

September Yard of the Month

Bonnie Piehl, 605 West View, with an immaculate yard despite the Friday high winds, is this month's Yard of the Month winner. Bonnie would like to thank Weeds on Fire for offering this award plus its monetary gift.

Bonnie's husband, Kenny, who passed September 12, 2025, would also have been proud to accept this honor. He took a lot of pride in keeping their yard and trees in mint condition. In addition, Bonnie would like to recognize Readlyn Gardeners for all they do to add beauty to Readlyn.

Like most country people who have moved into town, many of their decorations were brought from the country to their new home in Readlyn. Bonnie and Kenny did a wonderful job blending their country items, their love of dogs and horses, and their symbolic art pieces to create an idyllic yard surrounding their beautiful home.

Congratulations on a well-deserved award!

See more on Pages 8-9.



Even the garage door entrance extends a warm welcome.



Bonnie Piehl and her dog, Sadie, try to create a welcoming entrance to their home. The keepsake cement table to the right not only displays Bonnie's tribute to our country's 250 birthday, it is where delivery drivers kindly place her packages.



Two nostalgic pieces: The little girl and the dog is a tribute to her only granddaughter, Autumn, who shares a love of dogs. The art piece in the center is a one-of-a-kind decoration created by an Indonesian indigenous artist.



Mike Heinemann kindly hauled this rock from the Piehl's acreage in the country. Several of the rocks are also from their acreage.



Bonnie feels the grandma and grandpa are aging just like she is.



The poodle tree to the right depicts Bonnie's love of dogs. See more photos on pages 8 and 9.

Fall Light Pole Decorating Contest sponsored by RCC

Let's dress up Readlyn's Main Street for fall! Now is your chance to use your creativity to personally decorate a light pole on Main Street.

- Sign up for the Light Pole Decorating Contest at Readlyn City Hall, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., or email cityhallreadlyn@rtc279.com. You will be assigned a pole with a magnetic number attached. It's what the judges need to see when they vote. Feel free to relocate the number, but please make sure it is easily visible from the street.
- Have your pole decorated by

September 20 and taken down by November 15. (Remember to allow room for snow plows.)

- Each RCC member can cast one vote from September 22 – October 3. (Contact Louie Hartman ronlouiehartman@gmail.com or 319-239-0533 if you are not yet a member.)

- 1st prize, \$75; 2nd prize, \$50; 3rd prize, \$30.

Winners will be announced in the November issue of the *Chronicle*.

This contest is sponsored by Readlyn Community Club (RCC).

Grump's Grumblings

By Ed Traeger, 2026 Grump



It feels like I am in the Old Grump Olympics. This past week, I was amazed at the Bremer County Fair! A few days ago, I was taught the scoop at the Readlyn Historical Society Ice Cream Social. And soon, we will be representing Readlyn in the Denver Days Parade.

The Bremer County Fair was definitely amazing! My wife baked a cherry pie and we went off to the livestock scrambles. During the scrambles, they auctioned off pies as a fundraiser. I am honored to have brought home one of Miss Readlyn's two donated "scrumptious" peanut butter pies. In addition, we were very impressed with the 4-H projects and the building in which they were housed. And, another special opportunity that I had was to get better acquainted with JuliAnn Boevers and her finely-groomed yearling heifer. They went home with a bundle of ribbons and honors. All the fair events were well-run and the entire fairgrounds are developing nicely. If you missed this year's fair be sure to attend next year.

Anyone, who is anyone, attended the Readlyn Historical Society Ice Cream Social. In attendance, we had the Jr. Dairy Princess, Coral Novak and Miss Readlyn, Ava Meyer. Also represented were the Bremer County Beef Producers and the 1st Runner-up Bremer County Fair Queen. Another member of the high society, Janet Huebner, was there with an additional new bit of history to enhance our fine museum. It was a great social event and surprising just how much 25 cent ice cream can be scooped on a nice summer day in Readlyn.

The Denver parade is next on our agenda, and I will be especially proud to be the escort of our Miss Readlyn, Ava Meyer. We have enjoyed lots of Readlyn area excitement this past month.

However, there was some excitement we did not enjoy and that was a tornado! Although, once the weather calmed down, I heard the chainsaws and I remembered how lucky we are to live in a town where

neighbors look out for neighbors. Thank you to all of you who stepped up to clean up the downed trees and debris.

Quotes of the month:

The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching.

Ronald Reagan

You can't help everyone, yet everyone can help someone. - John Wooden - UCLA

.....And by the way, has anyone seen our town squirrel.....???



JuliAnn Boevers won 1st place Showmanship at the Iowa State Fair! She also won Reserve Jr. Champion Brown Swiss and Jr. Grand Champion Guernsey at the Bremer County Fair! JuliAnn, daughter of Andy and Sheila Boevers, is pictured with her heifer, "Bargain," and the "Old Grump," Ed Traeger, all of Readlyn.

Miss Readlyn Comments

By Ava Meyer



Hello, Readlyn!

I can't believe summer is already gone, filled with joy and new adventures! I had so much fun participating in the Bremer County Fair as Miss Congeniality and 1st Runner-Up. It still blows my mind that I am able to represent something greater than myself, and I will cherish each wave, picture, conversation, and every smile in between.

At the fair, I was able to participate in storytime, kids' tractor pull, Tuff Trucks, and the Combine Derby. For storytime, I read "Click Clack Moo Cows that Type" along with all of the other royalty at the fair. Seeing the kids smile and laugh was so rewarding! To follow, I awarded trophies to all the tractor pull winners where I saw my lovely fellow Readlyn'ers! I made sure to cheer extra loud—ha! On Thursday, I got the opportunity to drive a Tuff Truck! It was such a fun experience, with a side of whiplash, but so cool! Finally, on Sunday, I was able to pull the winning

ticket for the Readlyn EMS and Fire 50/50 raffle. Thank you for everyone who came out and supported our amazing community members who keep us safe! And special shoutout to all the EMTs and firefighters who helped at the combine derby!

Now that summer is done, time to kick-off my senior year! Although school isn't my jam, I'm excited to see what this year brings. I know it will go fast, so I will try my best to soak in each moment. My favorite part about the fall is seeing all the elementary kids again! Working in the elementary has been one of the biggest blessings. I admire how all the kids are not afraid to be themselves and be their silly selves. Along with school starting, so does Sunday School! As of right now, I am teaching preschool and kindergartners. They sure are fun!

I hope to see everyone soak up the last bit of the summer weather! Have a great day and go Warriors!



M&Ms, Popsicles and Skittles they flew, and Fruities and chips also were threw.

Miss Readlyn Ava Meyer (at left) was chauffeured in the Denver Parade by the Old Grump, Ed Traeger.

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Celebrating 80 Years — Pat and Steve Wehr celebrated their 80th birthdays at Little Canada Camp, Ear Falls, Ontario, with their son, A.J., and his family. Rather than sending a card, notepads and a box to deposit your greetings are located at the Readlyn Library. Please donate the money you saved on a card and postage to the Readlyn Library.





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Letters have been sent out, if you have not received one and would like to join, please stop in to
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Deadline to enter is October 9, 2026

Readlyn Savings Bank will not be open Monday, September 7, 2026 in observance of Labor Day.



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READLYN LIBRARY RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

DES MOINES—The State Library of Iowa announced that the Readlyn Community Library has met the conditions for state accreditation as outlined in "In Service to Iowa: Public Library Standards Sixth Edition."

Achieving accreditation requires a significant, ongoing local commitment to high quality library services. The Readlyn Community Library has been recognized for its efforts in all areas of library operations including governance and funding, staffing, library collection, services, public relations, access, and facilities.

"This achievement reflects the Readlyn Library's dedication to providing exceptional service and resources to its community," said State Librarian Brenda Hall. "Accreditation is a testament to the library's commitment to meeting the highest standards in library service and continuing to grow and adapt to the needs of Iowans."

The library looks forward to serving the community of Readlyn for many years to come!

Wednesday, September 2 - 3:30 pm

Kids' Program - ISU Extension

"Say Cheese!"



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

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Wasn't it Yesterday?

The "Old Spice" of Life



By J.D. Francis

We were total strangers in a hardware store, nonetheless, we each nodded to one another in a silent gesture of "hello," as we crossed paths.

I was headstrong to the automotive department, so I never gave him a second thought. It happened that I walked through the aftermath of his cologne and it blanketed over me like the morning sun. I instantly revisited that old familiar scent of "Old Spice," and, to a degree, walking backwards into yesterday.

Most every morning, I was awakened in the early morning darkness to a soft, faint light creeping under my bedroom door, like a friendly ghost crawling across the carpet. That gave me the sign that my dad was in the bathroom getting ready for another workday. Like the Energizer Bunny, I'd turn back the sheets, scamper down the hallway, and reach up to open the bathroom door handle to let myself in. My presence was no surprise, and, looking back now, I think Dad accepted this as time to share before he went to work for the day.

I was always in time, and on time, to watch him shave his face. The sink was half-filled with boiling hot water. I watched the steam vapors rise up like witchcraft, so hot they frosted his mirror. It didn't seem to matter, though. He would simply swipe the mirror with a dry, white towel, kept close at hand, on the towel bar.

To a youngster, the shaving cream on his face could have easily been freshly fallen snow on a snow-capped mountain. His razor, a toboggan gliding down the hills and valleys. I remember giggling at all the different faces he made while guiding his razor over uncharted whisker territory. Each pass was followed by a swish or two in the sink water, to clean off the razor for another pass.

Occasionally, dad put a little shaving cream on my face, held me up to the mirror, and, with a plastic credit card, I'd shave my own face. I was always careful not to make those funny faces and my sink swishes were a little less dramatic.

After dad finished his shave routine came the best part...the "face spank." He'd grab the bottle with the ship on it, shake a few drops into his hands, rub them together, and spank his face and neck with the Old Spice cologne. Occasionally, I'd get a few "pats" to the face myself, after a close "credit card shave," that is. That scent would stay with me all day long.

Someone bumped my shopping cart and I was startled from my "yesterday's shave" daydream. I remember coming to the store for a car battery, but I found myself pushing a shopping cart with everything from drills to diapers, I must have subconsciously selected while off in my daydreams. A car battery was all I needed, so I aborted mission, parked the full cart, and went and located an empty one. It didn't take long to finish my one-item shopping list.

I arrived at the checkout counter, paid the attendant, and headed for home, with my one bottle of Old Spice.

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Readlyn Senior Citizens meet monthly at Bents Smokehouse

The Readlyn Senior Citizens met at Bents Smokehouse on July 15, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. for their meeting, a meal and bingo. Ron Leistikow led us in prayer and called the meeting to order.

A birthday celebrated for the month of July was Mary Chapin. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

An anniversary celebrated for the month of July was for Larry and Vicki Pavelec. We all sang "Happy Anniversary" to them.

A sympathy card was passed around for the family of Don Billhorn who passed away on July 13. Don had been a very faithful and active member of the Readlyn Senior Citizens for years. He will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, MaryLou, as they had just celebrated their 62nd anniversary.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report was read by Lois Thacher from the notes of June 17, 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Charlie Albrecht stated that the balance in the account after a deposit and expenses was \$175.00.

Larry Pavelec made a motion to approve the secretary and treasurer reports. Larry Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: It was brought up again to remind everyone to attend the

Northeast Iowa Area on Agency 365 Class on Health and Wellness presented by Anna Williams. The class is held at Bents the last Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. The first one will be July 29. There is a recipe sampling every month! It is a free class.

NEW BUSINESS: Readlyn's Historical Society has their Annual Ice Cream Social Sunday, August 9, from 3-5 p.m. The bowl of ice cream is still \$.25 each. The buildings will be open for those who want to tour the museum.

A Women's Gathering will be held at St. Matthew's Church at 2:00 p.m. on August 16. Twila Belk will be the speaker. There will be refreshments after the speaker and a drawing for a door prize. This event is open to the public.

Judy Henn made a motion to adjourn and Marlys Deterding seconded it. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

The group played bingo and the bingo winners were Wayne Kuethe, Vicki Pavelec, Barb Meyer, and Roger Deterding. Congratulations to all that played and won!

The next meeting will be at Bents Event Center in Readlyn Iowa at 11:30 a.m. on August 19, 2026. We will be playing bingo. Come join the fun!

Lois Thacher, Secretary

Readlyn City Council - August 10, 2026

The Readlyn Finance Board met in open session at 5:45 PM on Monday, August 10, 2026 to review bills. Rocco Imbrogno and Joseph Jones were present. Keith Brunscheon was absent.

The Readlyn City Council met in open session at 6:00 PM on Monday, August 10, 2026, for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following council members were present: Nicole Barnes, Jason Franck, Rocco Imbrogno and Joseph Jones. Absent: Keith Brunscheon. Others in attendance included: Matthew Johnson, Kacey Johnson, Bryce Nielsen, Barney Wiersma, Austin Matthias, Steve Aiello and Kris McGrane.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve consent agenda items, which included the regular council meeting minutes from 7/13/2026, the claims list from 7/14/2026 to 8/10/2026, the July 2026 reports (Budget, Treasurer's and Financial). All said aye. Motion carried.

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

Mayor advised he visited with Aaron Goodenbour, Bremer County Emergency Management Coordinator, about the storm last Friday, August 7, 2026, to discuss ways to improve things in the future. The city clerk, police, parks and public works provided written reports. Franck provided an update from the quarterly EBRR meeting and Imbrogno provided an update from the quarterly Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation meeting.

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

Wedemeier opened the public hearing for a special permit from Matthew Johnson, 245 Kalman Avenue, for the purpose of the placement and construction of a car port to be located at 245 Kalman Avenue, Readlyn, Iowa, at 6:34 PM. Matthew Johnson was in attendance and presented and described the project, which included installing a steel car port with the dimensions of 10' x 30' as well as anchoring the structure into the ground. There were no other comments. McGrane advised no written communications were received. Wedemeier closed the public hearing at 6:36 PM.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve the special permit from Matthew Johnson to place and construct a car port located on the property at 245 Kalman Avenue, Readlyn, Iowa, in the place de-

scribed in the application and as presented. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve the second 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 increase on both rates each year for the next 5 years. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Imbrogno to approve the request from Bryce Nielsen to place a large rock in the city right-of-way on the corner of Elmer Avenue and 3rd Street, as presented, and that the owners will be responsible for moving the rock at their cost if the city requests and that the city will not be responsible for any damage that may occur to the rock. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to approve reappointing Darin Buchholz to the Readlyn Library Board of Trustees for another term, expiring on 6/30/2032. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Jones to approve purchasing a new dump truck from Don's Trucking in Fairbank, Iowa, not to exceed \$75,000. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve soliciting sealed bids for the sale of the city of Readlyn's current dump truck, establishing a bid opening for 10:00 AM on Monday, October 5, 2026, at Readlyn City Hall, with consideration and possible acceptance of bids at the regular city council meeting on Monday, October 12, 2026. Roll call, all said aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Jones to adjourn. All said aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Kris McGrane, City Clerk

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The Poor Farm Foundation Hosts... Pie/History Day

Sunday, September 13th, 2026

Noon-2pm Dine-in or carryout

Menu includes:
Homemade Pie \$3.50 a slice
\$16.00 whole pie
Large All Beef Hot Dog \$3.00
Chips \$1.00
Lemonade/Coffee \$1.00
Ice Cream \$1.00
***Meal deal w/ice cream** \$8.00

Building tours of the Poor Farm (museum items)

Poor Farm location: 1951 Larrabee Ave., Waverly, IA



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Classes Offered in Readlyn

Registration Deadline: September 22, 2026

READLYN, Iowa — Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A) is inviting older adults to improve their balance, strength, and confidence through its upcoming Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention classes in Readlyn.

Designed specifically for older adults, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention is a gentle, evidence-based exercise program that helps improve balance, coordination, flexibility, and strength while reducing the risk of falls. Based on traditional Chinese martial arts, Tai Chi uses slow, controlled movements that are easy to learn and suitable for a variety of fitness levels.

Classes will be held at Bents Smoke House in Readlyn from September 29 through November 19, 2026, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Participants will learn simple movements that can help increase stability, improve mobility, and support overall health and well-being in a relaxed and supportive environment.

A voluntary contribution of \$4 per class is suggested. Scholarship assistance is available for individuals with financial need.

Space is limited. Interested participants are encouraged to register by September 22, 2026 by contacting Elise Bovy at 319-874-6892 or ebovy@nei3a.org.

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College News

Hawkeye Community College Announces Spring Graduates

WATERLOO—The following are Hawkeye Community College spring semester graduates and their programs of study.

Readlyn: Reagan Barnes, Marketing Management, Associate of Applied Science; Drea Behnke, Practical Nursing, Diploma, High Honors; Hannah Davis, Early Childhood Education, Diploma; Braden Strottmann, Diesel Technology, Associate of Applied Science, Honors.

Fairbank: Jack Jans, Industrial Automation Technology, Associate of Applied Science, High Honors; Dayton Jergens, CNC Machining & Tool Making Technology, Associate of Applied Science, Honors; Brielle Parkes, Civil and Construction Engineering Technology, Associate of Applied Science; Noah Richards, Ag Business Management, Associate of Applied Science, High Honors; Timothy Seemann, Liberal Arts, Associate of Arts, High Honors.

Honors go to students with a grade point average of 3.5-3.74. High Honors is awarded to those with a GPA of 3.75-3.99.

Allen College-UnityPoint Health Names Students to Dean's List

WATERLOO, Iowa – The administration and faculty of Allen College are pleased to congratulate students named to the Allen College Dean's List at the completion of the fall semester of the 2025 - 2026 academic year.

Lucas M. Boyle of Readlyn, studying for an Associate of Science degree, was named to the list.

Bachelor and associate students named to the Allen College Dean's List must complete at least 12 semester hours and achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Upper Iowa Students Awarded Over \$500,000 in Scholarships

FAYETTE, IA -- Upper Iowa University (UIU) celebrated academic excellence during its annual Honors & Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 11, at the Fayette Campus. More than \$500,000 in scholarships were awarded through 252 individual recognitions. These funds will support students during the 2026-2027 academic year.

Receiving awards from this area were Kate Risse and Mason Harter, both of Fairbank.

Scholarship recipients were selected based on a range of criteria, including academic achievement, financial need, leadership, and campus involvement.

HCC Fall 2025 Dean's List

WATERLOO—Hawkeye Community College announces the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. The Dean's List is an official recognition of outstanding academic accomplishment by full-time students. To make the Dean's List, an individual must be a full-time student and successfully complete 12 or more credits in the fall or spring semesters with a semester GPA of 3.50 or better for courses taken at Hawkeye.

Named to the list were:

Fairbank: Timothy Seemann, Noah Richards, Addison Hershey, Kanen Decker, Jacob Schoer, Dayton Jergens, Ian Buzynski, Jack Jans, MaKenna French, Mason Michels, Lydia Stuber.

Readlyn: Kelly Bockholt, Cannon Joerger, Braden Strottmann, Avery Jones.

Commencement Recognition Class of 2026

PELLA, IA -- Central College recognized 251 graduates during Commencement 2026 on May 16 in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium on Central's campus.

Ronald Wilcox of Readlyn graduated with a major in Computer Science and minor in Music.

Gunner Meyer of Fairbank graduated with a major in Psychology.

Upper Iowa University announces Fall 2025 graduates

FAYETTE, IA-- Upper Iowa University is pleased to announce the names of its Fall 2025 graduates.

Fairbank: Blayde Bellis, Joshua Schares

Readlyn: Lydia Imbrogno, Keisha Pullin

Morningside University releases Fall Dean's List

SIOUX CITY, Iowa - Morningside University Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Chris Spicer announced the 472 students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

Lily Schwickerath of Readlyn was named to the list.

The Dean's List recognizes Morningside students who achieve a 3.67-grade point average or better and complete at least 12 credits of coursework with no grade below a "C-."

Upper Iowa University announces Fall Dean's List

FAYETTE, IA -- Upper Iowa University has announced the Dean's List for the 2025 Fall Semester. To be honored, a student must have earned a minimum 3.50 grade point average and be enrolled as a full-time student.

Named to the list were Keisha Pullin of Readlyn and Kate Risse of Fairbank.

Kirkwood Community College graduates announced

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – The 2026 Kirkwood Community College Commencement Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 9, at 10 a.m. at the Alliant Energy PowerHouse in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Austin Eldridge of Readlyn earned an Associate of Applied Science and a Certificate.

Spring 2026 Dean's List

PELLA, IA-- Each semester, Central College recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement by naming them to the Dean's List. This distinction is reserved for those who have earned a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 graded credit hours.

Named to this list from Fairbank were Peyton Curley and Drew Lansing.

Hawkeye Community College Announces Spring Dean's List

WATERLOO—Hawkeye Community College announces the Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester. Named to the list were:

Fairbank: Kylee Becker, Kanen Decker, MaKenna French, Addison Hershey, Jack Jans, Dayton Jergens, Joshua Leistikow, Mason Michels, Jacob Schoer, Lydia Stuber

Readlyn: Gabbrealle Allen, Kelly

Bockholt, Cannon Joerger, Avery Jones, Rachel Scribner, Braden Strottmann

To make the Dean's List, an individual must be a full-time student and successfully complete 12 or more credits in the fall or spring semesters with a semester GPA of 3.50 or better for courses taken at Hawkeye.

507 Wartburg students named to Winter/May Term Dean's List

WAVERLY, IA -- Wartburg College has recognized 507 students who were named to the 2026 Winter/May Term Dean's List.

Those earning Dean's List honors include Gabriel Matthias of Readlyn and Ella Weepie of Fairbank.

The list honors students who earned a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or above in at least five course credits during the terms. Four of the five course credits have to be graded with a traditional letter grade.

Wartburg students take four courses during Winter Term, which runs from January through April, and one course during the one-month May Term.

Allen College-UnityPoint Health Names Students to Dean's List

WATERLOO, Iowa – The administration and faculty of Allen College are pleased to congratulate students named to the Allen College Dean's List at the completion of the spring semester of the 2025 - 2026 academic year.

Bachelor and Associate degree students named to the Allen College Dean's List must complete at least 12 semester hours and achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Named to the list were:

Hailey E. Eitzenhefer, Associate of Science in Radiography, Readlyn.

Lucas M. Boyle, Associate of Science in Radiography, Readlyn.

UNI recognizes students on Spring 2026 graduation and dean's lists

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The University of Northern Iowa is pleased to celebrate the academic achievements of students named to the spring 2026 graduation and dean's lists.

Students named to the dean's list demonstrated outstanding academic achievement by earning a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

Following are the UNI students from this area that were named to the dean's list:

Readlyn: Isabel LaRue, Casey O'Donnell, LeeAnn Oltrogge

Fairbank: Brody Clark-Hurlbert, Ashlyn Hyde, Benton Hyde, Chloe Kleinkessel, Parker Landsgard, Lexie Lansing, Olivia Oldfather, Jalynn Peterson, Ava VanDaele

The graduating students and their major area of study included:

Fairbank: Brody Clark-Hurlbert,

Bachelor of Arts, Management: Business Administration

Ashlyn Hyde, Bachelor of Arts, Communication Disorders

Parker Landsgard, Bachelor of Arts, Management: Business Administration

Kyle Zimmerman, Bachelor of Science, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology

Readlyn: Casey O'Donnell, Bachelor of Arts, Management: Business Administration, Supply Chain Management

University of Iowa announces dean's list for spring 2026

IOWA CITY, Iowa – The University of Iowa recognized more than 7,000 dean's list honorees following the 2026 spring semester.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students who achieved a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher during the spring semester are recognized by inclusion on the dean's list.

Named to the list were:

Caleb Schneider, Fairbank, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Bryce Smith, Fairbank, Tippie College of Business.

Upper Iowa announces Spring 2026 Dean's List

FAYETTE, IA -- Upper Iowa University has announced the Dean's List for the 2026 Spring Semester. To be honored, a student must have earned a minimum 3.50 grade point average and be enrolled as a full-time student.

Named to the list were McKyley Klenzman and Kate Risse of Fairbank and Dawson Schmit of Readlyn.

Celebration of Undergraduate Inquiry Participant

PELLA, IA-- Central College hosted the Celebration of Undergraduate Inquiry event to showcase the many projects by Central students during the 2025-26 academic year.

Participating in the CUI Day were:

Gunner Meyer of Fairbank; Presentation title: Wesley Life Wellness Intern.

Ronnie Wilcox of Readlyn; Presentation title: Your Dungeons and Dragons Guidebook: Making Tabletop Gaming Accessible.

Deadline for the Sept. 30 Readlyn Chronicle is Thursday, Sept. 17 at 5 PM



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Bonnie Piehl: September Yard of the Month continued from page 1



The chimes, which sound like church chimes, were a gift from her son, Darrin.



A nostalgic bench since this is where Kenny spent many hours as his health failed. After passing, Sonia Bast's daughter bequeathed the fish to Bonnie.



The sign in the middle is from their acreage. The wagon wheels, purchased many years ago at the Waverly Sales Barn, symbolically demonstrate Bonnie's love of horses. Finally, Darrin made the wishing well when he was employed as an electrician while working for Burton Thies.



After traveling to Texas to buy longhorn cattle, there was still room in the trailer for the two iron pieces adorning the back wall of the patio.

An advertisement for RTC Communications. On the left, a hand holds a tablet displaying a "NEWS" section with "BREAKING NEWS" and "Welcome to Smart Rural Communities". The "SMART RURAL COMMUNITY" logo is also visible. The background features a stylized rural scene with a barn, houses, trees, and a sun. The "RTC Communications" logo is prominently displayed in the center. A "SMART RURAL COMMUNITY" logo is in the bottom right corner.

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Presenting... Fat Albert! It's not supposed to get huge, but a backyard neighbor claims it is destined to happen.



After three attempts, Bonnie finally found a happy maple tree.



The barn birdhouse in the locust tree is another gift from Darrin. Spoiler alert: It's just for show; she doesn't use it to feed birds.



This flowering Red Barron Crabapple tree is one of the many trees all planted by Kenny and Bonnie.



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Wapsie Valley FCCLA Attends National Leadership Conference

By Delana Johnston,
FCCLA Officer

Excitement filled the air as Wapsie Valley FCCLA members traveled to the National Leadership Conference! It was an unforgettable experience filled with STAR Events, meeting new friends from across the country, and making memories that will last a lifetime. Nationals was an opportunity to celebrate all of the hard work our members put into building skills, developing leadership, and representing our chapter. We are so proud of how far they have come!

It was a long journey from Iowa to Washington, D.C., but we made the road trip just as exciting as the destination. Along the way, our chapter stopped at several fun and unique landmarks. Our first stop was the famous Longaberger Basket Building! This one-of-a-kind building opened in 1997, stands

seven stories tall, and is known as one of the world's most unusual buildings. We enjoyed exploring the landmark, taking photos, and making memories before continuing our journey to our nation's capital.

Once we arrived in Washington, D.C., our chapter wasted no time exploring! We visited many historic memorials that honor the brave veterans who fought to protect our country, along with monuments dedicated to some of our nation's greatest presidents. We also enjoyed watching the Washington Nationals take on the Houston Astros in an exciting Major League Baseball game. Seeing these incredible landmarks and experiencing our nation's capital together made the trip even more special.

The highlight of the week was celebrating the success of our competitors! We are incredibly proud of Olivia and Jayden

(AI for Impact), Stella and Sophia (Repurpose and Redesign), Avery (Focus on Children), and Thomas, Ari, and Kylex (Promote and Publicize FCCLA). Every Wapsie Valley competitor earned a medal at the National Leadership Conference, an outstanding accomplishment that reflects their hard work, dedication, and commitment throughout the year. Congratulations to all of our members on an amazing Nationals experience!

Our chapter is already looking forward to next year's National Leadership Conference, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, from June 22-26, 2027. We can't wait to create even more memories, compete in STAR Events, and represent Wapsie Valley on the national stage once again. If you are interested in joining FCCLA this school year or would like to learn more about the opportuni-

ties FCCLA has to offer, please contact FCCLA Adviser Jenni

Gross. We'd love to have you join our chapter!



WV FCCLA — Front row, left to right, Avery Szurley, Olivia Suhr, Stella Auel, Sophia Hill; back row, Thomas Brown, Jayden Suhr, Reagan Szurley, Ari Behnke, Kylex Knight.



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FCCLA Chapter Participates in Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Members of the Wapsie Valley FCCLA chapter recently had the honor of participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. The experience was a memorable opportunity for students to pay tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States.

The chapter proudly donated a wreath, which was presented during the ceremony as a symbol of gratitude, honor, and remembrance for America's unknown service members. The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces and the

importance of preserving their legacy.

Leading the ceremony were Reagan Szurley, Olivia Suhr, Stella Auel, and Sophia Hill. The students respectfully participated in presenting the wreath and represented the chapter with professionalism and pride throughout the ceremony.

The remaining FCCLA chapter members attended the ceremony, joining visitors from across the country in witnessing this meaningful tradition. Their presence reflected FCCLA's commitment to leadership, service, patriotism, and community involvement.

Participating in the wreath-laying ceremony was an unforgettable experience

that allowed students to honor our nation's heroes while representing their school and community. The FCCLA chapter is grateful for the opportunity to take part in such

a significant event and will continue striving to uphold the organization's mission of developing leaders who make a difference in their families, careers, and communities.



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“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

“There are no shortcuts to anywhere worth going.”

- Beverly Sills, American opera singer

When I was growing up, I showed beef cattle at the Bremer County Fair and I had the time of my life. I dressed up in my nicest 4-H exhibitor shirt, jeans, and boots for my judging and I dressed down to my sh** kickers and barn clothes for chores and everything in between. Showing steers was one of the few places where it didn’t matter if you were male or female. It didn’t matter if you came from money or started from scratch. It didn’t matter if you were new to showing or in your final year. Everyone helped each other and we each had the same pursuit of growing, breaking and exhibiting an animal 10x your size (and making it look easy!).

I loved showing and competing at the fair.

Now, my kids have been involved for the last two years and are beginning to form their own friendships and memories and I have the pleasure of watching it all unfold from a different view. At one point over the summer, I asked them if they’re enjoying what it takes to show animals at the fair. It is a ton of work and if we are going to continue, I want it to be because THEY want to do it and not because I want them to do it. I expected a quick YES! But I got a lackluster “I don’t know...” My heart broke a little, but just like my work as an advisor, this is supposed to be about what is best for THEM. Not ME.



It made me pause and reflect on my own 4-H career from 20 years ago. While my memories are all so good to look back on, maybe I felt the same way my children do now when I was going through it. The more I pondered and talked to my Dad about it, I remembered I didn’t love every moment either. How quickly we forget...There are probably a million memories that involve bumps, bruises, blood, tears... but none of them come to mind when I look back at my experience. I see all the good that came from those lows and I appreciate what it has done within the four walls of my house, as well as the greater community we live in.

Looking back, I think my involvement in 4-H made it very easy for me to work as an advisor and put serving others ahead of serving myself. I think showing steers and working in the barns with other cattle people made me very stubborn and willing to be creative and persistent when I have a clear goal. (Also, I am more un-offendable ... listen to “what” is being said, not “how” they’re saying / yelling it at you! Ha!)

I think the connections I made outside of my own bubble of a school district have impacted who I am and who I want to be more than anything my immediate peers could have ever shown me. I think learning how to track purchases of animals, grain, etc. was a lesson that taught me respect for finance in a way that no classroom ever offered.

I think anything that focuses on our youth and our futures is the right thing to pour your time and energy into.

Everything worth having requires some level of discipline, stubbornness, and sacrifice. It doesn’t matter if you are trying to break a steer to show at the fair or if you are saving an extra 5-10% of your income to get better control of your future. Your goal is important and you deserve to be honest with yourself about what it takes. Some people can formulate and execute their goals and plans on their own... Some need a parent / coach / mentor / advisor to tell them “you don’t have to like it, we are going to do it anyway because it is what’s best for you.” If you want REAL advice and partnership from someone who has her hands literally in the dirt and her heart in the sun, please let us meet you where you are and get you where you want to be!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones



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READLYN OUTDOORS

By Eric Johnston

Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com



Iowa Bass Nation 10k

The month of August..... August is a great time of year for me — fall food plot seeding, great trail camera pictures, and it's the month of the year I get to fish and compete in the most bass tournaments of my season. This month, I'm going to break down a special tournament for me each year, the Iowa BASS Nation 10k.

As many of my loyal readers may know, I own and operate a bass tournament series, No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series. As you may imagine, with us now averaging over 100 teams per tournament, the fishing season is very busy for me and dampens my time to fish working on our series. However, each August I open my schedule to allow myself time to compete in some tournaments and fuel my competitive side.

As some of you may also remember, I co-founded NNPBS with lifelong friend, Adam Farmer. Adam has since moved on from NNPBS, but, each year, we make it a tradition to fish the Iowa BASS Nation 10k Tournament together.

The Iowa BASS Nation 10k Tournament is a team-style tournament held once a year in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin with first prize paying \$10,000 and paying down to 40th place with typically 130 to 140 teams competing. Going into this year's event held August 8, I really wanted to do well, as the previous tournaments I've fished this 2026 season have been lackluster at best. I decided to take a couple of days off work leading up to the event to practice and scout the conditions and where the fish were at.

As I drove up to our cabin Wednesday evening, my mind was on what type of structure and areas to find Mississippi River largemouth and smallmouth bass. I had struggled in a tournament the weekend before targeting rock structure with current, so I decided to change my approach. The river is extremely low this year as the corps of engineers are working on the lock and dam systems and are keeping water levels low by design for their projects. With the low water conditions, I decided to focus on sand points in the main channel with current on them and a slough nearby leading into backwater areas where the bass had spent their spring. My thought was they would have moved out toward the deeper channel as the water fell and would be staging on the shallow points near the deep water chasing bait fish.

As I pulled up to the first area with these ingredients Thursday morning, I fired a top water bait out ahead of the point and, after a couple short jerk and retrieve motions, big smallmouth bass

were chasing and "exploding" on my bait. I quickly caught one to determine the size and released it — a three-pound smallmouth bass.

I was excited to land on a spot that fast and started to think and look for areas similar. After a few more checked areas, I had a handful of great smallmouth bass spots. However ... when it comes to smallmouth bass, they are very nomadic. They can be here one minute and gone the next, so I knew I couldn't rely on them and decided to look for similar structure near known largemouth backwater areas for a more "reliable" bite.

I was quickly rewarded on the first area with "keeper" size largemouth. All bass on the Mississippi River must be 14 inches long to be scored in a tournament, so that's what I mean when I say "keeper." After a long practice day, I had 7 areas found that I felt produced good fish all caught on a top water bait and a lipless crank bait — a very solid pattern for a low Mississippi River.

Adam arrived to town Thursday evening and I excitedly relayed to him what I'd found through the day. The plan was to head south of Prairie in the morning together and try to find a handful of areas similar to add to our plan.

The morning dawned cloudy and windy, a big change from the previous day's sun and light breeze. As we ran sand points Friday morning, I began to get nervous as it was not working nearly as well as the previous day. We decided to exit the water early to prepare our equipment and attend the pre-tournament meeting. We talked things over and made the decision to stick to what I found Thursday as the conditions for Saturday would have weather much like Thursday had been.

In the meeting, we had hoped for an early boat take-off number as a lot of our areas were near take-off and we worried someone would beat us to them with the 140-boat field. We weren't so lucky in boat draw and got the 71st starting spot.

The Saturday morning alarm came early and we were headed to the ramp after a stop at Casey's for coffee. We eagerly awaited takeoff and, as 71 was called, we were on our way. As we arrived to where I wanted to start, no one was there and I became really excited as this area had been the best one I found for largemouth. We started casting and I immediately hooked up with a bass. As I battled it to the boat I realized it was short and released it.

After a few more casts, I started to realize something had changed with the area and the "reliable" largemouth didn't



seem to be there. After a half an hour, I looked at Adam and said let's move on to a smallmouth area, but I bet someone is already on it. As we raced to the spot, we were both very surprised to see no one around.

I hurried to the front of the boat, fired my topwater bait across the point and as soon as it hit the water a big smallmouth hammered it and the battle was on! I fought it to the boat as Adam netted it and our first keeper was in the live well! I immediately threw my bait back out there and hooked up again! "Number two!" I said to Adam as he put it in the live well. I fired a few more casts and eventually hooked up with number three in the well. But, as I stated earlier, as fast as smallmouth come ... they go ... and the area quickly turned cold.

I told Adam, "Let's roll," and went to the next area I had found. A couple quick casts with my top water and we had two more nice smallmouth in the live well for four fish.

In this tournament, we weigh our best five and, after a couple hours more of fishing, I began to worry it might be a struggle to get that fifth bass. Each largemouth area we stopped on held shorts or nothing at all. At about 10:30, Adam suggested we try a point we found on Friday. I was hesitant as we'd only had a couple bites there Friday, but I figured why not.

As we approached the point from the downstream side, I noticed a lot of scat-

tered rocks in sand with mats of eel grass growing in it. I said to Adam, "Let's fish this grass edge up to the point." My thought was the fish that had been up on the sand point early could've eased down the bank into a little deeper water and held in the cover of the grass.

Adam cast and immediately hooked up. I dropped my rod and netted his fish. As I picked my rod up, bait still laying out on the bottom, I noticed weight and set the hook! I had a fish on and got him to the boat! Adam's measured just short and mine was our fifth keeper!

Now with a limit in the boat we felt good! Adam did say, "Dang, you caught all five" and I gave him a little light ribbing. Soon after, he hooked up with a good one that upgraded our limit. We worked that area three passes, catching nine keepers on that stretch and building our limit.

Our check-in time was 2:30 p.m. and, as we idled our way to the weigh-in stage, we gave each other a fist bump and said, "No matter what the scales show we had a great day together!!"

The scale scored us at 12.03 pounds for our best five, good enough for 34th out of 140 and a check for our efforts!

It's always great to make the pay line at a tournament, but even more special to get it done with my lifelong friend, Adam! This is one I won't forget anytime soon and I look forward to fishing this one with Adam for many years to come.

Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!!

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Wapsie Valley School Board Meeting - July 22, 2026

**Wapsie Valley CSD
Regular School Board Meeting
July 22, 2026**

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:02 PM

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

B. Administration - Supt. Murphy, Board Secretary Arndt

C. Others Present: Tara Sullivan, Tina Kaufman, Jenni Gross, and virtual participants

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

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

4. Public Forum - Jenni Gross reported on the FCCLA Nationals trip to Washington D.C. Nine students participated, and all participants earned medals. She expressed appreciation to the two adults who assisted with chaperoning the trip.

5. Athletic Booster Club Track and Field Project - Hailey Broten (virtual) presented the athletic complex fundraising subcommittee report. Since April, the committee has received \$274,649 from 37 donors. One quote has been received from Henry Schwartz for construction of a storage building included in the original complex design. The subcommittee has contacted additional contractors but has not yet received further quotes. Plans are to approve the building's design and location at the August board meeting. A soft opening for donors is tentatively scheduled for September 3, with a grand opening planned for September 4 in conjunction with the first home event on the new football field. A community meal is also planned prior to the game.

6. Stadium Project Discussion - Supt. Murphy reported that he met with Cardinal Construction and the project remains on schedule for completion. The contractor recommended moving the excess dirt pile to the back corner of the athletic complex. The drainage issue is being addressed with installation of pipe and tile. Kaufman suggested using some of the excess dirt to fill the low area between the football and baseball field to help alleviate drainage concerns. Discussion was held regarding potential uses for the remaining contingency funds. Dan Wedemeier indicated a willingness to amend his mowing contract to include maintenance of the new turf.

7. Consent Items - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Angie Auel and the open enrollment as follows-Henry & Kayla Schwartz request to open enroll their kindergarten son to WV from Tripoli effective the 26-27 school year, Savannah Dudley-Hannan's request to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to West Central effective the 26-27 school year, Cassidy Duggan's request to open enroll her 1st grade daughter to Denver due to move effective the 26-27 school year. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Board - None.

Superintendent Murphy's report includes Legislative Updates, Facilities & Grounds Updates, & Summer cleaning.

9. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Wolfe, Sec-

onded by Auel to approve the resignation of Morgan Reinking-FB Associate, & Brady Weepie-JH Football and thank them for their service to the students, staff, and communities as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Contracts - Motion by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the contracts as presented: Jeremy Michael - Route/Shuttle and Activity Driver- \$30.02 per route (\$10,086.72), \$15.35 per shuttle, \$16.92 per hour while driving activity trips, \$25 per month/\$300 (cell annually); Morgan Reinking-Administrative Assistant-FB 14.20 P/H (\$23,856.00); Mentee-\$1,000/5 days-Corynn Downs, Jaylyn Gibbs, Daniel Davis, Jacob Gibbs, Maggie Theilen, Reese Balvanz, Marlene Thompson, Amber Whitney, & Jenni Cunningham; Mentor-\$1,250/5 days-Kate Nitz, Jacqueline Faust, Danny Adams, Melanie Curley, Kari Pleggenkuhle, Jaime Henning, & Jennifer Merdinger; Building Leadership Team-\$2,500/10 days-Jaime Henning, Jennifer Merdinger, Jenni Nuss, Jacqueline Faust, Kayla Ott, Jody Busch, Briana Hayward, Amy Stessman, & Jess Miller; Leader In Me- \$750/3 days-Heather Robinson & Amanda Bockholt; Leader In Me-\$1,066/3 days-Katelyn Cusick; Jenni Gross-\$1,640.00-FB Cheerleading Coach- Base 1/Year 2; Duane Foster-\$1,579.00-3 Strength & Conditioning-Base 2/Year 6 & \$4,737.00-Head Football Coach-Base 2/Year 6; Gunner Rodgers-\$1,530.67-3 Strength & Conditioning-Base 1/Year 2 & \$2,132.00-JH Football-Base 1/Year 2; Zane Sittig-\$1,530.67-3 Strength & Conditioning-Base 1/Year 2 & \$3,242.00-Assistant Football-Base 3/Year 14; Jacob Gibbs-\$3,280.00-Head Cross Country-Base 1/Year 0; Danny Adams-\$2,113.00-JH Cross Country-Base 2/Year 7; Katelyn Cusick-\$2,230.00-Assistant Cross Country-Base 1/Year 1; JD Stover-\$2,952.00- Assistant Football-Base 1/Year 2; Cody Jones-\$3,387.00-Assistant Football-Base 4/Year 17; Brady Weepie-\$2,952.00-Assistant Football-Base 1/Year 0; Austin Shepherd-\$3,425.00-Head Volleyball Coach-Base 2/Year 6; Peyton Parker-\$2,230.00-Assistant Volleyball-Base 1/Year 3; Heather Robinson-\$2,403.00-JH Volleyball-Base 4/Year 17; Liz Bergman-\$2,113.00-JH Volleyball-Base 2/Year 8. Motion carried 4-0.

Addendum - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the addendum for Corynn Downs-Elementary Counselor-BA+30, Step 1 to MA, Step 1 (\$54,197.26) effective September 18, 2026. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Old Business-Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the 26-27 WV Activities/Coaches Handbook with updated language as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve Board Policy 203 to allow board members to receive district compensation for goods, services, or temporary employment, provided the benefit does not exceed \$20,000 per fiscal year or the contract is awarded through public competitive bidding as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

11. New Business-Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 26-27 School Resource Officer Agreement as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the 26-27 CAPS Agreement for use of facilities at Readlyn Telephone Company as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve

the updated language recommendations for Board Policies: 201, 210.05, 401.01, 401.13, 409.02, 501.15, 502.03, 503.01, 503.11, 504.06, 507.02, 603.01, 604.01, 604.03, 604.05, 605.04, 607.01, 705.05, 706.04, 707.01, 804.5, 901 as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve Rural 2 flooring quote from Walvatne Floor Covering (\$11,516.68) as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 26-27 Service Agreement with Hawkeye CC as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Trueg sidewalk quote for softball/baseball complex (\$11,720) as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Doese Photography's request to amend their contract to remove sport/activity services effective the 26-27 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve Tara Sullivan as Board Secretary/Treasurer effective 8/1/26 as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

12. Board Talking Points-Thank you to the WV Athletic Booster's subcommittee for supporting Wapsie Valley with the athletic complex upgrades. The board discussed relocating the large rock discovered during construction to the entrance of the athletic complex for use as a landscaping feature and potential athletic tradition for participants entering the facility.

13. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn at 7:12 PM. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully, *Kim Arndt*

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