



This little goat was less than one day old at the Grump Days Petting Zoo! See more photos of the event in this issue.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 14

Readlyn Community Club's
**Community Picnic & school
supply collection, 11:30 a.m.**

Look for details in the *Readlyn Chronicle's* August edition.



Update on the New Readlyn Emergency Services Building: Fundraising Progress and Upcoming Events

The momentum continues to build—both literally and figuratively—as our community rallies together in support of the new Emergency Services Building project. Thanks to the incredible generosity of local residents, businesses, and volunteers, we are making steady progress toward our fundraising goals. Here's a look at where we currently stand and what's coming next.

Fundraising Progress

As of this month, we've raised \$408,000 of our total goal. These funds are earmarked for construction, equipment upgrades, and critical infrastructure that will allow our fire, EMS, and emergency response teams to serve the community more efficiently and safely. Every dollar brings us closer to breaking ground and making this much-needed facility a reality.

Recent Events

Over the past few months, several suc-

cessful events have helped raise both funds and awareness:

- Car Wash and Bake Sale - In May, we did a car wash and bake sale - the weather was great, cars sparkled, and treats were tasty. We raised a little over \$3,000!

What's Coming Up

We're not slowing down anytime soon. Here's what to watch for in the coming months:

- Bremer Co Fair - July 27 - Aug. 2- We will have a table set up in the 4-H building selling 50/50 raffle tickets that we will draw for the winner at Combine Demo Friday night of fair. Tickets will also be for sale at the gate during the Combine Demo Derby. No need to be present to win! Come check out the new fairgrounds and stop by our table!

- Pork Dinner- Aug 7 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. The food was so good last year we thought

we needed to do this again! Pork dinner at the station - free-will offering!

How You Can Help

Whether through donations, event participation, or simply spreading the word, your involvement matters. If you'd like to volunteer, sponsor an event, or make a contribution, please reach out to Scott Broten via cell at 319-240-5704, via email at ReadlynFire@gmail.com or on Facebook via the Readlyn Fire Department page.

Together, we are building more than just a facility—we're building a safer, stronger future for our entire community. Thank you for standing with us every step of the way.

Thanks to our recent donors: In Memory of Galen Nuss, Mark McElhose, Tamara Bailey, Jonathan & Jennifer Jaschen, John & Megan Schutte, The Outpost (Oran), Todd & Jessi Block, Brian & Brenda Meyer Family Fund.



New Grump Mary Lou Ungs (left) is pictured with Emily and Todd Briddle, 331 Lobeck, August's Yard of the Month winners.

August Yard of the Month

Entering Readlyn from the north on Lobeck Avenue you are soon greeted by August's Yard of the Month. As featured in the pictures, Todd and Emily Briddle's landscaping combines a plethora of flowers and yard art all attractively arranged.

Maintaining this amazing yard requires a lot of dedication. Each spring they haul in three truckloads of mulch. Watering? Even though Todd

has installed underground sprinklers, Emily uses one of many hoses to water in the evening.

Purchasing yard art and flowers is an ongoing passion. Nearly any trip they take involves collecting items to further enhance their yard as seen in the picture at left.

Todd and Emily would like to thank Weeds on Fire for offering an award that recognizes the efforts of those who take time to beautify Readlyn.



Entering the backyard.



A great place to relax in the evening.



A washer that's been in Todd's family forever.



An amazing fire pit.



The Briddles have done all of the remodeling themselves including this gazebo.



The attractive pergola.

See more photos of this Yard of the Month on Page 8.

Grump's Grumblings

By Mary Lou Ungs, 2025 Grump



First of all, I am enjoying being your Grump! I really appreciated all the people who took the time to congratulate me, even if I didn't know them. Please keep doing that.

I love meeting new people. I have been in 4 parades already! The Community Club did an awesome job at Grump Days. All the events were fantastic! Everyone seemed to be having a good time. Thanks to the many volunteers that made that hap-

pen. We can always use more volunteers so if you want to meet more people, please join us at our meetings.

I would love to make this the year of the volunteer! If you can't come to the meetings, keep track of events in the *Chronicle*. If you have an event and wish to share it, the *Chronicle* is a great way to do it.

Keep cool this summer! Enjoy the splash pad.

Deadline for the August 27 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., August 14 at 5 PM - Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

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How to get involved:

- Sponsor an event
- Volunteer to help at events
- Attend meetings (Announced in the minutes in the *Chronicle*.)

REMINDER: You received a letter; have you responded? Membership fees go a long way to sponsor the many RCC events throughout the year. Have you joined for just \$30 per member?



By Kylie Strottmann

Miss Readlyn Comments

Hello, Readlyn Community!

I am truly honored and excited to represent our town as your 2025 Miss Readlyn. Having lived on a farm my whole life, I've developed a deep appreciation for hard work, community values, and the rural way of life that makes Readlyn so special. I have several ideas to help engage both the community and local youth, and I look forward to sharing them with you throughout the year. For those who don't know me, my family has been a part of the Readlyn community for a long time. My great-grandpa Sauerbrei was the Grump in 1997—he loved giving back to the community and was someone I always looked up to. I am a dancer at The Studio By Alyssa in Waverly and will continue pursuing my passion for FFA as I serve as a Wapsie Valley FFA Officer.

The rest of the summer you will find me keeping busy by babysitting, working on a college course, and participating in various FFA events. I will also be participating in a variety of weekend parades representing the town of Readlyn and am thrilled to be running for the title of Bremer County Fair Queen.

During the school year, I will remain active at The Studio by Alyssa, where I work and dance. In the fall, I'll be enrolled in six college-level courses, which will keep me academically engaged. Additionally, I'm proud to be a participant in the Silver Cord program at Wapsie Valley and to serve as the 2025–2026 Vice President of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter.

Thank you for your support—I'm looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

-2025 Miss Readlyn, Kylie Strottmann

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Esther Pooock to note 100th birthday with open house Sunday, August 3 at Zion



Esther Pooock

Esther Pooock will celebrate her 100th birthday on August 5, 2025. She was born on August 5, 1925, on the family farm in rural Readlyn, the daughter of Ernest and Ida (Pape) Moeller. Esther and her late husband, Harold, lived on the farm for many years. Her family includes Steve (Liz) Pooock, Readlyn and Sandy (Matthew) Wells, Ocala, FL. A public open house will be held August 3 at the Zion Lutheran Church, 240 Elmer Avenue, Readlyn from 2-4 p.m. Esther requests no gifts.

Pavelec Family Reunion Held in Readlyn

The 30th Annual Ed and Louisa Pavelec Family Reunion was held Sunday, July 13, 2025 at the Readlyn City Park, Readlyn. Attendees enjoyed a noon potluck with 19 family members present from Readlyn, Waterloo, Janesville, New Hartford, Denver, Cedar Falls, Williamsburg, and New Ulm, Minnesota. The oldest family member was Verdeen Pavelec, 90, of Denver and the youngest family member was Elijah Pavelec, 9, son of Craig and Bailie Pavelec of Readlyn. Traveling the longest distance was DeAnn Frederick of New Ulm, Minnesota. Verdeen Pavelec of Denver hosted, along with her children.

Grump Days Pepper Tournament Results

The pepper tournament was held in the city park gazebo on Friday, June 13. The winners and their scores were: 1st: Sean VanNatta and Coty Albers - 174 2nd: Roger and Connie Buhr - 166 3rd: Suzy Heineman and Shirley Kuker- 160 4th: Doris Hagenow and Therese Schumacher - 125 Thanks for playing! See you in the fall! Judy Henn and Shirley Kuker

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Back to School

The Readlyn Savings Bank is hosting a school supply drive to donate to our local schools!

- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Notebooks
- Composition books
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- Crayons
- Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Scissors
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- Elmers Glue
- Waterpaints
- Erasers
- Headphones
- Pencil Box/Bag
- Tissues
- Cleaning Wipes
- Wet Wipes
- Paper Towels


Donations can be dropped off in the Readlyn Savings Bank lobby until August 22nd at 12 P.M.



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Summer Fun!

We've had so much fun at our Summer Reading Programs this year! Thank you to all our presenters and attendees!



MARIOKART TOURNAMENT



We couldn't fit it in as a Summer Reading Program, but you asked for one anyway! Here's your chance to challenge your friends! This event begins at 11:00 am in a challenge format. Please join us! Some snacks and drinks will be provided.

FRIDAY. AUGUST 1 AT 1:00 PM

Wasn't it Yesterday Her Hands Could See

Go to the national news, anytime, any day of the week and you're going to be face-to-face with destruction, heartache, and depression. Well, I've decided, that's not going to be the case today.



By J.D. Francis

That train is coming off the tracks. I have made the necessary arrangements, that if you go to the *Readlyn Chronicle* newspaper this month, you'll have before you, a feel-good story. Lord knows, we can all use a feel-good story.

I want to take you back to June 20, 1975, in Norfolk Virginia. Entertainer extraordinaire, Elvis Presley, was performing an afternoon show in concert. After finishing a song, Elvis began joking with his bandmates, as he often did. Suddenly, he noticed a little girl off to the left side of the stage. He stopped the show in front of 12,000 fans and walked over to the little girl and her mother. He knelt down to her eye-level and he could see that she was totally blind. Elvis held his microphone to his side so the audience couldn't hear his words to her. Eventually, he took the red scarf from his neck, kissed it, and touched her blind eyes with it. He then wrapped and tied the scarf neatly around her neck.

The little girl told Elvis that she listens to his songs every night before she goes to bed. Elvis responded by telling her, "I've had a lot of accolades, awards, and many

good things said about me, but none of that matters. What I mean to you is all that really matters to me right now."

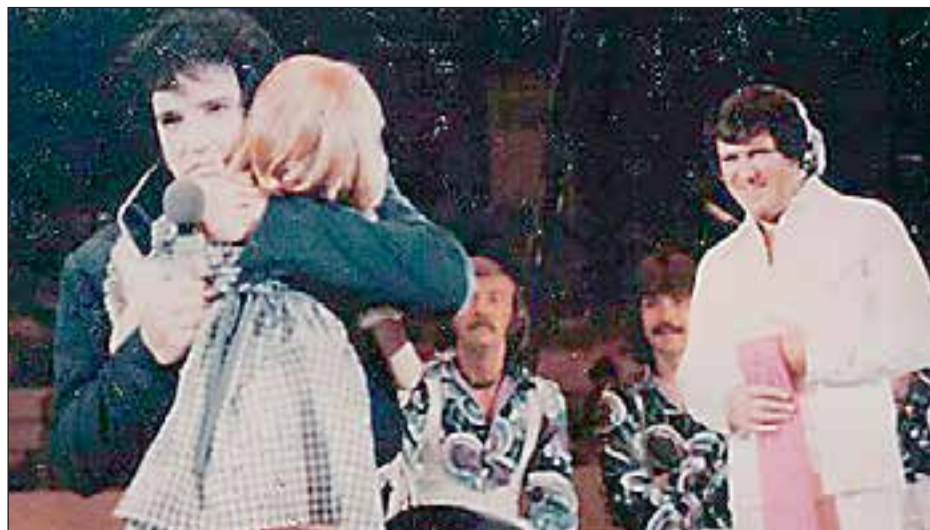
The blind girl asked if she could rub her hands over Elvis Presley's face. "My mother says that you are the most beautifully handsome person and I'd like to feel your face to see you," the little girl said. "You sure can," Elvis replied. "I want you to know, that it would only be a waste of your time, because it's you that has the most beautiful face I have ever seen. If you want to feel or see beautiful, you need only to touch your own face," Elvis added.

"Do you really mean that, Mr. Elvis?" the blind girl asked. "I sure do, and as a matter of fact, I'd like your autograph to always remind me that I have met the most beautiful person there is," Elvis said.

After his conversation with the little blind girl, Elvis hugged her tight and continued on with his show. After the concert, Elvis contacted his right-hand man, Joe Esposito, and asked him to tell the little girl's family that he will always be there for them. He handed Esposito a check for \$50,000 to give to the family. Further, he arranged air fare, concert tickets, and all accommodations for the family, for every show he performed from that point on, until his passing.

Elvis Presley had a God-given talent and a far greater, generous heart. He stopped his show of 12,000 fans for one little, blind girl, so that, if only for a moment, she had vision to see beyond what her young heart could only feel.

jdfrantpaint@msn.com



Readlyn Historical Society Meeting

June 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Ron Leistikow, Judy Henn, Shirley Kuker, Janet Huebner

President Ron called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. The secretary's and treasurer's report was given by Janet.

No Old Business was identified.

The following New Business was discussed:

- Review the new logo made for us by Connie Wedemeier (Larry) from Oran. It is being used for marketing purposes and Facebook.

- An object entry form was reviewed and discussed. The purpose of the form is to ensure all pertinent information is collected at the time of receiving items including the donor's contact information and if the item is being donated or on loan. The form was approved to be used going forward.

- The Collections List has been entered into Google Docs as a backup and an easier way to find items in our museum.

- Programming:

- A number of visitors have toured the Museum including classes from Community Lutheran School. Thank-yous from the stu-

dents were reviewed.

- In partnership with the Readlyn Library, the author Linda McCann was hosted at the end of February at the Library. Ms. McCann gave a presentation regarding topics specific to Bremer County and the museum was open for tours. Another event is in the works with the Readlyn Library for possibly this fall.

- A brochure was created to display at the Bremer County annual meeting and the Bremer County Creameries presentation given by Larry Pavelec at the end of June.

- Museum Maintenance

- The City of Readlyn maintenance staff repaired the ceiling of the main building in mid-May.

- Both buildings were cleaned on May 24.

- A request was made to hire Drew Sauerbrei to wash the windows in both buildings. This request passed.

- A suggestion was made to consider new window blinds in the main building entry area at some time in the next 1-2 years.

- The Annual Ice Cream Social was scheduled for Sunday, August 10 from 4-6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Huebner, Secretary

Senior Citizens meet on June 18

On June 18, 2025, twenty members attended the 11:30 a.m. Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Panther Lanes in Tripoli, IA. We were served a very wonderful meal. The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow after our meal. We all welcomed our new Grump for 2025, Mary Lou Ungs, who joined the Readlyn Senior Citizens. Mary Lou spoke and is honored to be the new Grump representing Readlyn.

The birthday celebrated for the month of June was Roger Deterding, turning 87 years young. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to him. There were two anniversaries celebrated for the month of June: Roger and Marlys Deterding and Don and Marylou Billhorn. We all sang "Happy Anniversary" to both the couples. Congratulations to both couples!

We all signed a get-well card for Don Heineman as he had fallen and is recuperating at home.

Charlie Albrecht had fallen also and had some back issues, but he was at the meeting and we were all glad to see him up and walking.

The secretary's report for May 21, 2025 was read by Lois Thacher. Roland Schmidt made a motion to approve the notes as read. Wilda Albrecht seconded it. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht. The balance in the account after expenses was \$134.00. Judy Leistikow made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Roger Deterding seconded it. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The group discussed the Grump Days Parade, minnow races, balloon man, bingo, fireworks and the Sunday Worship in the Park. Everyone enjoyed the celebration. Thank you to everyone involved that made it a wonderful event. Previous Grumps rode in the parade this year as a total of 9 out of the 16 Grumps.

NEW BUSINESS: The Summer

Reading Program kicked off June 4 and runs through July 25, 2025 at the Readlyn Community Library. This year for prizes they will be giving away FREE BOOKS! Every child attending should be receiving a book before July 25, the last day.

Open house at the Readlyn Veterinary Clinic is June 25 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The clinic has been newly remodeled. Lunch and malts will be provided.

The Readlyn Savings Bank will be serving malts on June 25.

Larry Pavelec spoke about the upcoming Historical Ag Event Sunday, June 29 at 1:30 p.m. at the IA State Extension and Outreach Building in Tripoli. Larry Pavelec will be the guest speaker talking about all the old creameries that are still standing. Larry stated he visited 42 creamery buildings. Admission will be \$5 at the door. Each person will receive a map showing the locations of all the buildings.

The next Senior Citizens meeting will be July 16, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at the Panther Lanes in Tripoli. Marlys Deterding made a motion to adjourn and Millie Crawford seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

We played bingo after our meal and meeting. The first winner of traditional bingo was Larry Pavelec. He won two scratch tickets donated by Lois Thacher. Larry Pavelec won the second traditional bingo and he forfeited his win and let someone else have a bingo. Larry Ladage won the second bingo and received two scratch tickets donated by Lois Thacher. Millie Crawford won the 3rd traditional bingo and she received a 4th of July gnome and a scratch ticket donated by Lois Thacher. The blackout winners were Judy Henn who received a gift card to Kwik Star donated by Don and Marylou Billhorn. Charlie Albrecht was the second winner of the blackout bingo and he won a gift card to Tripoli Panther Lanes.

Lois Thacher, Secretary

Come join the fun!

College News

Upper Iowa Students Awarded Over \$432,000 in Scholarships

FAYETTE, IA -- Upper Iowa University (UIU) celebrated academic excellence during its annual Honors & Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 12, at the Fayette Campus. More than \$432,000 in scholarships were awarded through 212 individual recognitions. Financial support will be distributed to students during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Scholarship recipients were selected based on a variety of criteria, including academic merit, financial need, leadership, and student involvement. Over 4,000 currently enrolled undergraduate students who meet the Honors & Awards Program criteria were considered. In addition, UIU offers several scholarship opportunities for incoming freshmen, helping future Peacock students get a strong start in their academic journey.

Blayne Bellis of Fairbank was awarded the Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation Scholarship.

Dawson Schmit of Readlyn was awarded the Andres Business Scholarship & Roger & Alice Mangan Wrestling Scholarship.

Joshua Schares of Fairbank was awarded the Lloyd Pleggenkuhle Memorial Scholarship.

Central College Student Scholarship Recognition

PELLA, IA -- Central College students were recognized during the annual Scholarship Dinner for scholarships earned and applied to the 2024-25 academic year.

Gunner Meyer of Fairbank received the James J. Naccarato Scholarship, Journey Scholarship Fund and Richard Morton Root & Ruth Bailey Root Revolving Student Loan. Meyer is a member of the Class of 2026.

Ronald Wilcox of Readlyn received the

Journey Scholarship Fund and Lillian Waalkes Music Scholarship. Wilcox is a member of the Class of 2026.

HCC Announces Spring 2025 Graduates

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

Readlyn: Brayton Kohl, Liberal Arts; Brenda Severson Meyer, Digital Mass Media, Presidential Honors (4.0 GPA).

Fairbank: Gage Brandt, Natural Resources Management; Benton Hyde, Marketing Management; Jack Jans, Industrial Equipment Maintenance, High Honors (3.75-3.99 GPA); Dayton Jergens, CNC Machine Set-Up Specialist; Gavin Leistikow, Industrial Automation Technology, Honors (3.5-3.74 GPA); Madison Mullihan, Liberal Arts, High Honors; Kate Risse, Liberal Arts, Presidential Honors (4.0 GPA); Kane Schmitz, Marketing Management.

UIU announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

FAYETTE, IA -- Upper Iowa University has announced the Dean's List for the 2025 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.

Area students named to the list were:

Readlyn: Lydia Imbrogno, Clint Munk, Dawson Schmit

Fairbank: Hunter Kane

Area student graduates from Allen College

WATERLOO, Iowa -- Elly Schares of Fairbank received an Associate of Science in Radiography from Allen College at its graduation ceremony at the Waterloo Convention Center on Friday, May 9, 2025. The ceremony celebrated graduates from both the School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences.



Wapsie Valley FFA hard at work

Wapsie Valley FFA was hard at work this year for the Readlyn Grump Days held on June 13 and 14.

A few of our chapter members helped host the meal at the Golf Tournament during the Friday of Grump Days. The members got the opportunity to serve our community members with a delicious meal after a long morning on the golf course.

The annual kiddie pedal pull was held from 5-6 p.m. Friday night. We had an amazing turnout this year, with around 45 kids who participated. The pedal pull is held for ages 4-11.

We had six of our members as escorts for Miss Readlyn, and three candidates. Kylie Strottmann, Chapter Vice President,

Wapsie Valley FFA members held the annual kiddie pedal pull at Grump Days (left, top).

Members of the FFA escorted the Miss Readlyn candidates during the Grump Days event. They included, left to right, bottom photo, Tate Wilkinson, Eric Bryan, Jack Munk, Andrew Matthias and Cole Munk. Photos contributed

was named Miss Readlyn, and the chapter is incredibly proud of her achievement. She will represent the town of Readlyn wonderfully. Claire O'Donnell, Chapter Reporter, came in at a close second as runner up this year. Gwen Forsyth, Chapter Sentinel, was named Miss Congeniality. We are happy to have such amazing members who represent our community well!

Saturday was another busy day for our members. The chapter held a food stand from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. We served ribeye sandwiches, hamburgers, chips, and drinks. We had around 10 members who helped serve and prepare the food. The parent volunteers also helped the stand run smoothly; we greatly appreciate their help!

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

Rainbow Clovers 4-H

January

Written by: Emersyn Powell



Shrinky Dink presentation by Carver and Carrisa Jones



Violin presentation by Breanna Wenger



Presentation on tying fishing line by Cole Wehling



Rhett Wenger's presentation on Nerf guns



Mounting a skull presented by Reid Kleitsch



Bennett Strottmann's presentation on feeding a bottle calf



Calvin Jones giving a hunting presentation



Evan Kleitsch's presentation



Keegan Strottmann's Presentation on Mad Cow Disease



Corbin Novak's howto grow a tree presentation

March

Omelet Breakfast



Coral & Corbin Novak, Cole Wehling, Ashlynn & Bennett Strottmann, and Emersyn Powell volunteered at the 4-H breakfast

April



Emersyn Powell's presentation on egg decorating



Coral Novak gave a presentation on tagging rabbits

June



Will Kuker's presentation on making a wooden sign



Rainbow Clovers in the Grump Days parade

College News

2025 Spring Semester

President's List Announced

IOWA CITY, IA -- More than 1,250 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the president's list for the 2025 spring semester.

Named to the list was Bryce Smith of Fairbank.

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 2024 - 2025 academic year.

Named to the list was Elly Schares of Fairbank, Associate degree in Radiography.

Bachelor's and Associate's 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.

Iowa State honors spring graduates

AMES, Iowa - Nearly 4,600 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this spring. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held May 15-17.

Dallas Ray Wittenburg of Readlyn earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, graduating Cum Laude.

UW-Platteville announces Dean's List

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.-The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned a grade-point average of 3.75 and above in the spring 2025 semester.

On the Dean's List from Readlyn is Hannah Knight, Bachelor of Science in Biology and Forensic Investigation.

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

WAVERLY, IA -- Wartburg College has recognized 501 students who were named the 2025 Winter/May Term Dean's List.

Those honored include Chloe Rehmert and Ella Weepie both of Fairbank.

Annual Ice Cream Social

Hosted by the
Readlyn Historical Society

Sunday, August 10, 2025

4-6 p.m.

At the
Readlyn Historical
Society Museum

25 cents per
ice cream sundae.

Enjoy tours of
Both museum buildings!



Readlyn Night with the Bucks

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

GATES OPEN @ 6:00 PM - FIRST PITCH @ 6:35 PM



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*click "SELECT SEATS"

*pick the Reserved Seats (Sections A through M) of your choice

*click "VIEW CART"

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August Yard of the Month

Continued from Page 1



The chimes are in memory of Todd's father; the cardinal was Emily's mother's.



The deer represents their favorite hobby.



The door is one of Emily's many thrift bargains.



The tree in the background was home to two white owls last fall.



A few amazing thrift store finds!



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HIGHLIGHTS

from Readlyn Grump Days 2025



2025 Grump Mary Lou Ungs, left, is congratulated by outgoing 2024 Grump Bonnie Wittenburg.



There were around 65 participants playing Bingo. They were from Readlyn, Northwood, Tripoli, Sumner, Denver, etc. The youngest winner was 5 years old. Thanks to John and Wendy for doing the Bingo calling.



Readlyn Elementary received a plaque in recognition of their ranking 3rd in the State of Iowa for proficiency skills.



McKenzie and Cassie working the theme. Cassie on the right submitted our theme of "Good Vibes in '25."



Nine of the sixteen former Grumps rode on the Grump wagon driven by Paul Leistikow. They are Bonnie Wittenburg, Larry Sauerbrei, Roger Deterding, Marlys Deterding, Charlie Albrecht, Verdeen Pavelac, Larry Pavelac, Don Billhorn and Larry Ladage.

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HIGHLIGHTS

from Readlyn Grump Days 2025



HIGHLIGHTS

from Readlyn Grump Days 2025



Congratulations to Readlyn's 2025 L'il Grumpsters, Toma Slaubaugh and Gabriel Happel (they are the two wearing crowns!).





“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

Can you believe football is almost here again?!

While football season is easy to love, it is also the most challenging part of our year as a family. We go from an empty schedule of careless fun in the sun to bedtimes, schedules, routines, school, practices, and all the emotions that come with the changes.

Cody coaches our beloved Warriors – practice is 5 days a week & watching film is never done. Calvin & Carver play in their own flag football leagues on separate teams.

Carissa is yet to decide if she wants to get in the action – but will have a busy fall along my side chasing everyone around regardless. As we do every year, we will survive it by embracing the chaos! So much of what we learn in sports and in coaching translates to what I do as an advisor every day so I look forward to the adversity to happen and the lessons to learn.



“You think you know the game—until you see it through the eyes of a coach. As a player, you focus on your assignment, your performance, your moment.

But coaches? They’re watching everything. Planning. Teaching. Showing up—always—so we can succeed. Their dedication goes far beyond game day. It’s film sessions, early mornings, hard truths, and belief when we don’t believe in ourselves.”

- former NFL Linebacker, current Offensive Asst. Coach, Ryan Shazier

In my 3.5 years as an advisor, I have always said this is way more of a COACHING job than it is a career in financial literacy. A coach has to get to know his players. Understand how they learn. Find a way to connect. Be able to see their potential and find a way to draw that out of them... sometimes on a short time schedule of only a few months.

My prospects and clients have goals that are just like this. They may never experience playing in a Superbowl in the literal form, but their Superbowl might be retiring early. Or gifting to charity. Or helping their children buy their first home. Everyone has ambitions and optimistic hopes for the future – but not everyone knows the best playbook to get there.

Getting to know a prospect and deciding whether or not to take them on as a client is just as important to me as a coach recruiting their starting QB. Onboarding someone for the wrong reasons results in frustrations for both sides. Honesty is the best policy for all parties. Some just “show up at practice & do the bare minimum”. Investors like this are hard to help. You have to care more about your future than your advisor does. Some have been lifting and practicing and doing reps on their own all off-season without being told. No matter who they play or what the score is, they’ll stay optimistic and rise to the occasion and leave every ounce of effort on the field. Obviously, an investor like this is much easier to serve – they know exactly what they want and they are willing to do what it takes to get there. Some are even “do-it-yourselfers” and do an amazing, efficient job being self-taught.

Then there is a middle ground where people want good things for themselves and their communities, and they’re willing to do the work to get there... they just don’t know exactly how to put their visions into play. People like this need and appreciate a coach for their guidance and mentorship along the way. This is the common prospect type that comes across my desk. They’re great people that have worked hard for what they have. They genuinely want to have a partner that helps them achieve their potential and avoid mistakes. They want the truth... not fluff. They want to be told if they’re on track or need to make adjustments. They want a partner to navigate their investments at the best interest of their goals so they can give their full focus to their own families, goals, and passions. Good Financial Advisors get the pleasure of wearing a coaching hat, a teammate hat, AND a cheerleading hat when we see the goals of our partnerships come to fruition. We might take some hits, we might lose some yards, but as long as we keep showing up together at the whistle, we will keep persisting down the field no matter what stands in our way!

Let us “try-out” for a part in your roster!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones


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Wapsie Valley FCCLA Travels to Florida

Wapsie Valley FCCLA members Addison Franck, Arizona Franck, and Mira Schaefer traveled to Orlando, Florida at the beginning of July to attend the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference. These members were part of a team that competed in the Interior Design STAR Event. STAR Events, which stand for Students Taking Action with Recognition, are competitive events in FCCLA where members choose a topic of interest related to family and consumer sciences education and related careers to showcase their knowledge and skills. There are over 30 STAR Event categories in FCCLA, from Interior Design, Culinary Arts, Clothing Construction, Baking and Pastry, Event Management, Job Interview, Parliamentary Procedure.

Addison, Arizona, and Mira placed 2nd overall in Iowa at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in March of this year in Cedar Rapids, allowing them to advance to the National Leadership Conference this summer. While at the National Leadership Conference, these chapter members participated in competition against students from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Attendance at the conference was over 10,000 FCCLA members across the country, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

In addition to competition, chapter members had the chance to explore workshops, an expo, and various businesses and organizations, including the United States Military, at the Orange County Con-

vention Center. Sightseeing and trips also took place to Universal Studios, Aquatica Water Park, Daytona Beach, and more. Students also had the chance to participate in the tradition of pin trading. Each member is provided with 50 pins that represent Iowa, and the goal by the end of the conference is to trade them to have a full map of 50 states represented on their lanyards and pin maps.

In order to provide students with new learning experiences and sightseeing each year, the National Leadership Conference changes location. The FCCLA National Leadership Conference in 2026 will take place in Washington, D.C.



Addison Franck, Arizona Franck, and Mira Schaefer traveled to Orlando, Florida attended the FCCLA National Leadership Conference.

NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Chris Hoover, Superintendent

Dear Warrior Families - We are continuing to do school registration this year online! We appreciate all of the grace and understanding these past 2 years as it was still new to us in the implementation of this process. There will always be kinks to work out but overall, we felt it was a great experience and hope that you found it beneficial as well. There were several reasons we chose to go online for registration:

- 1) Eliminates the need for physical paperwork (in most cases)
 - 2) Eliminates the need to travel to the school office
 - 3) Provides convenience and accessibility by allowing registration to be completed at your own pace from anywhere with an Internet connection
- Please take a moment to read the information below and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Registration Time Line and Access: Registration will be open Monday, July 28, at 8:00 a.m. until Monday, August 11. There are two ways in which you can access registration:

- 1) For those families who already have a parent portal account - Log into your parent portal, click the 3 lines in the upper left-hand corner, click 'More' at the bottom of the drop-down list, then click 'Registration.' This will take you to the school registration. This is the easiest way for returning students to register. All of your information will populate and you will need to review and make changes if necessary.
- 2) For those families who do NOT have a parent portal account (including new students to the district) - the link is provided below. You can click on the link, type it into your web browser, or copy and paste it into your browser. (**You will want to use a computer, tablet, or iPad as most cell phone screens are too small to read the registration materials.**) You will be required to input all information requested for guardians and students.

Things to note:

- Parents registering students for Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten - Please choose 00 for grade level under the student heading in Demographics. For Previous School, if your child did NOT attend Preschool, put NA in the required fields.
- Parents registering students for Preschool - Please choose PK for grade level at the bottom of the drop down list in Demographics.
- When registering a 7-12 student - All 7-12 students must have a Bound account where most health documentation will be uploaded (physicals and immunization records) and where permissions will be obtained. Paper copies of physicals will not be accepted. The following forms may be turned in to the jr. sr. high school office prior to the first day of school, if applicable: Medication Authorization, Release of Health and Educational Information, Asthma Inhaler Authorization, Diet Modification Request Form, and Dental Forms.

Help Desk: If you need assistance with the registration process please call our help desk on the following dates and times:

Help Desk #: 319-638-6711

Dates: July 28, 29, 30, 31

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Help Desk Open at Elementary Buildings Only:

Date: August 1

Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Help Desk Open at All Locations:

Dates: August 4 - August 11

Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

If you need help completing your registration, or need access to a computer or Internet, please contact any Wapsie Valley school office starting August 1. If you started the application, please have it filled out as much as possible and remember to provide your application number so we can help you complete it.

Fees: When you have completed online registration, please call your child's school building after August 1,

to have your parent portal account set up if you do not have one set up already. If you already have a parent portal account you will need to log into the portal to pay your registration fees.

(There will be a \$2 fee added to all payments through the Parent Portal. Paying by check or cash is always accepted by mailing or bringing it into any of our buildings at no additional cost. In order to use a debit or credit card, paying through the Parent Portal with the additional fee is the only option.)

Finally: 1) Fairbank Families Only: Fairbank students will be able to see their assigned teachers under the Parent Portal by clicking the 3 lines at the top left-hand corner and selecting 'Schedule' sometime during mid August.

There will be some challenges again this year but we anticipate this will be a positive experience overall and look forward to helping you throughout the process. Please contact us with any questions that you may have. We are here to help! (Information submitted by Tara Sullivan)

This past legislative session saw many law changes. One of those changes deals with the use of personal electronic devices by students at school. The Wapsie Valley Board of Education approved a policy to reflect this law change. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Policy 503.09: Use of Personal Electronic Devices by Students: In order to promote the best educational experience, students should feel connected to their educational environment and to others in the school community. Building meaningful connections can occur in a variety of ways. Technology has advanced peoples' ability to connect with one another across a variety of virtual platforms, and when used appropriately, adds value to the learning environment. However, it is vital to the developmental health and growth of students that the district provides opportunities for students to connect with peers and other members of their school community in-person whenever possible. In-person learning and interactions teach vital life and social skills that students will need for their continued success in the community.

Definitions: For purposes of this policy, a "personal electronic device" is a device that is used by a student to send or receive information or create or review content, including cellular and mobile phones, watches or other wearable devices in a receive or transmit mode, laptop or notebook computers, tablets, video game devices, portable media players, and any applications or programs installed by the student on a school-owned or issued device. A "personal electronic device" does not include a device possessed by the student for documented legal, health, and safety purposes.

The "school day" is from 8:15 a.m. to 3:18 p.m.

General Rules: Student use of personal electronic devices during the school day (8:15-3:18) is prohibited. Students have access to district-owned electronic devices as appropriate for the instructional needs of the learning environment and authorized by the classroom teacher. Parents or guardians who need to communicate with students during instructional time may contact the school building administrative office.

The following are the district-provided educational technologies and devices that will be made available to students for instructional purposes:

- Chromebooks
- iPads

A parent or guardian may communicate with a student via their school provided email or in the event of an emergency requiring the student's immediate attention, they may contact their student through the school's office:

Fairbank Elementary- 319-635-2071

Readlyn Elementary- 319-279-3323

JH/HS- 319-638-6711

In the event of an emergency, the school will contact the parent or guardian by the method most recently listed by the parent in the school's student information system immediately when it becomes safe to do so.

If the student uses a personal electronic device during the administration of any assessment, the student may receive no credit for the assessment, and will also face the consequences identified in the prior paragraphs. If the student uses a personal electronic device in a state or federal mandated assessment, the school will follow any protocols for that assessment's security.

Health Concerns: A parent or guardian of a student may petition to allow their child to maintain access to a personal electronic device for a legitimate, documented health-related concern. The petition shall be addressed to the building principal. If not granted, a parent or guardian may appeal to the superintendent or designee, whose decision shall be final. A parent or guardian has the burden of providing a legitimate reason for allowing the child to maintain access to a personal electronic device contrary to Wapsie Valley School's policy.

A student who has a current Individualized Education Program, a plan under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, or health plan may maintain access to a personal device during an appropriate portion of the school day as documented in the plan. The device should be used solely in the manner necessary and documented.

Violations: Students who violate this policy will be held to the discipline policies in the student/parent handbook.

Use of Personal Electronic Devices Outside of the School Day: Students who choose to use personal electronic devices outside of the 8:15-3:18 school day, while on school property, at school-sponsored events, must use these devices in accordance with all applicable laws and board policies. Students who violate this policy may face disciplinary consequences up to and including suspension or expulsion. The Superintendent, in conjunction with building level administration, will develop administrative regulations in accordance with this policy.

Wapsie Valley School Board - June 16, 2025

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular School Board Meeting June 16, 2025

Pledge of Allegiance
1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:30 PM
A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Kaufman, Sauerbrey & Wolfe Declared a quorum
B. Administration - Supt. Hoover, Board Secretary Arndt, Principals Murphy & Forsyth. Myers (excused)
C. Others Present: Vaughn Gross

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

3. Public Forum - Mr. Gross - Mrs. Gross is getting everything finalized for FCCLA Nationals. Mr. Gross also had questions on board policy 503.06 and 503.09.

4. Consent Items - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Steve Aiello and the open enrollments as follows: Danielle Fink request to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to Sumner Fredericksburg effective 25-26 school year, & Kaine Wilson request to open enroll his 3rd-grade son and 5th-grade daughter to Dunkerton after a family move in February 2025. Motion Carried 5-0

5. Board - Nothing to report
Superintendent Hoover's report includes transportation inspection report, board policies, handbooks, track/football field project, storm protection fund, & HVAC.

District: PK-12 Principal's - report includes learning opportunities, custodial cleaning, Leader In Me, extended school year, BLT meetings, & activities.

6. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the resignation of Jennifer Gross-Yearbook Sponsor, & Jessica Studebaker-TK/Kindergarten Teacher and thank them for their service to the students, staff, and communities as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Contracts: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the following contracts: Manhattan Huebner-JH Baseball Coach-2025 season-\$1,805-pending coaching endorsement, Marlen Franzen - Revised assignment-7-12 Science Teacher-approved 5-12 Band, Heidi Moessner-Summer Special Ed Associate-\$13.87 P/H & End of School SPED Van Driver-\$26.10 Per Route, Robert Reding-Summer Special Ed Associate-\$14.54 P/H, Wendy Galyean-Summer Special Ed Associate-\$13.87 P/H, Megan Powell, Ameliah Cowell, & Melanie Curley-Summer School Teacher-\$24 P/H Carol Westpfahl-Summer Special Ed Associate-\$13.42 P/H, Kim Williamson-Special Ed Associate-\$14.03 P/H, Cindy Shupe-Study Hall Supervisor-\$14.94 P/H. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the addendums: Katie Foelske-BA+15/9 to BA+24/9-\$51,410 (Base) + \$5,833.18 (TSS) = \$57,243.18, Beth Rochtrof-BA+24/4 to BA+30/4 - \$49,035 (Base) + \$5,349.33 = \$54,384.33, Wendy Miller-BA+8/17 to BA+15/17 - \$53,755 (base) + \$8,245 = \$62,000.00, & Amy Sheppard-BA+24/24 to BA+30/24 - \$60,365 (Base) + \$7,937.75 = \$68,302.75 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

7. New Business-Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrey to approve the 25-26 Shared Transportation Director (\$29,764.75), & Social Worker Agreements (\$33,128.93) with Jesup CSD as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrey to approve the 25-26 Board meeting dates as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 25-26 Activities/Coaches Handbook, Elementary Parent/Student Handbook, Preschool Handbook, Licensed Staff Handbook, Non Licensed Staff Handbook, JH/HS Student/Parent Handbook, Wapsie Valley Technology Handbook, & WVHS Course Description

Handbook as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Auel to approve Taylor Physical Therapy as WV Athletic Trainer for 25-26 with the following charges: Injury checks-\$85, Event coverage-\$185, Events lasting longer than 5 hours \$35/hr as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrey to approve the Storm Protection Fund, an Iowa Code Chapter 28E Entity and Chapter 670 Risk Pool, & approve the SPF Board Resolution as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 25-26 Building, Property, & Liability Insurance (\$238,019.35) and Storm Protection Fund (\$15,428) as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrey to approve the Contract to Transfer of Special Education State Funding to Central Rivers effective July 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect until modified or terminated by mutual agreement for the Parties or as required by law as presented. Motion Carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 25-26 registration fees as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Aiello to approve the quote from CDW (\$13,156) for 17 Teacher laptops as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve 2026 early graduates Jaxon Morse and Finn Schaefer pending meeting all requirements as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman the following rescinded and legislative updated board policies 102, 102R1, 102E1, 102E2, 102E3, 103E4, 102E5, 102R1, 104E2, 104E3, 106, 200.04, 206.03, 302.01, 303.02, 401.01, 401.05, 401.06, 402.02, 402.03, 501.03, 501.08, 501.09, 501.09E1(Rescind), 501.10(Rescind), 501.10R1(Rescind), 501.12, 501.14, 501.15, 502.06, 505.02, 506.01, 603.01, 603.04, 605.01R1, 607.02, 708, 710, 01, 710.01E1, 710.01E2, 710.01R1, 801.03, 803.02, 804.02, 804.06, 901, & 905.03 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the first reading of Board Policy 503.09: Use of Personal Electronic Devices by Students as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Aiello to approve Access Systems Ricoh copier/lease quote for \$1,569 per month effective August 2025 for a period of 60 months as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Auel to approve the bid from AgVantage for propane for the 25-27 school years and the Margin over DOT bid for the 25-26 school year for unleaded and diesel fuel as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Aiello to approve the 25-26 revised tennis agreement with Oelwein CSD at \$350 per athlete as presented. Motion carried 5-0

8. Board Talking Points- Four day work week may attract more employee candidates. New York trip was fantastic!

9. Moved by Sauerbrey, Seconded by Aiello to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Motion carried 5-0 Respectfully, Kim Arndt

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SUP CSD \$16,725.04 KLUESNER SANITATION \$640.00 LARRY'S SRVC & RPR \$395.48 LITTLE WAPSIE COMM \$175.08 MATT CONSTRUCTION \$350.00 MENZEL, EMMA \$97.02 MICHAEL, BLAKE \$250.00 MICHAEL, DESTINY \$575.00 MODERN BUILDING \$324.03 MURPHY, TJ \$2,315.60 MYERS, HOLLY \$1,178.10 NEW HAMPTON CSD \$268.26 Norby's Farm Fleet \$33.67 OELWEIN CSD \$1,050.00 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$161.00 RAISA A HALLELUJAH \$1,400.00 READLYN TELEPHONE \$188.44 RIVERSIDE INSIGHTS \$839.50 SCRIBNER, RACHEL \$985.60 SMITH, JORDAN \$18.00 SUMNER-FREDERICKSBURG CSD \$8,362.52 TIMBERLINE BILLING \$391.33 U.S. POST OFFICE \$2.87 UBIQUITI STORE \$6.00 UNI \$3,546.00 VITALSOURCE \$733.60 Walmart \$84.65 WEEDS ON FIRE \$8,719.75 GENERAL TOTAL \$218,126.70 Employee Benefit Systems \$6,125.89 MANAGEMENT TOTAL \$6,125.89 MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE \$5,568.60 STEEGE CNSTRCTN \$12,578.95 SAVE TOTAL \$18,147.55 ACCESS SYSTEMS \$1,663.30 Central Rivers AEA \$2,389.80 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$100.00 SHERM'S SEPTIC SRVCS \$1,633.29 YOUNG PLMBG & HTNG \$3,669.43 PPEL TOTAL \$9,455.82 UMB BANK \$300.00 DEBT TOTAL \$300.00 Thrift Books \$11.18 WVEF TOTAL \$11.18 ALLISON, GAIL \$280.00 Amazon \$27.56 BARNES, MAYA \$60.00 BECK, JENNA \$66.10 BOUND \$110.00 BOYD, BILL \$135.00 BSN SPORTS \$0.00 BUHR, DEAN \$250.00 BUHR, TAYLOR \$175.00 BURKE, LOGAN \$135.00 CASEY'S \$169.05 CHIDESTER, STEVE \$150.00 CURLEY, NICK \$7.99 CURLEY, PEYTON \$75.00 DANA, CADYN \$75.00 DIKE-NEWT HARTFORD CSD \$0.00 ELITE SPORTS \$778.00 FAIRBANK FOOD \$330.55 FCCLA \$566.00 FLORAL IMAGES & GIFTS \$133.75 Forsyth, Alyson \$257.90 GAME ONE \$762.40 GIRAUD, SCOTT \$130.00 GLEN SNYDER \$345.00 HAISLET, MIKE \$275.00 HEGGER, JONATHAN \$250.00 HyVee \$421.44 IA FFA ASSOCIATION \$892.00 IAGCA \$350.00 IA SPORTS SUPPLY \$342.00 IA STATE FAIR \$125.00 MAPLE LANES \$300.00 MODERN BUILDING PRODUCTS \$458.98 NEE, DAVID \$140.00 PAPA JOHNS \$175.92 QT \$35.94 ROBINSON, NICK \$125.00 ROTTINK, ERIC \$250.00 SCHMITZ, KEITH \$375.00 SCHOER, TYLER \$75.00 SHANNON, HEIDI \$0.00 Shannon, Nikki \$40.00 Subway#37456-0 \$895.32 TEXAS ROADHOUSE \$830.33 TownePlace Suites by Marriott \$3,093.44 TREERING CORP \$1,843.20 UHAL, JOHN \$135.00 WATERLOO CENTER FOR ARTS \$101.00 WERKMAN, DEAN \$130.00 WILLENBORG, NICOLAS \$135.00 YOUNGBLUT, DEAN \$135.00 ACTIVITY TOTAL \$16,948.87 EMS DETERGENT \$175.95 GRAY, CHRISTIAN \$9.10 KANE, KAROLYN \$150.05 KWIK TRIP \$11.57 LEISTIKOW, ALAN \$27.95 MARTIN BROS. \$8,018.05 MATTHIAS, AARON \$56.30 MCELHOSE, JAIMIE \$48.05 MILLER, BRIAN \$13.32 PRAIRIE FARMS \$2,051.74 SNYDER, ANTHONY \$9.40 Walmart \$239.97 WILSON, RESTAURANT \$493.22 LUNCH TOTAL \$11,304.67 PEYTON, JAYDEN \$350.00 Pheasant Ridge Golf Course \$80.00 PIZZA RANCH \$452.38 Prairie Links Golf & Event Center \$480.00 PRIES PROMOS \$85.00 SHANNON, HEIDI \$58.90 SKILLS USA \$80.00 SOUTH WINN COUNTRY CLUB \$60.00 SOUTH WINNESHIEK CSD \$90.00 Subway \$234.00 TAYLOR PHYSICAL THERAPY \$127.50 Waterloo Community Playhouse \$590.00 WAVERLY CSD \$75.00 WEEPIE, ELLA \$500.00 WV FFA ALUMNI \$2,100.00 X-GRAIN SPORTSWEAR \$919.00 Activity Total \$36,081.52 COCA-COLA \$453.02 EMS DETERGENT \$376.65 KWIK TRIP \$13.92 MARTIN BROS. \$16,312.17 PRAIRIE FARMS \$2,699.98 WILSON, RESTAURANT \$849.36 YOUNG PLMBG & HTNG \$229.50 Lunch Total \$20,934.60

Policies for Free, Reduced Price School Lunch and Breakfast Programs Given

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, has finalized its policy for free and reduced price meals for students unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program and the Afterschool Care Snack Program.

State and local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

qualify for free meal benefits and received notification qualifying for reduced price benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals.

Households must contact the school if they choose to decline meal benefits.

3. Some SNAP and FIP households will receive a letter from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Parents must take this letter to the student's school

be qualified for free meals automatically through the state direct certification process. Their host family will receive notification of these benefits. Families that receive this notification from the school need to do nothing more for their foster students to receive free meals. If a family has foster students living with them and does not receive notification and wishes to apply for such meals, instructions for making application for such students are contained on the application form. A fos-

tact their local school for additional information.

There will be no discrimination against individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the school meal programs.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (Effective 7-1-2025)

Household Size	Free Meals					Reduced Price Meals				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
For each additional family member add:	7,150	596	298	275	138	10,175	848	424	392	196

Households may be eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits one of four ways

1. Households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for reduced price meals or free meals, if they complete an application for free and reduced price school meals/milk. Households may complete one application listing all children and return it to your student's school. When completing an application, only the last four digits of the social security number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member is needed.

2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households, students receiving benefits under the Family Investment Program (FIP) and students in a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Most students from SNAP and FIP households will be qualified for free meals automatically. These households will receive a letter from their student's schools notifying them of their benefits. Households that receive a letter from the school need to do nothing more for their student(s) to receive free or reduced price meals. No further application is necessary. If any students were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free or reduced price meal benefits extended to them. If you feel you would

to receive free meals.

4. SNAP or FIP households receiving benefits that do not receive a letter from Iowa HHS must complete an application with the abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions, for their students to receive free meals. When the application lists an assistance program's case number for any household member, eligibility for free benefits is extended to all students in a household.

Eligibility from the previous year will continue within the same school for up to 30 operating days into the new school year. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their students are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the students must pay full price for school meals and the school will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility. An application cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to complete an application.

Households notified of their student's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the free meal benefits.

Foster children are eligible for free meal benefits. Some foster students will

ter student may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other students. Including students in foster care as household members may help other students in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster student from receiving benefits. Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals based on a completed application.

When known by the school, households will be notified of any child eligible for free meals if the children are enrolled in the Head Start/Even Start program or are considered homeless, migrant or runaway. If any children are not listed on the notice of eligibility, contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits. If households are dissatisfied with the application approval done by the officials, they may make a formal appeal either orally or in writing to the school's designated hearing official. The policy statement on file at the school contains an outline of the hearing procedure. School officials may verify the information in the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable state and federal criminal statutes. Households should con-

1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement: (revised 7-1-25) It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Ave, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.

Readlyn City Council - June 9, 2025

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 6:45PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00PM for the public hearing followed by the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following named council members were present: Rocco Imbrogno, Joey Jones, Keith Brunscheon. Absent: Nicole Barnes, Jason Franck

Others in attendance: Austin Matthias, Steve Aielo, Barney Wiersma, Auston Rueber, Kayla Schwartz, Kaylee Scheckel.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve minutes from the May 12, 2025 council meeting. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve bills for payment. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve clerk and treasurer's rep01is. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve budget and library rep01is All said yes. Mo-

tion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve police report. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Wedemeier opened the Public Hearing on the sale of city owned real estate as Lot 13 and 14, all in Block 19, in the Original Town of Readlyn, Iowa EXCEPT that part of said Lot 14 lying within Parcel J, which is more particularly Described in a Plat of Survey recorded January 13, 2015, as Document No. 20150114, with the Bremer County Recorder. Notice of time and place had been published in the Waverly Newspaper on May 29, 2025. No written or oral objections were received. After all desiring to be heard, motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to close the public hearing. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brun-

scheon to introduce Resolution No 2025-06 entitled "RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE ABOVE TO KAYLA SCHWARTZ FOR \$32,000.00". Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2025-06 was duly adopted.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Kwik Trip Inc. dba Kwik Star #708 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor permit renewal. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to introduce Resolution No. 2025-07 entitled "RESOLUTION SETTING THE SALARIES FOR APPOINTED AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF READLYN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026". Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2025-07 was duly adopted.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to

introduce Resolution No 2025-08 entitled "APPROVE BUDGETARY TRANSFERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025". Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2025-08 duly adopted.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve liquor license for Sip By Sip mobile bar for Readlyn Grump Days on Saturday, June 14th. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve payment for Drainage District #5 assessment for the City of Readlyn in the amount of \$12,276.00. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on trees in city right-of-way.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk



"Tournament First Timer"

Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com

As many of us outdoor enthusiasts know, there are many first times in the outdoors. First fish, first deer, the list goes on. Each of those firsts are always very special and moments we never forget. This month, I will tell you the story of young Keegan Geerts' first bass tournament.

This story actually starts quite a long time ago becoming friends with the Geerts family through Travis and Nicole Geerts in the Readlyn area. Travis and I are both archery coaches with Wapsie Valley Archery, and, over time, became great friends, hanging out regularly locally and up at our cabin in Prairie du Chien, as they, too, have a cabin up there which, at the time, was about a half mile from us. Through our adventures boating and cooking out, we became friends with Travis's brother and sister-in-law, Bryan and Mandy Geerts. Their cabin is right next to Travis and Nicole and just recently, this past spring, we moved from our old cabin to a new place right near all of them in Prairie du Chien.

In the backyard is a pond and, as you might imagine, I started showing the boys, Henry Geerts (Travis and Nicole's son) and Keegan Geerts (Bryan and Mandy's son), all the different techniques to catch fish in the pond. The boys took right to it and eventually this evolved into me taking them both out for trips in the bass boat on the Mississippi River. Each trip, the boys caught fish and learned more and more as we went catching everything from bass, to walleyes, and even drum.

One Sunday morning, my eyes were really opened to just how intense Keegan was getting on his bass-fishing skills. As Henry and I fished from the front of the boat catching a few, Keegan proceeded to give us an on-the-water seminar, throwing a crank-bait from the back of the boat and catching four bass that totaled up over 14

pounds combined! While Keegan, at 12 years old, isn't one to typically smile in a picture, even he couldn't help but give a smirk this day. I was beyond impressed with Keegan's ability. We were up near the lock and dam this particular morning and, as we drove the boat away, Keegan looked at me and Henry with a crooked smile and said, "That was a dam good spot!" I'm sure the pun was intended as we laughed and headed back to the cabins.

Later that week, my usual tournament partner, Adam, informed me he wouldn't be able to fish a June 28 tournament out of Lansing we had talked about fishing. I thought it over and decided to ask Bryan and Mandy if I could ask Keegan to fish it with me. They gave me the green light and I immediately asked Keegan if he would. As you might imagine his answer was a very big yep!

From there the plans began — we would practice and find areas on Friday and fish the tournament on Saturday. As I talked to Keegan leading up to the event, the wait for him was long as this would be his first official bass tournament.

Thursday, June 26 finally arrived and I met Keegan at my cabin as his mom and dad brought him up. We sat in the boat readying tackle and rods. Keegan was in awe as I laid out seven St. Croix rods for him to use and I showed him what to tie on each rod and the purpose for all the different baits and rod styles. The best way to describe tournament fishing rods is to compare them to golf clubs. Each rod has its job and technique to do.

Finally, Friday morning arrived and we made our way to Lansing right as the sun was starting to rise over the trees. We were met with less than ideal conditions with recent heavy rains not only raising the water level, but making it very muddy. I told Keegan right away, the key for this practice would be finding clean water.

The first few spots we checked were

very muddy and discouraging, but we kept checking and eventually came across a small backwater off of the channel that held clean water and very quickly generated fish strikes. I relayed to Keegan this was the type of areas we needed to mimic and we should have a solid plan.

We headed further south on Pool 9 and found half a dozen spots similar, including one area that I hooked up with a three pound largemouth bass. Three pounders are kind of a benchmark size range to look for in practice. As late morning came, the wind started to pick up out of the south and the waves grew in intensity. I decided to cut practice short as to not wear Keegan out before competition day. On the ride back, Keegan held on to the side and dash handle, nearly coming off the seat with each wave. At first I was worried, but again I saw the slight smirk and I knew he was having a great time.

Back at the cabin, we talked over our plan and talked about the importance of checking over all our gear before the tournament. A 3 a.m. alarm woke us from our sleep to start the day. With the 45 minute drive to Lansing, it required this earliness with tournament takeoff being 5:30 a.m. As we arrived in the parking lot, we were greeted with fellow anglers all getting a kick out of Keegan fishing his first tournament and reminiscing on their first tournaments. We checked in and received our boat number of 7 for takeoff order - a great draw for Keegan's first time. As we waited our turn to take off, I looked at Keegan and said "Are you ready, Mahomes?" Keegan's favorite football player is Patrick Mahomes, so I call him that often. He looked at me, slightly shaking, and said, "Yep!!"

As our number was called, I hammered the throttle and we were headed to our first spot, the water, smooth as glass made for a quick run. I looked at Keegan and said, "How fast you think we were going?" He smiled and said "61.2 mph!" I said, "You looked at the dash!" Another "Yep!" finished the conversation as I jumped up front putting the trolling motor down and started casting. Quickly I heard "I GOT ONE, GET THE NET!" I looked back to see Keegan with his rod bent all the way over, battling a large fish. As I grabbed the net, what appeared to be easily a 4 pound smallmouth bass leapt from the water just as Keegan's bait shot straight in the air

losing the fish. Panic swept over me as I thought this is not the way to start a day let alone a tournament career. I looked over expecting complete devastation only to see Keegan making another cast.

"I'll get another one!" he exclaimed. I was amazed at his confidence as even I was dejected. We continued fishing the area back and forth, catching our five fish limit by 8:36 a.m. Keegan had caught some and I caught some both adding to our live well. Along the way, Keegan learned about placing tags on the fish and keeping them in order while doing our best to keep the fish healthy in the live well.

We fished our first area until about 10:00 a.m. With check-in time being 2 p.m., we decided to head back north to the first spot we found in practice holding fish. We fished the area thoroughly, slightly upgrading our limit with a bit bigger fish each time along with catching small fish that didn't help our limit. With time running out, Keegan hooked up with a very nice largemouth bass, boosting our limit by a pound or so. I looked at him and said, "Last minute magic, Mahomes!" He smiled and once again I got a loud "Yep!"

At 1:45 p.m., I fired up the boat and made the 5-minute run back to check in for the weigh-in. We loaded the boat and readied ourselves to weigh. I told Keegan no matter the outcome we had a great day boating over 40 bass throughout our day. I showed Keegan how to add water to the bag and we bagged our five fish up from the live well. It was all Keegan could do to carry that bag of fish and water to the scale, but he proudly brought them to the weighmaster.

"11.38 pounds, Eric Johnston and Keegan Geerts!" the weighmaster called out. We fist bumped and all the anglers standing nearby said "nice job, young man" to Keegan. We snapped some pictures before releasing our catch and waited for the results.

We ended up 6th place and all smiles for Keegan's first of what hopefully is many tournaments to fish with me. I know it'll be a day he won't soon forget nor will I. As we left the tournament, we didn't even get out of Lansing and Keegan was sound asleep! Tournament fishing is tough on a guy!! Before I go, I'd like to thank Bryan and Mandy Geerts for the privilege of taking their son fishing and look forward to many more trips! Until next time..... GET OUTDOORS!



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