

# Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

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Volume 19, No. 5, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Robin Harms, Tripoli, IA, May 27, 2026

## Grump Days Celebrates America's 250th Birthday

This year's Grump Days' theme is supporting our country's 250th birthday. Thanks to the loyal regular businesses and overwhelming support of new businesses, with Bents at the top of the list, this celebration should be terrific.

In addition, about a dozen young Readlynites have stepped up to add new ideas. Besides the many regular items, Grump Days will offer:

- Kiddie Parade tops the list of new items. Just show up at the Community Lutheran School parking lot by 8:45 a.m., Saturday, June 20, to take a lap around the sidewalks

in the park; no sign-up needed.

- CLS will be serving breakfast burritos from 8:00-11:00 p.m. in front of Bents both Friday and Saturday, June 19-20.

- Kids in the Park has added a rock-climbing wall.

- Catfish Murphy will be playing Saturday night in front of Bents.

- Bents has donated six bikes to be raffled; sign-up will be at the Kids in the Park stands.

Mark your calendars for June 19-21 so you can enjoy this fun weekend. See more about Grump Days inside this *Chronicle*.



The Readlyn Grumps met for lunch and a meeting April 16 at Bents Smokehouse. Present were Larry Pavelec, Larry Ladage, Charlie & Wilda Albrecht, LaVern & Janette Brase, Ron & Judy Leistikow, Ron & Louie Hartman and Mary Lou Ungs. During the business meeting, Ed Traeger was nominated to be the 2026 Grump after his crowning at the Grump Days ceremony Friday, June 19. Louie Hartman moved to accept Ed's nomination, seconded by Ron Leistikow; motion carried. Charlie Albrecht moved to keep the same officers for another year. Mary Lou Ungs seconded; motion carried. Officers remain as President Ron Leistikow, Vice-President Larry Sauerbrei and Secretary Louie Hartman. There will not be an official Grump float in the parade this year. The Grumps are invited to sit together in chairs provided next to the Veterans Memorial. Feel free to give our valued Grumps a shout out. Larry Pavelec moved to adjourn, Ron Hartman seconded. Respectfully submitted, Louie Hartman.

## Ed Traeger Named 2026 Readlyn Grump

The RCC proudly announces Ed Traeger will serve the role of 2026 "Old Grump." The crowning ceremony will be held Friday, June 19 of Grump Days with Ed being introduced along with Miss Readlyn and the Little Grumpsters.

### Meet the Grump

By Ed Traeger

An honor is an understatement, as I serve as your "2026 Readlyn Grump," especially when bearing in mind all the worthy attributes of those that have been elected, in the past. I am proud to say that I have known each and every past Grump, personally.



Ed Traeger  
2026 Grump

I moved my wife, Kathleen, and two daughters, Emily Forsyth and Rosanna Byersdorfer, to Readlyn in 1989, 37 years ago, for many reasons: The quality reputation that the Readlyn community holds in NE Iowa, the excellent community schools and, of course, I followed a career opportunity with Readlyn Savings Bank, where I served as President and CEO for 35 years, and continue to serve as a RSB board member today.

What could it hurt to enter a community of 857 friendly people, four area churches, and "Just One Old Grump?"

The summer after I arrived in Readlyn, Sam Sickles was crowned and held the title of being elected the "first" Grump ever. Over the years, my family came to appreciate and love the town unity and comradery.

Grump Days is such a fine reflection of the fun and love the residents have toward our community. Over the years, we have enjoyed parades, a 10-man bicycle, bean bag contests, kiddie parades, softball and golf tournaments, card clubs, unicycles, the balloon man, turtle races, church in the park and even an August fishing tournament.

I am proud to have served on many boards, to mention a few: WV School Board, City Library, Treasurer, St. Matthew's Church, President, charter member of the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation, and Readlyn Savings Bank board.

I also found myself serving 23 years on the Denver Sunset Nursing Home Board. I am currently serving as President of Maple Crest Manor Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Memory Care in my hometown of Fayette. I do manage to have fun with my hobbies of hunting and fishing, often. We do like to travel and some of the most memorable trips include Alaska, Ireland, Italy, Maine, Boston, Branson, L.A and fishing in Minnesota and Canada to mention a few of my recent adventures.

I am a graduate of the University of Iowa, and consequently, for those who know me, you may be aware of my very

own brand of Hawkeye tailgating, commonly known as The EDZONE. There are many of the Readlyn community that are aware of my popular "Ribs and Margaritas." Come join us!

Through living and working in Readlyn, it has been a pleasure to meet all the wonderful people I have come to know and appreciate – people I call friends, people that I can trust, and people that are like family.

When we moved here, Kathy's mother said, "I can't think of a nicer place for you to live and raise your kids." And was she ever so right! Even after 37 years, living in Readlyn is a decision I truly cherish.

## Mother Nature spoils chances for May Yard of the Month

Due to the cool, windy days and mid-May *Readlyn Chronicle* deadline, Readlyn Gardeners did not have a lot of colorful spring flowers available to judge for the Yard of the Month; therefore, they decided to postpone awarding a winner for June.

Weeds on Fire is committed to four winners, so a suitable alternative will be decided at a later date.

## READLYN GRUMP DAYS 2026

JUNE 19, 20, 21

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

All events are in the City Park unless otherwise stated.

### Friday, June 19

8:00 a.m. .... "Grumpsters" Readlyn Annual Golf Tournament - 4-person best shot at Maple Hills Golf Course, Tripoli; organized by Readlyn Savings Bank

4:00 p.m. .... Food Stands Open

4:30-7:00 p.m. .... Ice Cream Malts (Gazebo) Sponsored by Readlyn Savings Bank

5:00-8:00 p.m. .... Balloon Man - Darrel Anderson

5:00 p.m. .... 5th & 6th Grade Ball Games (Ball Diamond)

Concession Stand - Readlyn Area Youth

5:00 p.m. .... Pedal Pull - Sponsored by Wapsie Valley FFA

6:00 p.m. Little "Grumpsters" Crowning, Volunteer Award, 2026 Readlyn Grump, and 2026 Miss Readlyn

7:00-8:30 p.m. .... Pepper Tourney (Gazebo)

8:00-11:00 p.m. .... Music by Flying Gorilla on Main Street (free admission)

Breakfast Burritos - In front of Bents Smokehouse; served by CLS.

10:00 p.m. .... Fireworks (launched east of V49) Sponsored by YOUR can donations!

### Saturday, June 20

9:00 a.m. .... Kiddie Parade (City Park)

10:00 a.m. .... Parade - Contact Louie Hartman at 319-239-0533.

After Parade .... Food Stands Open

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. .... Vendor Fair on Main Street

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. .... Kids in the Park - \$10 wristband required.

Petting zoo, bouncy houses, rock climbing wall, cake walk, face painting

1:00-4:00 p.m. .... Spike Ball - Organized by Denver Leo Lions; (grades 6-12 recommended)

1:00 p.m. .... Schafskopf Card Tournament (tent)

2:30-4:30 p.m. .... Bingo for All Ages (Gazebo)

8:00-11:00 p.m. .... Music by Catfish Murphy on Main Street (\$5.00 cover charge)

Breakfast Burritos - In front of Bents Smokehouse; served by CLS

### Sunday, June 21

9:00 a.m. .... Community Church Service hosted by St Paul's in the City Park under the tent

# Grump's Grumblings

By Mary Lou Ungs, 2025 Grump



This has been a fantastic month with my great-niece, Rio, being born. I also have a great-nephew who will be born later this month. They are so far away - Rio is in California and baby boy is in Virginia - but they are so precious to me. Family is so important.

When family is so far away, friends also become family. I am blessed to have great friends also.

I have been your Grump for almost a year now. It is fun!!! I have met new people, been at all the events I can and have seen many people I have known for years.

There are so many things to get involved with. Check out a club or organization you are interested in, but have said you don't have time. You are missing lots of fun opportunities - knitting, gardening, reading, history, volunteering at Grump Days, school and church organizations and more. Don't be lonely. Come to Grump Days and say "hi." Come check out the new farmers market at Bents. Check out Readlyn Talk to see what is going on. See what is happening with the Readlyn Report from City Hall.

Readlyn is a small town, but we do care about our neighbors. Help us help each other.



# Miss Readlyn Comments

By Kylie Strottmann

Hello, Readlyn Community!  
I can't believe I'm wrapping up my final week of high school! Between preparing for graduation, planning my graduation party, and working three jobs, life has definitely been busy.

As many of you know, I recently started working at VanDaele Insurance, and I absolutely love it. Through that experience, I realized that elementary education may not be the right path for me. After meeting with an advisor at Hawkeye Community College, I decided to apply for the administration office management program. I'm excited for this new chapter and hopeful that by my second semester, I'll have an even clearer

idea of the career path I want to pursue.  
As summer begins, I'm looking forward to nannying, spending time with friends, and continuing to work at VanDaele Insurance. I also can't wait to spend weekends with my family at the Mississippi River whenever I have free time, because family means so much to me and those moments are always my favorite. I love staying busy and filling my days with the people and things I enjoy most.

It's also so crazy to think that juniors are already applying for Miss Readlyn 2026! Being part of this opportunity has been such an honor, and I've loved every minute of representing the Readlyn community.

**Spring Leaf Burning**  
May 12 - June 15, 2026

No burning anything other than leaves  
No burning if a burn ban is in effect  
Don't burn on streets or sidewalks  
Be considerate of your neighbors

Don't burn wet leaves  
Keep a water hose or water close by

*Dear Friends,*

Thank you so much for your love, support, and kindness since Larry passed away. Your cards, messages, meals, and thoughtful gestures have meant the world to us during this difficult time.

We are truly grateful to be part of such a caring community.

With sincere thanks,  
*The Boerschel family*

**Deadline for the June 24 Chronicle is Thursday, June 11 at 5 p.m.**  
**Send news to [ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com](mailto:ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com)**

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# Senior Citizens review Easter Egg Hunts, enjoy meal and bingo

Twenty-two Readlyn Senior Citizens met at 11:30 a.m. at Bents Smokehouse & Pub in Readlyn, IA for their April 15, 2026 meeting, meal and bingo. Ron Leistikow led us in prayer and called the meeting to order.

Birthdays celebrated for the month of April were Marylou Billhorn and Wayne Kuethe. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to both of them. There were no anniversaries celebrated for the month of April.

**Secretary's Report:** The secretary's report was read by Lois Thacher from the notes of March 18, 2026. Larry Ladage made a motion to approve the secretary's notes as read and Larry Pavelec seconded it. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Charlie Albrecht stated that the balance in the account after a deposit and expenses was \$135.00. Wilda Albrecht made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as read. Marlys Deterding seconded it. Motion carried.

### Old Business:

On Saturday, March 21, the Heroes' Ball was held at Bents Event Center. It was enjoyed by all that attended.

On April 4 at 9:00 a.m., the annual Dog Egg Hunt was at the City Park in Readlyn. Dogs love Easter Egg Hunts, TOO! The

event was sponsored by Readlyn Veterinary Associates.

The annual children's Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 4 at 10:00 a.m. with over 900 eggs being numbered and 63 sponsors. Each egg represented not only a surprise for the child but also the support of local businesses and community members who believe in keeping this special event alive! It takes many to organize this and keep it going.

### New Business:

Readlyn City Wide Garage Sales will be May 1 to May 2, 2026. The Goodwill truck will be at the City Park May 1-3. City Clean-up Days will be May 4-5.

Motion was made by Janet Ladage to adjourn the meeting and Larry Pavelec seconded it. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

The group played bingo and the bingo winners were Shirley Kuker, regular bingo, Vicki Pavelec, 4 corners, Doris Hagenow, regular bingo, and Janet Ladage won the black-out game. Congratulations to all who played and won!

The next meeting will be at Bents Event Center in Readlyn Iowa at 11:30 a.m. on May 20, 2026. We will be playing bingo. Come join the fun!

*Lois Thacher, secretary*



**Opening early June**  
*Second Hand Boutique*  
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 Watch for details.



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# Grump Days!

## 250

**READLYN SAVINGS BANK**  
 WILL BE HOSTING ICE CREAM  
 IN THE PARK **FRIDAY JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
 TO CELEBRATE GRUMP DAYS!

JOIN OUR STAFF AT THE  
 GRUMPZEBO FOR **FREE** MALTS  
 FROM **4:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.**



**It's National Dairy Month!**

COME INTO READLYN SAVINGS  
 BANK **JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> 2026** AND ENJOY  
**FREE MALTS FROM 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

**Important Dates:**

FRIDAY JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> READLYN  
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# Readlyn Community Library

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Beth Kingdon, Director

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### Memorial Donations

**In Memory of Larry Boerschel**  
Roger and Connie Buhr

**In Memory of Keith Fettkether**  
Dan and Marva Schuldt  
Marty and Kristi Marticoff

**In Memory of Marilyn Brocka**  
Ron and Judy Leistikow

**In Memory of Brian Bockholt**  
Kevin and Cathy Kuhrt

**In Memory of Pam Knoploh**  
Dan and Marva Schuldt

### Book Donations

**In Memory of Larry Boerschel**  
*Julius Squeezer*

by Mary Anastasiou and Marina Verola  
from Marty and Kristi Marticoff

*Knight Owl and Early Bird*  
by Christopher Denise  
from Chris and Sharon Davis

*Everything's Wrong*  
by Jory John  
from Dean and Lois Buhr

**In Memory of Brian Bockholt**  
*And They Walk On*  
by Kevin Maillard  
from Dean and Lois Buhr



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



**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

**READLYN LIBRARY**

JUNE 1 - 2:30 PM	DR. BECHTEL'S EXOTIC ANIMALS!
JUNE 3 - 10:30 AM	ISU EXTENSION - "A GOOD SEED INDEED!"
JUNE 4 - 11:00 AM	OFFICER AIELLO- "LEARN ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT"
JUNE 8 - 1:30 PM	LARRY PAVELEC - "NATIVE AMERICANS OF BREMER COUNTY"
JUNE 11 - 1:00 PM	EULENSPIEGEL PUPPETS - "EMPEROR'S NIGHTINGALE"
JUNE 15 - 11:00 AM	GROUT MUSEUM - "FABULOUS FOSSILS"
JUNE 17 - 1:00 PM	DARRIN CROW - STORIES AND SONGS!
JUNE 22 - 1:00 PM	BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION "RAINBOW GARDEN"
JUNE 23 - 1:30 PM	JONATHAN MAY - MAGIC SHOW
JUNE 29 - 11:00 AM	DECORATE A MINI FLOWER POT
JUNE 1 - JUNE 30	TEEN PHOTO CONTEST!

**READLYN COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
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EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!




Students from the Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) programs at Wapsie Valley High School and Sumner-Fredericksburg School recently teamed up with community volunteers to complete a landscaping improvement project at the library. Thank you so much!

*Thank you!*



# Wasn't it Yesterday?

## Campfire Flames



By J.D. Francis

You have to wonder, who comes up with these sorted alternate uses for different products, and who tests them for the end results? A can of Coca-Cola cleans battery cables, Windex kills wasps and bugs, or, one I can relate to, a can of beer will loosen rusty bolts and clean gold jewelry. (Now there's a 6-pack I need to invest in; rusty bolts will have to take a back seat.) Vicks VapoRub, if regularly applied, will remove stretch marks.

Tonight isn't going to be one of my typical campfire, camping nights. I came prepared with the "copper pipe" recipe, another one of those alternate uses for a product.

In accordance to the directions I've been told, I threw my copper pipe into the campfire and anxiously awaited my "star flight" ride. In minutes, the fire burst out into mystical, colorful images like I've never seen before. The brilliant flames individually whipped, waved, and twisted, like the sawtooth, ragged edge of a dragon's tail, bathed in magical, rainbow reflections.

It's impossible to glare into an open fire for very long without getting lost somewhere in the waves and cascades of the hypnotic flames. I was baptized by the melody of the crackling embers, and off on a journey to where the warm brilliant colors led me, to a campsite of long ago. Back to the first time, ever, I slept outdoors in a tent.

My brother, Frank, two cousins, Gary and Daryl, and I, mapped out an area in the fresh-mowed backyard. With a sledge hammer, we commenced pounding the stakes into the ground of our future canvas mansion. This was a tent of pipes and poles so there was some obvious assembly required. With one pole into the next, it didn't take that long to finish. It took even less time to fill it with all the required camping necessities, like

sleeping bags, pillows, flashlights, extra batteries, and, of course, the transistor radio.

Taking all necessary precautions for a mosquito-free environment, we zipped the tent up, down, and sideways making sure there were no gaps in the screens to allow for any unwanted tenants. Though it wasn't a "brick and mortar" job, the stage was set, and it was going to be our home for the evening. We all crawled into our warm, cozy sleeping bags, and watched the dark of night fall across the ceiling of the tent. With the lantern down low, we shared an evening of jokes and schoolyard stories, and listened to the half-tuned songs that crackled out from the pocket radio. One by one, our conversations dropped off until I was, as typical for me, the last one conscious.

It was an eerie, scary feeling for a wide-eyed 8-year-old to face the night alone. I flinched at every typical sound of the darkness I'd never heard or noticed in the comforts and safety of my own bed.

A gust of wind rattled the zipper clasps of the canvas, but, to me, I heard the chains clanking on the gates of Christmas past. Moon shadows splashed through the limbs of the old oak tree, but I saw reflections of monster's claws ripping and tearing at the fragile canvas. I heard a muted echo of a dog barking way off in the distance, but in all reality, it was a vicious, hungry wolf, roaming and prowling as close as our scent away. I heard the munchkins chanting wild... "They're coming to take me away, ha ha, they're coming to take me away ho ho, they're coming to take me away." I rose at the sound of a hoot owl softly calling out, who, who, followed by the shaky voice of an old man crying, "Who, who, who stole my golden arm." I clenched my sleeping bag, covered my face, dug in down deep, and found myself back at a "copper pipe" campfire staring at the most beautiful, brilliant-colored flames I've ever seen. It's impossible to glare into an open fire for very long without finding yourself lost somewhere in the waves and cascades of the hypnotic flames.

[jdfrancpaint@msn.com](mailto:jdfrancpaint@msn.com)



On May 8, 13 fifth graders along with their teacher, Mrs. Busch, toured the Readlyn Historical Museum. Learning about some of Readlyn's history is always fun, such as the creamery used to be where Larry's Skelly is now and farmers brought their whole milk in milk cans where the buttermaker separated it and used the cream to make butter. Yes, butter was made in Readlyn. Readlyn also had its own hospital located on Main Street. There are many pictures, souvenirs of businesses, and vintage items to see. Please come and visit. Thank you, fifth graders, for being such a great group.

# Quilts of Valor Awarded

On Friday, April 24, the Tripoli Nursing Home and Rehab was filled to capacity as the community gathered for a historic Quilts of Valor ceremony. Hosted by the Shell Rock-A-Teers, the event marked a significant milestone for Tripoli Nursing and Rehab.

The ceremony was a true homecoming, drawing family members from as far as Texas, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Kansas. Organized by Activities Director Alley Cappiello and staff member Jill Michael, the afternoon featured a moving video tribute of life milestones, a reading of Joanna Fuchs' poem "The Best on Earth," and a formal presentation of quilts donated by the Freedom Stitchers of Iowa.

The seven honorees represented decades of American military history, each receiving a handmade quilt as a tangible "thank you" for their sacrifices:

- Paul Fred Tiedt (U.S. Army, 1945–1947): Serving in WWII Germany and France, Tiedt earned a PLC ranking and worked to ensure the safe transport of soldiers via ships and trains.
- June Johnson (U.S. Air Force, 1950–1952): A teletypist with the 31st Airborne Division, Johnson managed radar coverage across the entire East Coast from Mitchel Field.
- Arnold Egemo (U.S. Army, 1952): Reaching the rank of Private First Class, Egemo specialized in guided missile technology while stationed in El Paso, Texas.
- Duane Boevers (U.S. Navy Seabees, 1960–1962): A Seaman who served in California and Guam, Boevers fondly recalled the beauty of the Guam beaches during his service.
- Edward Hill (U.S. Navy, 1955–1975): Hill served in Vietnam and was honorably discharged.
- Charles Edward Hesse (U.S. Army, 1972–1974): Serving as a Specialist 4 in the Military Police, Hesse was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Gordon, and Fort Knox.
- Christopher D. Hess (U.S. Air Force, 2005–2016): A Technical Sergeant and Bronze Star recipient, Hess served as a Bomb Technician (IEDs) and performed difficult duties in mortuary affairs.

Robyn Holden of the Shell Rock-A-Teers led the call-up of honorees alongside Cathey Avery, noting the profound impact of seeing so many people gather in rural Iowa to celebrate local heroes. "It's amazing how many veterans are in the area and how many people are here to celebrate them," Holden remarked.

The spirit of appreciation continues to grow at Tripoli Nursing Home. Jill Michael noted that the team is already looking forward to June, when one resident, June Johnson, will participate in an Honor Flight to Washington D.C.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page, Tripoli Nursing and Rehab, to see our tribute video and more photos!





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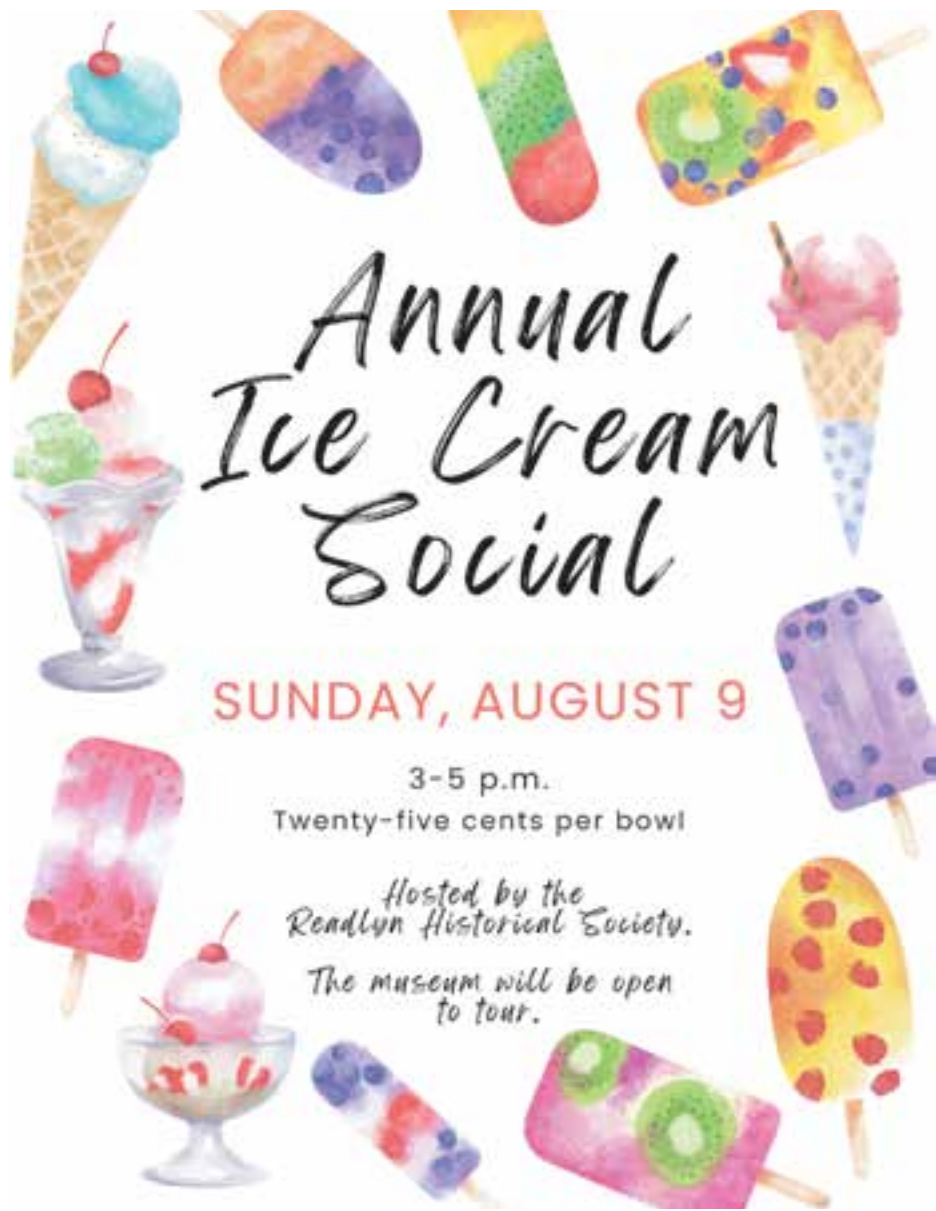


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## TENENBAUM'S

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**Annual Ice Cream Social**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9**

3-5 p.m.  
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*Hosted by the Readlyn Historical Society.  
The museum will be open to tour.*



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# Bremer County & USA 250th Celebration will be at the Courthouse on Sat., June 13

To honor the United States Semi-quincentennial, Bremer County will be hosting a 250th Flag Day for Families event on Saturday, June 13. Drop in anytime from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Bremer County Courthouse, Waverly. Do not miss this FREE fun/educational event geared toward youth.

250th Flag Day for Families will have four stations:

- Respect of the US Flag presented by the Bremer County Veterans Affairs Commission
- Declaration of Independence – simplified by the Bremer County Attorney
- Voting: Core of Democracy by the Bremer County Auditor

• Cedar River Readers Theatre bringing history to life

There will be other activities going on during the event, including signing a personal copy of the Declaration of Independence with an old-fashioned quill and ink.

Since this is an important year, the Bremer County 250th celebration committee is asking Bremer County residents to inspect their U.S. flags to ensure they are not worn, faded, or otherwise unsuitable for display. There are many drop boxes around the county for flag disposal, including on the 1st floor of the Bremer County Courthouse in Waverly. Each of those flags will be properly disposed of with dignity, during a ceremonial burning.

**Deadline for the June 24 *Chronicle* is Thurs., June 11 at 5 p.m. Send items to [readlynchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:readlynchronicle@gmail.com)**



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# Isabella Buck and Ava Meyer are 2026 Miss Readlyn Candidates

The crowning of the 2026 Miss Readlyn will take place on Friday, June 19, at 6:00 p.m. Here are the two candidates for the coveted title.

## Isabella Buck



Isabella Buck

Isabella Buck is the daughter of Ben and Jessica Anderson, and Brad and Angela Buck. She is sponsored by TruServe Insurance.

She manages the high school volleyball team and the girls'

basketball team. She has completed the CAPS program and participates in Silver Cord. She's also involved in her church, Immanuel Lutheran.

Isabella volunteers within Readlyn through Grump Days, handing out candy during Halloween, Christmas on Main, and helping to organize the annual Easter Egg hunt. She hopes to attend college in pursuit of a degree in counseling.

Serving others is very important to her. When asked what Readlyn means to her, she said the strong sense of community and the way people care for each other. Being a part of a town where faith, kindness, and support are present is something she truly values.

One of her favorite events is Grump Days because it brings everyone together

to celebrate and enjoy the community we are so fortunate to be a part of.

## Ava Meyer

Ava Meyer is the daughter of Brooke and Dalton Meyer. She is sponsored by L&L Ag Repair.



Ava Meyer

She is involved in the Wapsie Valley Honor Society, Silver Cord, TAG, as well as Student Council and Leadership. She also participates in FCCLA, cross country, basketball, and dance.

Ava plans to attend UNI and dual enroll to Allen for the diagnostic cardiac ultrasound program. In Readlyn, she babysits for numerous families, as well as serves as a Sunday School teacher and VBS leader at St. Matthew's.

When asked what Readlyn means to her, she said growing up in the Readlyn community has not only shaped her into the person she is today, but also continued to push her to fulfill and be an example of the incredible culture around her. Some of her favorite memories growing up were the security of being able to ride her bike around town and play at the park.

She hopes to encourage future generations to also feel that sense of belonging in the community.

## Here's What's Happening at Bents in June

The indoor Farmers Market will continue at Bents Smokehouse & Pub on June 9 and 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the event center. All vendors are welcome and tables are five dollars each. Please call Bents, 319-279-3839, to sign up.

### Faith & Four Letter Words

On June 17, Amanda Goodman and Tara Thomas of Faith and Four Letter Words will be speaking in the event center.

You can sign up on our Facebook page for tickets. They will be here from 6 to 8 p.m.

### Catering Needs

Call Bents for any catering needs.




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## Visit These Grump Day Vendors!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kelly's Kolaches</li> <li>2. Yarithzi Crafts - kids' purses and toys, snap and coin jewelry, earrings, bracelets, magnets</li> <li>3. Heavenly Treats &amp; Sweets - Custom sugar cookies with buttercream frosting</li> <li>4. Flipping Books - Used books</li> <li>5. Norwex</li> <li>6. Ugly Mutt Pets - All handmade natural cotton dog toys, parachute cord dog toys, leashes, collars.</li> <li>7. Sweet Things LC - Cinnamon rolls, cookies, edible cookie dough bites, chocolate covered Oreos, chocolate cashew squares, cake push pops.</li> <li>8. Joyful Scents with Ashley - Scentsy</li> <li>9. Weeds of Desire - Natural remedies</li> <li>10. Jo's Jelly and Jams</li> <li>11. Clayton's Granny - T-shirts, book sleeves, canvas paint kits, coloring books</li> <li>12. Pink Luna Co. - Permanent jewelry</li> <li>13. Kidding Around Acres - Goat milk soap, lotions, shampoo, conditioner, lip balm</li> <li>14. Ashley's Creative Chaos - Wreaths, wood door hangers, dishcloths, dish scrubbies, granny square bags</li> <li>15. Sweet Spin and Photos - Photobooth and cotton candy</li> <li>16. Marty's Handmade - Trees of Life, sun catchers, inlay rings</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Dee-Licious Unique Treats - Cake pops, homemade fudge, cupcakes, cheesecake strawberries</li> <li>18. This and That Crafts - 3D items aimed for kids, some small wood items</li> <li>19. Abby's World - Freeze-dried candy</li> <li>20. John Barloon - woodworking, handcrafted tables, coasters picture frames</li> <li>21. Katie Louise Kreations - T shirt bar</li> <li>22. The Sassy Sip LLC - Dirty Sodas and Lemonades, Coffee</li> <li>23. Blended Bliss - Acai bowls and smoothies</li> <li>24. Jennings Winery - Iowa native wines</li> <li>25. Abigail's Creations - Crochet plushies and home items</li> <li>26. Mia Bella's - Layna's Candles- clean burning natural palm wax candles</li> <li>27. Mini Collective - Children and baby clothing, toys and gifts</li> <li>28. Stones and Stuff - Tumbled gemstones and crystals, aprons, handing towels, handmade crafts</li> <li>29. MW Woodwork - cutting boards, coasters, serving trays</li> <li>30. Cherries Hook n Stitch - Sewing crafts, baby items, dog coats, kitchen towels, crochet items</li> <li>31. Crafty Cat Creations - Crocheted items</li> <li>32. Tupperware</li> </ol> |
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## NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Greetings Warriors!

I thought you might like to see some updated progress photos of the track/football field. Things are moving along nicely and we are still on track to be substantially completed by August 31, 2026. The picture above shows the retaining wall that is on the west side (near the bus barn) and straight across on the east side. Workers will also be busy putting in the drainage tiling for the football field.

A huge thank you and shoutout to the WV Athletic Booster Club as they embark on a fundraising effort to provide some necessities and extras at the new track and football field. Please see the kickoff notice below from the WV Athletic Booster Club:

Wapsie Nation: We're officially kicking off fundraising for the Wapsie Valley Athletic Complex Improvements and this is our chance to build something truly special for our school and our community.

The foundation is being put in place. Now it's time to bring the experience to life. We're raising funds for: video scoreboard; audio & camera upgrades; track & meet equipment; storage facility; entrance improvements; concessions seating & tables; waste receptacles; and the details

that make this facility something we're proud of.

**MATCH ALERT:** The Wapsie Valley Athletic Booster Club is matching the first \$50,000 raised dollar for dollar. That means your impact is doubled right out of the gate.

**LEAVE YOUR LEGACY:** Donations of \$500+ will leave a permanent mark on the new complex.

Thinking about a larger contribution of \$25,000+? Let's connect and talk through custom recognition opportunities.

Checks can be dropped off at Readlyn Savings Bank or Northeast Security Bank (Fairbank) under the Wapsie Valley Athletic Complex account. If donating by check, please still complete the online form so your legacy recognition is captured correctly. Donate or learn more: <https://givebutter.com/WapsieValleyAthleticComplex>.

The Wapsie Valley Booster Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

This is more than a project. It's an investment in our kids, our community, and the future of Wapsie Valley. Let's build something special together!

Any questions please reach out to [WVabooster@gmail.com](mailto:WVabooster@gmail.com) or Brett Bergman.

### Mr. Murphy named next WV Superintendent

I want to congratulate Mr. TJ Murphy for being named the next Superintendent of Schools at Wapsie Valley. Mr. Murphy is currently the High School Principal at Wapsie Valley and will be taking the next step up. I have no doubts that TJ will continue with the excellence in education that we have built the past 4 years.

*Chris Hoover, Superintendent*



**2026 American Red Cross Red Cord Recipients** — Front row, left to right: Ava Auel, Austin Franck, Norah Oldfather, Kalle Voy, Maya Barnes; back row: Cameron Szurley, Emerie Parkes, Ella Schares, Ella Morarend, Haley Stuber, Emily Trueg, Callie Collins, Layla Thompson, Ari Behnke. Not pictured: Claire O'Donnell.

## Coin War waged for RESB!

The 4th grade service learning group decided to do a coin war for the Readlyn Emergency Services Building. We met with our teacher, Mrs. Foelske, to make a plan for all the details. First, we planned how to get buckets, created a presentation, and made flyers to go home. Next, we presented to each class and gave them the flyers to take home about the coin war. Then we wrote letters to different companies to ask if they could match our goal of \$150. When the coin war ended, we went to the bank so that they could count the money that each class raised and then we added all the grand totals together. After that, we planned how we were going to give the fire department the money. We agreed that we were going to have an assembly to give the fire department the money that we raised.

We met at lunch with Mrs. Foelske to discuss what we were going to do at the assembly and what food they got to eat. We picked donuts, white milk, and chocolate milk. Next, we figured out what game to play at the assembly, what jobs for the

breakfast, and what to say at the assembly. We had the assembly and breakfast on April 8, 2026 where we gave the fire department a check with \$2,591.28 (which is all the money we got from donations and the Coin War) to help build a new Readlyn Emergency Services Building. We worked for 3 months on our coin war project and it was a success.

*Sincerely, The 4th Grade Service Learning group - Addison Broten, Cullun Knight, Gabriel Salcedo-Kramer, Holden Schultz, Randy Dawson, and our teacher Mrs. Foelske!*



## Wapsie Valley Education Foundation Announces 2026 Annual Fundraiser

Fairbank, Iowa — The Wapsie Valley Education Foundation is excited to announce its 2026 Annual Fundraiser, taking place on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at Bents Smokehouse in Readlyn.

This year's event will feature a refreshed, entertainment-focused format, including dinner, a live dueling pianos performance, and a thoughtfully curated auction. The evening is designed to bring the community together for a fun and engaging experience while supporting a meaningful cause.

Funds raised from the event will directly support classroom grants, student scholarships, and enrichment opportunities for Wapsie Valley students and teachers.

"We're looking forward to creating an event that not only raises important funds for our schools, but also gives our community a memorable night out," said Leah Woods, WVEF Board Member.

Additional details, including ticket sales, table reservations, sponsorship opportunities, and auction highlights, will be announced in the coming months.

Join us for a night of entertainment with a purpose—investing in education and supporting classroom grants, student scholarships, and enrichment opportunities.

For updates, follow the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation on social media or contact the Foundation directly.



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## Readlyn Historical Society meeting held April 21

The Readlyn Historical Society meeting was held April 21, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Ron Leistikow, Judy Henn, Shirley Kuker, Judy Leistikow, Charlie Albrecht, Wilda Albrecht and Janet Huebner

President Ron called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The secretary's and treasurer's report was read and approved with a motion by C. Albrecht and seconded by Kuker. All in favor.

### Old Business

- The photos given to the museum by Jud Knittel were reviewed. The group discussed how to identify people and places in the photos.

- Brochure options were reviewed with individuals indicating which one they liked the best.

### New Business

- Huebner requested reimbursement for the purchase of the 2026 Readlyn Community Club t-shirt. A motion to approve reimbursement was made by C. Albrecht and seconded by J. Leistikow. All in favor.

- It was decided to enter a float in the Grump Days Parade.

- The 'Passport to the Past' program will begin May 1. The museum will be open the first Wednesdays of the month from 2-4 p.m., May-September, to accommodate visitors.

- Discussed options for a sign to indicate the museum is open in front of the building by the street.

- A website for the museum is being considered. Huebner will explore options to share with the group.

- The date for the 2026 Ice Cream Social was set for Sunday, August 9, 3-5 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Huebner, Secretary

**Deadline for the June 24 Chronicle is Thurs., June 11 at 5 p.m. Send news to: readlynchronicle@gmail.com**

## Obituaries

### Keith John Fettkether

Keith John Fettkether, 84, of Waterloo and formerly of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo.



Keith Fettkether

Keith was born on June 21, 1941, in Fairbank, Iowa, the son of Herman and Mary (Farrell) Fettkether. Keith attended Wapsie Valley High School and graduated in 1961. On January 4,

1965, he was united in marriage to Anna Marie Schares at Immaculate Conception Church in Gilbertville. Keith was longtime owner and operator of Fettkether Plumbing and Heating and Pump Service.

While living in Readlyn, Keith was active in the community having served on multiple committees with his favorite being the Readlyn Historical Society.

Keith was a longtime member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Waverly, where he actively served on the cemetery committee for a number of years.

He loved playing cards with friends and family, enjoyed watching his grandchildren at their sporting events and attending their dance recitals. His family gave him the nickname of "Gabby" because he always enjoyed visiting with anyone that would listen.

Keith is survived by his wife, Anna of 61 years, his three daughters, Brenda (Jerry) Meyer of Readlyn; Lisa (Scott) Reiter of Gilbertville; and Brooke (Joe) Leehey of Cedar Falls; seven grandchildren, Kyle (Liz) Heineman, Kory (Sara) Heineman, Kayla (Hayden) Clausen, Lexie Reiter, Olivia Leehey, Allie Leehey and Maggie Leehey; and five great-grandchildren, Jackson, Rosalie, Valerie, Izabella, and Ariella.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Joe, a son, Dean, and a grandson, Klay Heineman.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Waverly with Father Doug Wathier officiating. A visitation was held on Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the church. Burial of cremains was in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the family for a later designation.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home assisted the family.

### Larry Boerschel

Larry Boerschel, 77, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 12, surrounded by the love of his family.



Larry Boerschel

Larry was the beloved husband of Sue, with whom he shared 58 wonderful years of marriage. Together they built a life centered on love, laughter, and unwavering devotion

to family. He was a proud father to Dave (Christine) of Beloit, Wisconsin; Kelly O'Brien of Readlyn; and Doug (Koey) of Fairfax, Iowa.

He was a cherished grandfather to Connor O'Brien (Kenzie), Carter O'Brien (Robyn), Ethan Boerschel, and Eli Boerschel, and a loving great-grandfather to Korrin, Killian, Finley, and Warren. Nothing brought Larry greater joy than spending time with his family, especially cheering on his children and grandchildren at their sporting events.

Larry dedicated 30 years of his career to John Deere in Waterloo, where he was known for his strong work ethic and commitment. In retirement, he found great fulfillment in woodworking, creating pieces that will be treasured by his family for years to come.

He had a deep love for the outdoors, especially fishing trips to northern Minnesota. Larry and Sue also cherished their winters spent together in North Padre Island, Texas, where they made many special memories. He enjoyed playing cards, spending time with friends, and sharing laughter. Larry had a wonderful sense of humor and never missed the chance to tell a good joke—or even a bad one.

Above all, Larry will be remembered for his kind heart, his steady presence, and the deep love he had for his family. He will be dearly missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of Larry's life was held at Bents Smokehouse & Pub in Readlyn on Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Memorials may be directed to Sue at her home address, P.O. Box 85, Readlyn, IA.

Online condolences may be submitted at [www.lensingfuneral.com](http://www.lensingfuneral.com).

### Brian James Bockholt

Brian James Bockholt, 69, of Readlyn, died Monday, April 27, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family after a short battle of pancreatic cancer.



Brian Bockholt

Brian was born on October 26, 1956, in Waverly, the son of Henry Duane and Norma (Brandt) Bockholt. He attended Wapsie Valley High School and graduated in 1974.

He was united in marriage to Laura Happel, where they had three children; the couple later divorced.

Brian dedicated 48 years of his life to his work at United Equipment Accessories, in Waverly, before retiring in 2022. While there, he played a valuable part in many positions.

In his free time, he enjoyed the simple pleasures of life—playing cards with friends and family, spending time mowing the lawn, and relaxing with a drink of Black Velvet. He will be remembered for his steady presence and the everyday moments he shared with those around him.

Brian is survived by his three children, Brady (Kelly) Bockholt of Readlyn, Bobbi (Levi) Kielsmeier of Denver, and Brianne (Trey) Olmstead of Waverly; eight grandchildren, Carter Palmer, Bronson Bockholt, Beckham Bockholt, Eli Alibegic, Maxie Kielsmeier, Indy Kielsmeier, Harlie Kielsmeier, and Tatum Olmstead; his siblings, Bev (Gerald) Buhrow, Becky (Joe Tiedt) Siggelkov, Judy (Duane) Henle, Jeff (Kelly) Bockholt, Rob (Christy) Bockholt, and Jackie (Brian) Dauchenbaugh.

He was preceded in death by his parents, step-mother Mabel Bockholt, siblings, Barbara Bockholt in infancy, Bruce Bockholt, and Brenda (Dennis) Neil.

Funeral services were held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church with Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano officiating. A visitation of family and friends was from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday at the church. Inurnment will be held at a later date in Grove Hill Cemetery, rural Readlyn. Memorials may be directed to the family.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.



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### The Game of Life comes to Wapsie Valley (again.)

At the end of April, I had the privilege of working with Mr. TJ Murphy, Mrs. Kate Nitz, and about 15 volunteer professionals from our amazing communities to host our annual Game of Life at Wapsie Valley. This is our 3rd (or 4th?!) year of doing this and each year we feel better and better about the impact we are having on our seniors the last few days before they jump out of the nest.

Here is how it works:

A few weeks before we play the game, students are given the opportunity to provide their ideal career paths and the subsequent average incomes. Then their “life scenarios” are randomized and given to them the morning of the game. Some are divorced. Some have multiple pets. Some have student loans to consider. And then they’re off! They walk through stations that replicate allllll the stuff that life requires of us (and throws at us) to get a feel for the stressors that can come from budgeting month-to-month expenses.

First, they begin at the bank. They have to find their net incomes and pay a student loan when applicable. Then they move onto homes and automobiles (depending on the size of family they’ve been randomly assigned) and then into insurances, daycare expenses, retirement savings, charities, utilities, entertainment, right down to the smallest spontaneous gas station purchases. In the meantime we have our nurse randomly distributing unexpected health occurrences, our police officer handing out random citations, and our fate cards dealing out good or bad financial events.

Lastly, and most importantly, we have two amazing volunteers manning our S.O.S. table. When the students get in a pinch, they are encouraged to ask for resources and ideas to navigate their circumstances. Maybe they need to sell their vehicle, maybe they need to downsize their home, maybe they need to get another job.

After they’ve navigated the game, I have the absolute pleasure of hosting a de-brief and helping our students explore ideas for how to balance life’s needs with their own needs, like saving for their futures. The students have the opportunity to give feedback and ask questions and are hopefully left with more financial literacy than before they played. We talk in depth about how money can be a great tool, or a very overwhelming stressor depending on the decisions you make with it.

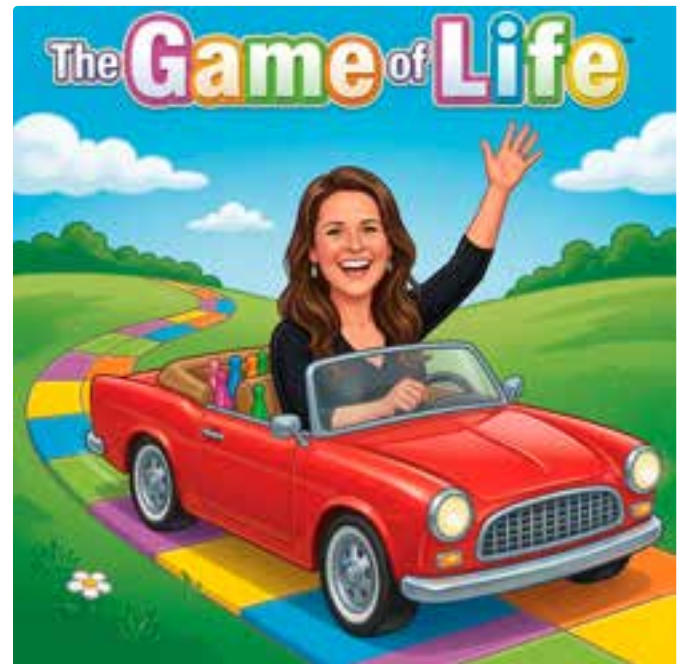
Each year leading up to the game, I feel a lot of pressure to get it all right. But when we actually get together and work through it, the students end up making the process fun with their natural inquisitiveness combined with their itch to graduate. I hope to continue the tradition that Mr. Murphy initiated and that we continue to see people like you taking the time to pour back into our youth! THANK YOU to our repeat and first time professional volunteers: TJ Murphy, Kate Nitz, Kim Ardnt, Tina Kaufman, McKayla Bellis, Kyle Shores, Jill Krall, Scott & Hailey Broten, Keri Kono, Mike Duffy, Sara Strottman, Mischa Matthias, Ben Hogan, and Nicole Barnes! Your time and efforts mean more than you know!

Congratulations, Seniors! We wish you the best in all your future endeavors and hope we see the fruits of your experiences come back to our communities in the future!

Go Warriors!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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# READLYN OUTDOORS

By Eric Johnston

Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com



## “Turkey Bow Hunt”

The big tom turkey stopped at the edge of the clover food plot just out of my bow range, staring down my decoys, gobbling every 30 seconds as if daring them to move. Suddenly, two hen turkeys entered the food plot from my left, feeding and pecking the ground. As the two hens made their way to my hen and jake decoy, the tom in the standoff couldn't resist any longer and slowly started toward them in full strut the whole way. As he neared the decoys, and now live decoys, I slowly began to draw my bow from inside my daughter's deer hunting blind. As he closed the gap to a mere 15 yard distance, I settled my sight pin and slowly started to squeeze my release trigger...

Spring has been flying by this year and this would be my first hunt of the 2026 turkey season already a week old. Coaching archery, planting trees, and work had gotten in the way of getting in the woods to hunt. However, the wait was worth it - follow along this month on my April Turkey Bow Hunt.

As I said above, it's been a busy spring and Iowa's turkey season had opened on April 13 and, through that whole first week of the season, I was busy planting trees throughout the farm. High water from the Wapsi had forced my hand to plant a week later than normal. With the trees in the ground, I planned my first hunt to be Sunday, April 19.

The alarm went off at 4:30 a.m. and as I made coffee, the temperature read 33 degrees according to our weather gauge on the kitchen wall. I dressed as though it was deer season with those temps, however, there was very little wind and I felt like the conditions were good for a great hunt. As I made my way through our gate, there was already a glow on the horizon to the east and I realized I had seriously miscalculated what time I needed to arrive to the woods. Generally, I like arriving for a turkey hunt in full darkness. This morning, I stepped out of the truck to the sound of turkeys already gobbling in the trees.

A gobbler was sounding off a mere 75 yards from where I parked the truck. In a hurry, I circled out around the timber to the north making my way to my daughter's deer blind overlooking our clover food plots. While not ideal for bow hunting, with recent high water I had not been able to set up a ground blind in the food plots, so her blind would need to work. Now getting light very quickly and all the

birds singing their morning tunes, I set up a hen and a jake decoy 15 yards in front of the blind, being sure I had them as visible as possible from all directions as turkeys were gobbling in nearly every direction. I settled into the blind, now sweating from moving so quickly.

I failed to mention this particular morning I had to wear chest waders to cross the creek to enter the farm, so I was burning up! I set up all my camera gear on the tripod as I film everything for our YouTube Channel, The EDJ Whitetails, caught my breath, drank coffee, and enjoyed listening to all of the wildlife and the woods wake up. One particular turkey that was roosted to the south near where I had parked my truck was gobbling a lot. In my mind, I thought, “That's gonna be a very callable bird.” With the amount he was gobbling, a lot of times that's a sign he's gotten separated from the flock and is looking to find the flock back. I let out a soft cadence on my turkey mouth call and he immediately answered with a gobble back. I waited a minute or so and called again softly and was immediately answered with a more muffled gobble. With that muffled gobble, I knew he had flown down from his roost and was now on the ground!

I set my call down and decided, “He's coming and I don't need to call anymore.” In the past, I've had a tendency to call too much so I removed temptation by putting the call away. To the south of the food plots is an open area with canary grass still matted down from winter snow pack. The



big tom entered that open area and I got the camera on him. He was still 150 yards away but walking towards the food plot. He would gobble and go in and out of strut every 30 seconds, all the while walking to me. On video, I could see the steam of his breath every time he gobbled. He made his way up to the south edge of the clover plot and stopped.

He was in full strut and showing off to my hen decoy that was accompanied by my little jake decoy and I thought surely he will march right over and push my little jake out of the way and claim his girlfriend. However, he stood at the edge of the plot 60 yards from the blind strutting and drumming. I continued to take in the show as it made for great footage for the channel.

I had my bow ready and camera turned to catch the shot out of the left window. I needed him to work to my left and at least make it within 30 yards for a good ethical shot. I stayed patient and I caught movement to my left. Two hen turkeys entered the plot and walked right over to my decoys. The hens fed on the clover and milled around in front of the blind at a mere 10 yards. The standoff was over as the tom couldn't resist any longer. He stayed full strut while working to my left as I had hoped. He walked up to one of the hens and turned away from me. It was time to make my move.

A quick check that the camera was in position and I raised my PSE Mach 33

bow and went to full draw. I struggled to line everything up as the window I was shooting out of is roughly the diameter of a volleyball. I settled my pin on the big tom and squeezed off a shot. My arrow made a loud noise and drove into the ground right at the tom's feet. I had missed!!!

I quickly grabbed another arrow as the tom, not knowing what happened, slowly started to walk straight away from me. I went to full draw and now the tom was at 30 yards, settled my pin and shot hitting the big tom perfectly! I was still nervous and quickly exited the blind and ran (again in chest waders) towards the gobbler. I quickly found I hadn't needed to run as he was finished quickly.

Upon review, my first shot hit the edge of the top of the window and drove it into the ground. Thankfully, he stuck around for the follow-up shot! I hadn't taken a turkey with my bow in many years and was beyond excited. I did the finish-up video with the bird and took the moment in.

The last bird I had taken with a bow was in a snowstorm with my Uncle Marv and, as I sat there doing the video, it began to snow - a storybook ending to a fantastic hunt! I walked out carrying a bird and was home, video uploaded, and turkey cleaned, all before 8 a.m! You can watch the video of this hunt by going to YouTube and searching The EDJ Whitetails.

As always, thanks for reading and GET OUTDOORS!!



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## Wapsie Valley School Board - April 20, 2026

### Wapsie Valley CSD Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 20, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Aiello called the Public Hearing on the 26-27 Budget and FY 26 Amendment to order at 6:02 PM. Roll call-Auel-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye, Motion carried 4-0 Becker (excused)

A. Directors: Auel, Broten Jr., Kaufman, & Aiello-Aye Declared a quorum

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

C. Others: Tina Kaufman, Elaine, Kyle, Krayton, & Tim Zimmerman, Tara Sullivan, Zach Boevers, Jordan Cusick, Mitzi Peterson, Tony Russell, Ronnie, Duane, & Brandy Wilcox, Vaughn & Jenni Gross, Katie Foelske & Readlyn 4th-grade students, Hailey Broten, Vince, Dylan, & Daniel Matthias, Jeannie Wolfe, Nathan & Jessica Kelly, Justin and Kanen Decker, Dawson Schmit, Drake Russell & virtual participants.

2. Mrs. Arndt presented FY27 Budget overview and FY26 Amendment - Discussion was held on proposed tax rate of \$14.00087 due to supplemental state aid being set at 2%, decreasing the tax rate \$.02 from FY26.

3. No public comment on the FY27 Budget or the FY26 Amendment.

4. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to close the Public Hearing at 6:07 PM-Roll call-Auel-Aye, Broten Jr.-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Aiello-Aye Motion carried 4-0

1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:07 PM.

2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

3. Spotlight on Education-Readlyn Elementary students conducted a service learning coin war project to raise money for the Readlyn Fire Department. The students raised \$2,591.28 with help from Readlyn Savings, TruServ, RTC, & Weeds on Fire.

4. Central Rivers AEA - CAPS - Internships-Mr. Cusick, Zach Boevers, & Mitzi Peterson presented on Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) & Internships. These programs empower students, associates them with innovation, problem solving, public speaking, and helps them explore careers while obtaining durable skills.

5. Booster Club Track/Football Field Project fundraising-Representing the Booster Club, Hailey Broten introduced a fundraising initiative aimed at enhancing the Track/Football Project. She detailed a tiered giving

structure to define the various donation categories.

6. Public Comment: Community members, students, & past students voiced concerns regarding the Robotic, Lego, and Wrestling Programs. Jeannie Wolfe expressed appreciation for the board's efforts and emphasized their decision-making is not taken lightly.

7. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the Engagement Letter with Ahlers & Cooney-School Infrastructure Sales, Service & Use Tax Revenue Bonds 2026A and Taxable School Infrastructure Sales, Services & Use Tax Revenue Bonds Series 2026B as presented. Motion carried 4-0

8. Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Auel to approve the Engagement Letter with Ahlers & Cooney-General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

9. Consent Items: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Auel including the open enrollment of Alirio Behnke request to open enroll his 10th grade daughter to Cedar Falls High school effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0

10. Communication & Reports: Board: Scott & Angie will be on stage at graduation. HVAC units will be installed in the two rooms north of the board room this summer. Prom went well.

Superintendent: Report included: Track/Football field project, HVAC, Summer Projects, & Booster Club fundraising

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, FFA & FCCLA state convention, & Activities.

11. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the resignations of Chris Hoover-Assistant Boys Track Coach, & Beau Sorenson-Assistant Wrestling Coach effective immediately and thank them for their service to the students and staff at Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 4-0

Contracts: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the following contracts: Dan Nuss-Special Education Associate-\$12.67 P/H for the 25-26 school year, 26-27 Teaching contracts with an increase of 2.78% total package. Since moving away from the traditional salary indexed schedule, please see Danny Adams, Amanda Bockholt, or Katie Foelske with any questions regarding increases, & a 3% increase for 26-27 Support staff contracts as presented. Motion carried 4-0

12. New Business: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve FY27 Budget with a tax rate of \$14.00087 & amended budget for FY26 increasing Total Support Service due to increased expenditures as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the Budget Guarantee that will levy property tax for FY27 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the purchase of football helmets (\$6,810.39) from general fund for the 26 season as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the audit for fiscal year 2025 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the District Career & Academic Plan as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Sharing Human Resource Director as Resource Only with Sumner-Fredricksburg for the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to approve the increase from \$24 P/H to \$30 P/H for Extended School Year teachers as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the amended 28E agreement effective June 1, 2026 subject to any additional edits required by the Iowa Insurance Division in connection with the Trust's certificate of registration application as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded Kaufman to go into Closed Session 21.5 (i) at 7:48 PM Roll Call-Auel, Kaufman, Broten Jr., & Aiello-ALL-AYES-Motion Carried 4-0 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 Kaufman, Seconded by Broten Jr., to exit closed session at 8:35 PM-Roll Call-Auel, Kaufman, Broten Jr., & Aiello-ALL-AYES-Motion Carried 4-0

Moved by Broten Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to approve a 3% increase effective the 26-27 school year for Principals Alyson Forsyth & Holly Myers, Maintenance Director-David Dennler, School Business Official-Kim Arndt along with July 3, 2026 being a paid holiday due to moving to a letter of assignment contract effective July 1, 2026 since retiring August 31, 2026, and Human Resources Director-Tina Kaufman with adding to her 26-27 contract-The DISTRICT shall pay the premiums for single coverage or family coverage. If family coverage is not utilized you will receive the cash value of the difference between single and family coverage in additional salary based on the FTE of the position for the sole purpose of providing health and dental insurance for the Human Resource Director and family at the deductible level under the health/medical programs adopted for the DISTRICT as presented. Motion carried 4-0

13. Board Talking Points - Discussed Principal interview procedures

14. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Motion carried 4-0 Respectfully submitted-Kim Arndt

## Wapsie Valley Special School Board Meetings - April 30 & May 13, 2026

### Wapsie Valley CSD Special Board Meeting Minutes-Google Meet April 30, 2026

President Aiello called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 8:00 AM.

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

B. Superintendent Hoover, Principal Murphy, & Secretary Arndt

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Notice of Intent to fill the vacancy appointment per Iowa Code 279.6 for publication as presented. Motion carried 4-0

4. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve new carpet tiles, and installation from Epic Furniture & Installation (\$19,136) for the band room, offices, and practice rooms as presented. Motion carried 4-0

5. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 8:07 AM. Motion carried 4-0

Declared a quorum

B. Superintendent Chris Hoover, TJ Murphy, Tina Kaufman & Kim Arndt

C. Dustin, Zeschke, Kevin McDermott, Vaughn Gross, Shelly Staker, Becky Knutson, Jefferson Fink, & Carrie Weber

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Broten, Jr., Seconded by Kaufman to enter into Recess Open Board Meeting at 3:33 PM to Convene a Private Exempt Hearing pursuant to Iowa Code Section 279.15 and .16 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten, Jr. to return to open meeting at 12:19AM as presented. Motion carried 4-0

5. Moved by Broten, Jr., Seconded by Auel to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate Vaughn Gross's 2025-2026 teaching contract and all employment contracts including extra curricular contracts for 2025-2026 effective at the end of the current academic year as presented. Roll Call Vote-Broten, Jr.-AYE,

Auel-AYE, Kaufman-AYE, & Aiello-AYE Motion carried 4-0

6. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded Auel to adjourn at 12:20AM. Motion carried 4-0

## Readlyn City Council - May 11, 2026

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, May 11, 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, May 11, 2026 for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Nicole Barnes, Keith Brunscheon, Rocco Imbrogno and Joseph Jones. Absent: Jason Franck. Others in attendance included: Steve Aiello, Barney Wiersma, Louie Hartman (Readlyn Community Club), Ron Oltrogge (Maxfield Township) and Kris McGrane.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve consent agenda items, which included the regular council meeting minutes from 4/13/2026, the claims list from 4/14/2026 to 5/11/2026, and the April 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer's and Financial). All said aye. Motion carried.

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

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

Wedemeier opened the public hearing on the proposed Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 at 6:25 PM. We received no verbal comments and McGrane advised there were no written communications received. Wedemeier closed the public hearing at 6:26 PM.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Brunscheon to approve Resolution 2026-6, adopting the FY 2026 Budget Amendment. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Louie Hartman with the Readlyn Community Club asked the city to cover half the cost of their insurance which helps covers the city celebration Grump Days. Louie also provided an update for Grump Days 2026. The parade route is the same as last year and the kiddie parade is coming back this year which will circle around the park. Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve paying for half of the Readlyn Community Club insurance renewal at a cost to the city of approximately \$831.62. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Ron Oltrogge with Maxfield Township advised the trustees received the updated agreement from the city. They are on a very tight budget and would like to change the total

amount the Maxfield Township would pay for the fire department from \$10,000 to \$5,000 per fiscal year. Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to change the current agreement between the city of Readlyn and Maxfield Township for fire and first responders to a maximum of \$5,000 per fiscal year for the fire department. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried. McGrane advised he will have the resolution at the next meeting.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to approve appointing Glenda Kleitsch to the Readlyn Community Library Board of Trustees. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve appointing Ethan Oltrogge to the Readlyn Fire Department. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve Resolution 2026-5, approving a Fee Proposal, AIA Document B133 Standard Form of Agreement and Addendum to the Agreement between Readlyn and Cannon Moss Brygger & Associates, P.C. dba CMBA Architects. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve Resolution 2026-7, approving salaries for FY2027. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Resolution 2026-8, approving the Electric Reliability Plan. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve Resolution 2026-9, approving the Electric Inspection and Maintenance Program. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Barnes to approve Resolution 2026-10, approving customer utility account adjustments. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to approve the spring leaf burning dates in the city of Readlyn city limits from May 12, 2026, to June 15, 2026. All said aye. Motion carried.

No action was taken at this meeting on increasing the water and garbage rates.

Jones would like to discuss spraying for bugs at the next council meeting.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk

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 Readlyn, IA 50668  
 (319) 279-3977  
 Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano  
 Divine Service 10 a.m.



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



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



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

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**Deadline for the June 24 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., June 11 at 5 p.m.**

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<p><b>PENDING</b></p>  <p><b>221 PRESTIEN DR. DENVER</b></p>	<p><b>SOLD</b></p>  <p><b>1209 16TH ST. SW CEDAR RAPIDS</b></p>	<p><b>SOLD</b></p>  <p><b>203 &amp; 205 GROVE ST. FAIRBANK</b></p>	<p><b>PENDING</b></p>  <p><b>2039 - 140TH ST. HAZLETON</b></p>

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