising is needed. The answer is simple. The school district is funding the core construction of the new athletic complex, including the synthetic turf football field, eight-lane all-weather track, grandstands, press box, sidewalks, and other essential infrastructure. The Athletic Complex Committee was formed to raise funds for optional

enhancements that are not included in the district funded project. These additions are not required to successfully host football games or track meets, but they represent exciting opportunities to make this one of the premier athletic complexes for schools our size in Iowa.

Projects still seeking community support include the video scoreboard, athletic storage building, shaded gathering areas, additional seating, and other amenities that will enhance the experience for student athletes, families, and fans. See the accompanying graphic for current funding opportunities, giving levels, and donor recognition opportunities.

Whether your gift is \$50, \$500, or \$5,000, every contribution makes a difference. Families who make cumulative gifts of \$500 or more during the campaign will receive a 2026 to 2027 Wapsie Valley Family Activity Pass, providing admission to all regular season home athletic events throughout the school year.

There are several ways to support the campaign. Donations may be made online at <https://givebutter.com/WapsieValleyAthleticComplex>, by mailing a check payable to the Wapsie Valley Athletic Booster Club, 2535 Viking Avenue, Fairbank, IA 50629, or by dropping off a donation at Northeast Security Bank in Fairbank or Readlyn Savings Bank in Readlyn. Every gift, regardless of size, helps move this project forward and is greatly appreciated.

The Wapsie Valley Athletic Booster Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Individuals who are required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from their retirement accounts may be able to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly to the Booster Club. We also gratefully accept gifts of appreciated stock. If you are interested in making either of these types of contributions, please contact Brett Bergman at bbergman@wapsievalleyschools.org, who can help guide you through the process.

APPROX. \$450,000 GOAL

WAPSIE VALLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS

- VIDEO SCOREBOARD**
\$210,000
- STORAGE FACILITY**
\$80,000
- ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS**
\$80,000
- TRACK EQUIPMENT**
\$50,000
- AUDIO & CAMERA UPGRADES**
\$10,000
- CONCESSION STAND SEATING / TABLES**
\$15,000
- WASTE RECEPTACLES**
\$5,000

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WAPSIE VALLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX PROJECT

- LEGACY WARRIOR**
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- CHAMPION WARRIOR**
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- ELITE WARRIOR**
\$25,000 – \$49,999
- WARRIOR LEADER**
\$10,000 – \$24,999
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- WARRIOR PARTNER**
\$2,500 – \$4,999
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\$500 – \$2,499

DONATIONS OF \$500+

WILL LEAVE A PERMANENT LEGACY ON THE NEW COMPLEX.

THINKING ABOUT A LARGER CONTRIBUTION OF \$25,000+?

Let's connect and talk through custom recognition opportunities.

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givebutter.com/WapsieValleyAthleticComplex

For contributions of \$25,000 and above, a committee member will connect with you regarding permanent recognition opportunities, including name or business placement.

Recognition size and placement vary by contribution level.

The deadline for the August 26 Readlyn Chronicle is Thursday, August 13, at 5 p.m.
Send news to:
readlynchronicle@gmail.com

Wapsie Valley School Board - June 15, 2026

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular School Board Meeting June 15, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:01 PM

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

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

C. Others Present: Tara Sullivan

2. Communications & Consideration of Additional Items for the Agenda - None

3. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0

4. Public Forum - None

5. Consent Items - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Jeannie Wolfe as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded Wolfe to approve Shelby Franck requesting to open enroll her kindergarten son to WV from West Central, and Jordan Smith requesting to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to WV from Jesup both effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to deny the request for Rashell Amos requesting to open enroll her 2nd-grade son, and 3rd-grade daughter to WV from Oelwein effective the 26-27 school year due to no programming space availability as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the request for Anthony & Sheila Boevers requesting to open enroll their 9th-grade daughter to Waverly effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

6. Board - Broten Jr. gave report on donations received by the Booster Club for the Track/Football field project. Fundraising is going very well.

Aiello reported a need for a sidewalk from the softball field to the concession stand. Kaufman stated that the batting cages are falling in. May need more concrete or lengthen poles. Board thanked Superintendent Hoover for his service & support.

Superintendent Hoover's report includes a thank you as this is his last board meeting, Operational Sharing & Regular Shared positions, Track/Football Field progress, & Board Policy changes.

District: PK-12 Principal's-report includes learning opportunities, custodial cleaning, extended school year, BLT meetings, social studies curriculum & activities.

7. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the resignation of Gunner Rodgers-JH Girls Wrestling, Sheila Seelhammer-Study Hall Supervisor, & Ruth Happel-Part-time Cook and thank them for their service to the students, staff, and communities as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Contracts: None

8. Old Business-Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the 26-27 sharing agreement with Central Rivers for Special Education Director (\$52,100). Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve the purchase of 290-8 GB Chromebooks from CDWG (\$128,180) as presented. Motion carried 5-0

9. New Business-Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the 26-27 School Board Meeting Dates/Time. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr. to table WV Activities/Coaches Handbook and approve 26-27 Elementary Parent/Student Handbook, Preschool Handbook, Licensed Staff Handbook, Non Licensed Staff Handbook, JH/HS Student/Parent Handbook, WV Technology Handbook, WV Course Description Handbook. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the 26-27 Taylor Physical Therapy agreement with the following charges: Event Coverage: From \$185 to \$190/event, Hourly Rate for Events Greater than 5 hours: From \$35 to \$37.50/hr, & Practice Check-Ins: From \$85 to \$90 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve participation in the 26-27 Storm Protection Fund (\$15,716), an Iowa Code Chapter 28E Entity and Chapter 670 Risk Pool as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr. to increase lunch from \$3.35 to \$3.45 and breakfast from \$1.80 to \$1.90 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve Registration Fees for 26-27 School Year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve Series 100 (School District) & 900 (School District Community Relations), individual policies 203, 701.02, 701.03 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve 507.9 (Wellness Policy) & 507.9 (Wellness Regulation) with updated languages changes as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve Raise a Hallelujah (Heidi Moessner) in cleaning the rural buildings (\$1,400 P/M) as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the 26-27 Shared Curriculum Director (\$29,298) with Keystone AEA as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve Teach TCI (\$24,860.55) for Social Studies Curriculum as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr. to approve the bus lease agreement with Farmer State Bank which includes leasing 3 buses as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Broten Jr., Seconded by Auel to approve Change Order #1 (\$17,862.81) for Track/Football Field Complex as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the Contract to Transfer 90% of State Funding to

Central Rivers for special education support as presented. Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement with Cedar Falls School District for Soccer & Summer-Fredricksburg CSD for Girls Wrestling as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve agreement for participation of Nonresident/Nonpublic students in district activity effective 7-1-26-6-30-2029 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to go into Closed Session 21.5 (i) at 6:59 PM Roll Call-Auel, Kaufman, Broten Jr., Wolfe Aiello ALL-AYES-Motion Carried 5-0 to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Broten Jr., to exit closed session at 7:35 PM-Roll Call-Auel, Kaufman, Broten Jr., Wolfe, & Aiello-ALL-AYES-Motion Carried 5-0

10. Board Talking Points-none

11. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Motion carried 5-0 Respectfully, Kim Arndt

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Kaiser-Corson Funeral Homes of Waverly, Shell Rock, Denver and Readlyn received the Award of Excellence in Funeral Service for the 16th year during the 146th Annual Iowa Funeral Directors Association Convention. The Iowa Award of Funeral Service Excellence recognizes a funeral home's exemplary service to the community it serves. Kaiser-Corson Funeral Homes, which has been serving Waverly and the surrounding communities for 125 years, was one of 12 funeral homes from throughout the state to receive the award. To qualify, a funeral home must excel in four of five areas: presentation of public information, active membership in the state association, sponsorship of community events or services, professional development, and personal development. Left to right are IFDA President Jacob Wittrock and owners Denee Muller and Ryan Tucker.

Readlyn City Council July 13, 2026

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, July 13, 2026 to review bills. Keith Brunscheon, Rocco Imbrogno, and Joseph Jones were present.

The Readlyn City Council met in open session at 6:00 PM on Monday, July 13, 2026, for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Keith Brunscheon, Rocco Imbrogno and Joseph Jones. Absent: Nicole Barnes and Jason Franck. Others in attendance included: Barney Wiersma, 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 6/8/2026, the claims list from 6/9/2026 to 7/13/2026, and the June 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer's and Financial). All said aye. Motion carried.

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

Mayor advised almost every day he communicates with most of the city employees. The city departments have been busy lately and we are addressing concerns and city business as we can. The city clerk, police, library and public works provided written reports.

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

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve setting a public hearing at the Monday, August 10, 2026, city council meeting at 6PM for the special permit request received for 245 Kalman Avenue. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve the second reading of Ordinance 366, an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the city of Readlyn, Iowa, by amending pro-

visions 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.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve the first reading of Ordinance 367, an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the city of Readlyn, Iowa, by amending provisions to collection fees of water and increasing the minimum rate from \$13.50 to \$20.00 per month and from \$3.50 per additional 1,000 gallons to \$7.50 per additional 1,000 gallons as well as implementing a 3% annual change on both rates each year for the next 5 years. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve the city clerk and mayor to close #135 First Responder bank account, #143 First Responder Memorial bank account and #712 Library bank account and transferring the funds to the main city savings account, while keeping the funds separated in the cities accounting software. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve Resolution 2026-14, approving the FY2026 financial transfers. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve Resolution 2026-15, establishing the official posting locations for public notices of meetings in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 21.4. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve Resolution 2026-16, establishing and adopting the city of Readlyn fee schedule. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:18PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk

City Hall: Some power outages caused by squirrels; water rates up

By City Clerk Kris McGrane

Recent Power Outage Updates

As you are all probably well aware, we have had a handful of power outages recently. We understand that it is inconvenient for everyone, because it is inconvenient for us, also. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we work through these obstacles.

After each power outage, the mayor meets with the majority of the city employees to discuss the outage. We discuss what exactly went wrong, the time frame it takes to restore power, ways we can improve the situation moving forward and other details. We work hard to improve our steps and procedures for when these unfortunate events occur.

In less than a year, 3 of the power outages were caused by a squirrel getting into a transformer. Each time, this was on an Alliant Energy owned pole and their electrical equipment. That means we have no control on Alliant Energy’s response times or how quickly it can get repaired. We are currently working with Alliant Energy to adapt a better (and hopefully quicker) procedure moving forward.

Alliant Energy has recently placed a “rodent guard” on their utility pole. This guard makes it very difficult for squirrels and other animals to climb the utility pole and get into their electrical equipment. Although this will hopefully decrease the chances of squirrels getting into places they should not be, it is not 100% effective because squirrels may climb trees or other poles and jump on line and follow them to the electrical equipment/transformers.

We would also like to stress that no matter where you live, in Readlyn or outside of Readlyn, power outages occur. Depending on the situation, issues, and response times, it is hard to estimate an exact time it will take to restore power. We understand that everyone has different circumstances and needs for power. Some people may need the power for important things like sump pumps or for computers as they work from home. Others may have more urgent needs, like for oxygen tanks or home medical equipment. We understand every need is different and so we encourage everyone to take some time and determine how long you can go without power. If you have circumstances where you cannot go very long, then take some time to de-

termine what it would take to assist you during longer outages. Some people invest in generators while others may take a less expensive route and purchase battery back-ups. Some residents in town have specific sump pumps that when the power goes out, there is a feature to keep it working without power. If you have an elderly relative or neighbor, let’s use some of that small-town friendliness and help them determine what their needs are and help them to prepare for these unfortunate situations. Maybe a neighbor has a generator and they can assist someone if they need power. Many minds and helpful hands come in useful during difficult times. That’s the BEST part of Readlyn – we have this small-town friendliness mastered!

Increase In Water Rates

After carefully monitoring our water costs, and with the continue increase in costs for chemicals, equipment, operating and maintenance costs, the city of Readlyn is currently in the process of increasing the water rates. With the help of the city council, we reviewed other city water rates, our expenses and revenues, a water rate study from the Iowa Rural Water Association and other information and determined what is needed and best for the city of Readlyn. The city council has started the process in approving a water rate increase from: A current minimum of \$13.50 to \$20.00 per month (which includes the first 1,000 gallon of water used) and \$3.50 to \$7.50 per additional 1,000 gallons used. There will also be a 3% increase in the minimum and the additional rate usage each year for the next five years, in order to continue to keep up with rising costs and making it easier for people to budget moving forward, rather than larger increases every so-many-years. To break this down a little better, here’s some additional, real-life information.

	Readlyn Current	Readlyn New
Minimum Unit Charge (per gal)	\$13.50	\$20.00
	\$0.0035	\$0.00750
	(Minimum 1,000)	(Minimum 1,000)
Examples Below (in gallons)		
0-1000	\$13.50	\$20.00
2,600	\$19.10	\$32.00
5,014	\$27.55	\$50.11
7,536	\$36.38	\$69.02
10,287	\$46.00	\$89.65
13,449	\$57.07	\$113.37

There are a lot of circumstances and variables for each city and what they need to bring in to pay for their water

expenses. There are some cities that have million dollars of debt for their water equipment/plants and they need to generate enough funds to cover those debts. While others do not have as high of expenses. We did take a look at quite a few other cities around Iowa and here are some of the results from area cities. It is like comparing apples to oranges, but it’s still an idea that our new rates are not drastically different than other cities. [Note: these amounts from other

cities were either provided to us by their city employees or we researched to find the rates. They may or may not be accurate if we were provided with incorrect information or records were not updated at the time we researched.]

The increase is tentatively scheduled to take effect on either the September or October utility bills (or the bills that will be mailed out at the end of September or October 2026) and due on October 15 or November 15, 2026.

	Readlyn Current	Readlyn New	Fairbank	Janesville	Tripoli
Minimum Unit Charge (per gal)	\$13.50	\$20.00	\$23.71	\$34.42	\$27.46
	\$0.0035	\$0.00750	\$0.0087	\$0.00588	\$0.00826
	(Minimum 1,000)	(Minimum 1,000)	(Minimum 1,000)	(Mini. 2000)	(Mini. 1000)
			(Population 1,150)	(Population 1,056)	
Examples (gallons)					
0-1000	\$13.50	\$20.00	\$23.37	\$34.42	\$27.46
2,600	\$19.10	\$32.00	\$37.65	\$37.95	\$40.67
5,014	\$27.55	\$50.11	\$58.67	\$52.14	\$60.60
7,536	\$36.38	\$69.02	\$80.64	\$66.97	\$81.42
10,287	\$46.00	\$89.65	\$104.60	\$83.15	\$104.13

New Fund Established to Support Agricultural Emergency Rescue

The Bremer County Firefighters Association has established the Bremer County Firefighters Association Special Project Fund, a special project fund held with the Bremer County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. The fund will support the purchase of critical equipment and resources to strengthen emergency response efforts across Bremer County.

This fund will benefit all fire departments in the county, ensuring residents, especially those in rural and agricultural areas, have access to life-saving tools when emergencies occur. In a largely rural county like Bremer County, access to specialized rescue equipment is essential for protecting both residents and first responders, particularly during high-risk times like harvest season.

Funds raised will support the purchase and fabrication of a trailer-mounted emergency response grain vac, along with additional equipment including GSI rescue tubes, a grain rescue auger, brushless drills, scene lighting, and scoop shovels. These tools are vital in responding to agricultural emergencies, including grain entrapment situations where rapid response can mean the difference between life and death. Organizers hope to raise enough funds to have the equipment purchased and ready for use by the 2026 harvest season.

“Having access to this kind of life-saving equipment can make all the difference in an emergency,” said Aaron Goodenbour, Coordinator with Bremer County Emergency Management. “In agricultural incidents, especially grain entrapments, time is critical. This fund will help ensure our first responders are equipped with the tools they need to act quickly and safely, ultimately saving lives and protecting our farming community.”

Financial gifts of cash/check and stock are accepted through the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, 3117 Greenhill Circle, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Checks to the fund should be made payable to the Bremer County Firefighters Association Special Project Fund. Gifts can also be made on the Community Foundation’s secure website at <https://www.cfneia.org/donations/bremer-county-firefighters-association-special-project-fund/>.

Donors to the fund may take advantage of normal federal deductions for charitable gifts.

Questions about giving to the fund may be directed to Paula Hill, Charitable Advisor with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, at 319-243-1352 or phill@cfneia.org.

Information about the Bremer County Community Foundation can be found on its website, www.bremerccf.org.



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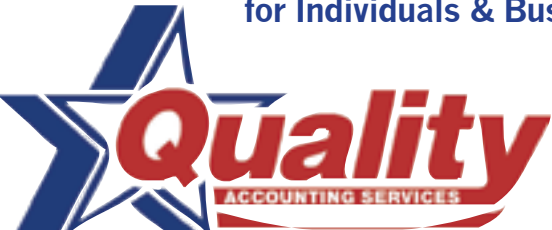
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Controlled Burn

Members of Readlyn Fire participated in a recent controlled burn at the Hesse residence. The Hesse family generously allowed firefighters to use the home for valuable hands-on training and emergency response simulations in the months leading up to the burn. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and support, which provided an invaluable training opportunity for our volunteers.



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	St. Paul's Lutheran Church 120 West 4th Street, Readlyn (319) 279-3961 Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano Divine Service 8:30 a.m. Mary-Martha Circle 1st Wednesday 7 p.m.
	Zion Lutheran Church 240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor (319) 279-3643 Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:00 p.m.

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