

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

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YARD of the MONTH

Joe and Julie Regenold built their home at 608 West View, Readlyn in 2007 and have enjoyed working on their patio, yard, landscaping, and flower gardens. Many of the items in the pictures are in memory of loved ones.

Cardinals are a favorite theme in

the front flower garden. They have bird feeders in the back garden, which have attracted many different types of birds.

The Regenolds love the small town atmosphere in Readlyn and would like to thank Weeds on Fire for this award.



The view from their backyard patio.



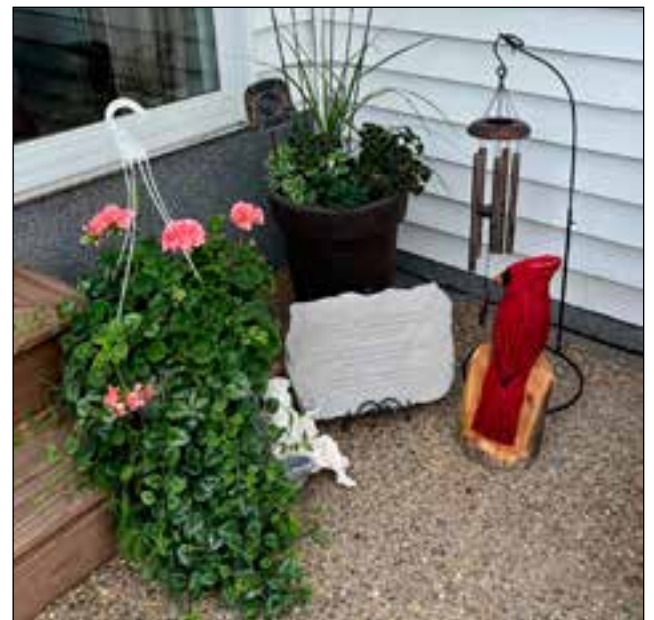
Julie and Joe Regenold, 608 West View, are July's Yard of the Month winners.



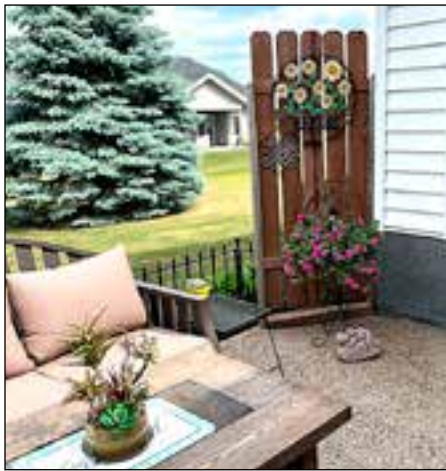
The attractive flower was a gift celebrating becoming grandparents.



One of two flower beds in memory of loved ones.



A second memorial garden honoring loved ones.



The fire pit provides a great place to relax.



Welcome to the Regenold home!



Hoping for a good crop!



Miss Readlyn candidates and their FFA escorts are, front row, left to right: Kaliya Lampe, Liz Tiedt, Corina Gray, Veronica Wittenburg, Lily Swickerath, Matilda Miller, Reagan Barnes; back row, Finn Schaefer, Jack Munk, Andrew Matthias, Gabe Matthias, Braden Strotman. See Grump Day results on page 10.
Pat Wehr photos



Grump's Grumblings

By Larry Davelec, 2022 Grump

This last month has been very busy taking care of Vicki. She and I want to thank everybody for their thoughts and prayers. She is getting around well after breaking her leg. So glad to have her back on her feet.

I especially want to thank Vicki for this past year. She has helped me doing the Grump job. I write the articles, but she is the one who makes sure that the punctuations, spellings, and capitalizations are right. Most the time I am speaking to my phone to write the articles. The spell-checker does not always write down what I dictate. Thanks/love you, Vicki.

Vicki and I visited the cemeteries this month before Memorial Day to put flowers on the graves and remember our family members who have served in the Armed Forces. This day of remembrance was initially known as Decoration Day. May we never forget, freedom isn't free.

For the last of my duties as the 2022 Readlyn Grump I have completed my own major study of Main Street Readlyn. The findings of the study confirm that nine in 10 locals are on red alert about the old road rebuild project. It has been projected that once the new road is done, 10 of 10 will just drive down the new road unconcerned about being grateful to all who made the drive so smooth. However, life is known to have many bumps in the road. The friendly people of Readlyn just need to say thanks.

Vicki and I were at a restaurant this past month. Another couple and we were the only people in the place. When we got done with our meal before going out, I had to stop by their booth. Being the Grump that I am and liking to talk to people, I asked the gentleman what type of beer he was having. He replied brown ale, just like I had. We both commented on how it was something we liked, but he made a com-

ment that the previous brownie ale they used to serve was better. I agreed. It really doesn't surprise me that the conversations with people we are seeing show that we have so many things in common in today's world.

This commonality I do not see when I talk with latitudinarian younger people. Instead, I see differences between the generations. So many things have changed since COVID-19 happened. I think that the rate of sociology generation gap jumped a couple generations. I know this from what has been going out on the media. I hate the term WOKE. When I see things being put on the news, like videos from millions of phones, I see we have "Karens" now who are attacking people for the slightest little nothings. I think we need to return to "we should just let go." Good grief, they are telling us we don't know the difference between male and female. I wonder if the world is really lost. I am so glad to be here in Readlyn, Iowa, where boys and girls are still boys and girls. They can play in the streets and not have "fences" separating them. We won't see "Karens" coming up and chasing the children out of the street in Readlyn. In Readlyn, we watch out for people driving too fast on that street and want to make the streets safe. What will be, will be, just wave and say hello.

So, people are people, kids are kids, and I was happy to be the Grump for a year. Thanks to everyone who has made my year as the Readlyn Grump a very special year.

Samuel Clemens once said; "I am quite sure that (bar one) I have no race prejudice, and I think I have no color prejudices, nor caste prejudices. Indeed, I know it. I can stand any society. All I care to know is that a man is a human being — that is enough for me; he can't be any worse."

The Big Old Grump



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Sydney Matthias

This past year has gone by so fast it feels like. Before we know it, this summer will be over and yet it feels like it barely started. I am so excited for the group of girls that will be interviewing for 2023 Miss Readlyn. I've spent time with all of them over my high school career and I know each would be a great representative. The judges will have a hard decision to make.

Softball is on the downhill slide. If you haven't made it to watch one of our games yet, you've missed some great softball.

I'm so very proud of our team and what we have accomplished this year. It will be the first winning season for our program in many years. We've won two tournaments this year and beat three ranked teams.

Thank you to everyone for all of the support this past year. I've been lucky to have opportunities to give back to your beloved community. It is fun participating in the same events I enjoyed growing up on the opposite end. I hope Miss Readlyn 2023 enjoys it all as much as I have.

Sydney

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Readlyn Community Happenings

Readlyn City Council - June 12, 2023

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:45 PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00PM for the regular meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Barnes in the chair and the following named council members present: Nicole Barnes, Rocco Imbrogno, Keith Brunscheon, Joey Jones, Jason Franck (arrived at 7:10PM). Others in attendance: Barney Wiersma, Steve Aiello, Miles Matthias, Stephanie Franzen.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve minutes from the May 8, 2023 council meeting. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

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

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

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

Motion by Jones and seconded by Franck to approve driveway width variance request for property located at 310 E 4th Street, Readlyn, IA owned by Miles Matthias & Stephanie Franzen. The six foot variance will allow for 40 foot driveway with a 2-foot flair (one foot on each side of the driveway). Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Franck. NAYS: None. Abstain: Barnes. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Franck to introduce Resolution No. 2023-05 entitled "RESOLUTION TO SET DATE AND TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO SELL EASEMENT RIGHTS". Public hearing set for 7:00PM on July 10, 2023. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor Pro-Tern declared Resolution No. 2023-05 duly adopted.

Council received an update on the Readlyn Main Street Reconstruction Project. Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve Pay Request #3 in the amount of \$429,649.25 to Dave Schmitt Construction. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Grump Days Pepper Tournament

Sixteen players enjoyed participating in the pepper tournament on Friday night of Grump Days. The winners and their scores were:

- 1st - Charlie and Wilda Albrecht - 174
- 2nd - Therese Schumacher and Judy Henn - 173
- 3rd - Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 161
- 4th - Ron and Judy Leistikow - 160

Thanks for playing! Hope to see you all back next year!



Change order for Readlyn Main Street Reconstruction Project tabled.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Franck to approve water and wastewater license renewal for Bernard Wiersma and Austin Matthias. AYES: Barnes Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to introduce Resolution No 2023-06 entitled "A RESOLUTION SETTING THE SALARIES FOR APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF READLYN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024". Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor Pro-Tem declared Resolution No. 2023-06 duly adopted.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Brunscheon to introduce Resolution No. 2023-07 entitled "APPROVE BUDGETARY TRANSFERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023". Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor Pro-Tem declared Resolution No. 2023-07 duly adopted.

Splash pad hours tabled until July council meeting.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Nicole Barnes, Mayor Pro-Tem
ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk

Readlyn Historical Society meets

A meeting was held on May 22 at 1:30 p.m. with nine members in attendance. A new member, Therese Schumacher, was



Therese Schumacher

welcomed.

There were several visitors to the museum in May including Mrs. Lincoln's 4th grade class. To schedule a visit, send a request via the Society's Facebook page

The 2024 calendar commemorating 'Then and Now' of Readlyn's 120 years of history will be sold at the 2023 Grump Days. Buy yours now for \$10! The calendar was to be sold in the tent after the crowning of the 2023 Grump until 8 p.m. on Friday evening and on Saturday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (also in the tent) then 4-6 p.m. at Grumpy's.

The Annual Ice Cream Social is planned for Sunday, August 20 from 4-6 p.m. Please join us for a refreshing treat and tour of the museum.

Our next meeting is planned for Monday, July 24 at 1:30 p.m. Consider being part of this group either as a member or helping with projects.

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The cemetery sign, meaning Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel's God's Acre, still stands tall against the prairie sky as it did when first erected. The first tombstone is located in the southeast corner.

Immanuel Lutheran - Klinger
 is planning its 150th Anniversary celebration on August 6, 2023. To attend, please RSVP to immanuelstpaul@gmail.com no later than July 1. For details, visit our Facebook page at [ImmanuelLutheranChurchofKlinger](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchofKlinger).

Remembering Immanuel's Loved Ones

It was with fortitude that settlers came to this area from other countries, in the case of Immanuel, primarily Germany, to begin new lives, twenty-five years after Iowa became a state and twenty-one

years before Readlyn was incorporated as a town. Typically, they journeyed to the United States in ships, then made their way to Iowa to begin a new life. They had to build homes and businesses, mostly farms, and establish churches and schools for worship and education. Materials used were from the surrounding wilderness and buildings shaped with settler's hands, hard work and a few tools. All of this was done with hard work and strong faith in God's plan.

Church cemeteries are typically well-maintained and places of solitude to remember friends and family members who have passed on. Given the time period, little medicine was available for what are common maladies today. As a result, a cemetery had to be started in 1873, the same year Immanuel began as a church, to lay loved ones to rest. The first funeral at Immanuel was for a four-year-old child named Friedrich Widdel. As with many cemeteries, there is a 'baby row' with the remains of babies who died at birth or shortly after. Many are not even named as infant mortality was high.

Today, family and friends come to the cemetery to remember loved ones especially on Memorial Day. The cemetery is especially beautiful with American flags from the local VFW to commemorate individuals serving in wars along with flowers on a majority of the tombstones. It is not unusual to meet seekers of genealogy information stopping by Immanuel's cemetery throughout the year. While information is available at genealogy online sites, Immanuel's congregation ensures records are maintained to respond to questions. A full list, 1873 to present of funerals as well as other ministerial acts, will be available in Immanuel's 150th Anniversary booklet which is available to purchase at the August 6 celebration and after.

Immanuel's 150th Anniversary theme, "O God, Our help in ages past, our hope for years to come," is also appropriate for the settlers' courage who came to this area in 1873.

Readlyn Community Library

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Idea for an event or program?
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Readlyn Community Library
 Cordially Invites You

Book ~~Wine~~ Tasting

Thursday, June 29th
 6pm

Join us at the library for our annual 'Book-Tasting', where our Book Club will select the books we plan to read for the year!

If you've been considering coming to one of our meetings, this is a great time to do so!

We will serve wine and cheese, but the focus - of course - will be the books.



- where do I even start?
- How do you come up with characters to write about?
- what the heck is an outline?



So You Want to be a Writer?

If you've ever wanted to try your hand at writing, but feel overwhelmed by the prospect, come to the library on **July 20th @5pm**, where we'll be talking about what it takes to write a great story and how you can get from a tiny little whisper of an idea to 300 pages with as little stress as possible!



The Bremer County Health Department holds foot clinics at the Readlyn Library on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

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| Tuesday | 10:00 - 5:00 |
| Wednesday | 10:00 - 5:00 |
| Thursday | 10:00 - 7:00 |
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Readlyn, Long Ago

Compiled by Bob Thran

Editor's Note: Read the *Chronicle*, including "Readlyn, Long Ago," online at: <https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us>

On One Fayette County Farm—A Murder and Three Fatalities

Ashley Downing's unsolved murder occurred on January 4, 1933 on his 240 acre farm southwest of Westgate. Three separate accidents took place in the years Bernard Reinking owned that same farm. Since 2006, the farm has been one of the many properties of Top Deck Farms. Jason and Sharon Decker occupy the home on that farm.

All articles, with the exception of my "author's notes," are from the *Oelwein Register*.

Brenda Reinking dies in car crash

Brenda, six-month-old daughter of Bernard and Irene Steinbronn Reinking, RR Westgate, was announced dead upon arrival at the Sumner hospital Thursday evening (October 13, 1960).

She was killed in a two car crash Thursday at 9:10 AM two miles southwest of Westgate on a gravel road.

According to the highway patrol, an auto driven by Mrs. Bernard (Irene) Reinking, 22, of RR Westgate, was traveling south when it struck a car head-on driven by Roger Decker, 18, of RR Westgate.

Two other Reinking children, Jeffrey, 3, and Joan Marie, 2, received cuts, bruises and possible internal injuries in the crash.

Mrs. Reinking received cuts, bruises, possible internal injuries and suffered from shock. Decker had possible internal injuries, cuts, bump on the head and a possible leg injury.

Mrs. Reinking was traveling south on the county road toward the Burle Downing farm where she was reportedly going to turn in. Decker, coming from the south, apparently swerved to miss the Reinking car and the autos hit head-on.

Highway patrolmen at the scene reported that the Reinking auto apparently anticipated a turn to the right into the Downing farm and was edged close to the middle of the road at the time of the crash.

The Decker car ended up facing south on the road on the west side, with the Reinking vehicle on the east side, hanging in the ditch facing west.

No charges were filed, but investigation is pending. The autos were total losses.

Ranae Reinking passes away after farm accident

Ranae Robyn Reinking, 13-month-old daughter of Bernard and Mandy (Anfinson) Reinking of rural Oelwein, died Saturday afternoon, Oct 24, 1987 at Mercy Hospital after an accident on her family's farm.

Services will be at 1:30 PM Tuesday at Zion American Lutheran Church. Rev. LaVerne Streich will officiate. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Friends may call any time today (Monday) at the Brant-Kerns-Jamison Funeral Home in Oelwein. A memorial fund has been established in her name.

[Author's Note: I spoke with Mandy, Bernard Reinking's wife and the mother of Ranae. Mandy said Bernard was playing outside with Ranae. He left Ranae near the house without telling Mandy that Ranae was outside alone. Ranae toddled after Bernard. Bernard was not aware of Ranae following him. In backing the truck, the accident occurred.]

Bernard Reinking dies after fall at home



OELWEIN — Bernard W. Reinking, 71, of rural Oelwein, died Tuesday evening, July 25, 2006, at University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics in Iowa City, of injuries he sustained due to a fall at his home on Monday.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 AM Saturday, July 29, at Zion Lutheran Church, Oelwein, with the Rev. Charis Combs-Lay officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, with military graveside rites by the Oelwein American Legion Ross Reid Post 9.

Friends may call from 3 until 9 PM Friday at the Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home, Oelwein, and after 9:30 AM Saturday at the church.

Bernard William Reinking was born June 27, 1935, at Westgate, the son of Henry Frederick and Gertrude Ann (Gumm) Reinking. He was baptized July 7, 1935 and confirmed April 25, 1948, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Westgate. Bernard graduated from Oran High School. He served in the Army during the Korean Conflict. Bernard married Irene Steinbronn in 1956 at Westgate and five children were born to this union, Jeff, Joan, Brenda, Kent and Quinton. They later divorced. Bernard married Madalene Kay Anfinson on June 2, 1984 at Oelwein and four children were born to this union, Ranae, Cassie, Tony and Ashley. Bernard was a lifelong farmer near Westgate. He also was a dealer for Cen-Pe-Co Oil for many years.

Bernard enjoyed racing go-carts, participating in tractor pulls, flying airplanes and model airplanes and racing stock cars. He was an avid NASCAR racing fan. In recent years, he enjoyed restoring antique tractors and building and stocking his ponds with fish on the farm. Bernard also enjoyed all the time he spent with family and friends camping at the pond. Bernard was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein where he had served on the church council, as a deacon and as an usher.

Survivors include his wife, Mandy; his children, Jeff (Lori) of Cresco, Joan (Richard) Arthur of Nora Springs, Kent (Sheila) of Oelwein, Quinton (Mary) of Oelwein, Cassie, Tony and Ashley, all at home; 14 grandchildren; two sisters, El Frieda Matthias of Fairbank and Lila Mae (Ron) Glass of Westgate; and many nieces and nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two daughters, Brenda and Ranae.

A memorial fund has been established.

[Author's Note: Mandy was backing their van, using the two side view mirrors, omitting use of the rear view mirror. She did not see Bernard who was directly behind the auto. Bernard was bumped and fell, his head hitting the concrete. All efforts to save him failed.

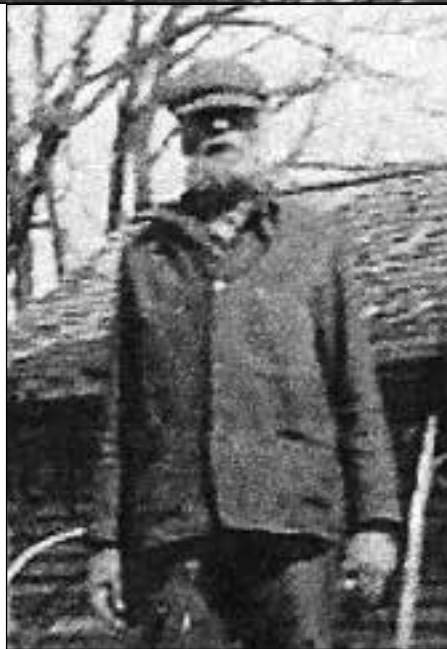
In her attempts to overcome her grief from Bernard's death, Mandy immersed herself into the planning and construction of the home she and Bernard were building. Her home is located on Highway 3, a short distance east of Westgate Fireman's Park.

Bernard was far from a typical farmer. He was flamboyant, fun-loving, possessed a spirit of adventure and even owned an airplane. His obituary describes him well but does not include the many activities and boards on which he was an active member.

Mandy Anfinson was living and working in Waterloo at the time she met a divorced Bernard at a dance in Janesville. They were married in Bernard's home congregation, Zion Lutheran, in Oelwein. She describes her life with Bernard as a whirlwind of exciting, fun-filled activities.

For years, Mandy has driven the same school bus route for the West Central Maynard School District. Mandy very much enjoys her relationship with the students riding on her bus.

Behind Mandy's spacious home lies a huge park-like area with several camping sites and a large pond stocked with fish.]



Top photo, the Downing farm. Above, Ashley Downing.

Ashley Downing brutally killed by a robber

Ashley Downing, aged about 78, was found murdered in his home about eight miles northwest of Oelwein, about 4:15 yesterday afternoon (January 4, 1933) evidently killed with a shotgun by a robber. Mr. Downing lived alone on a 240 acre farm and was somewhat feeble, although his health was good. For a number of years he has walked with the aid of a homemade cane, taken from a pitchfork handle. This was a short stick, and was probably used as much for a weapon of defense as an assistance in walking. His pocketbook is the only thing missing so far as known.

Just what time the murder was committed is not known. He was talking with C. F. Plaster between 1:00 and 1:30 yesterday afternoon. Mr. Plaster lives about a half mile south of the Downing home, and in driving past the Downing home he stopped and talked with Mr. Downing in the road in front of his home. He was the last person known to have seen him alive.

From all of the evidence at hand it would seem that Mr. Downing was stooping over the woodpile which he has in his kitchen or general living room. The charge was fired at close range, burning his neck, and the entire charge of shot from a shotgun going through his head, the shot lodging in the woodpile over which he was bending, tearing away the right side of his face. The pile of wood was in the southeast corner of the room, and the door from the east opening into it from the outside was north of this. The body when found was lying with the head against the east wall, just north of the outside door, and his feet toward the west, nearly to the heating stove, which was in the center of the room. The brains had been blown over the woodpile, with his head back of the door which was closed. At the

northwest corner of this room was a little room used for storage and at the southwest corner of the room was a small room used as a bedroom. Whether the man who killed him was already in the house when he came in and he came out of one of these rooms and shot him in the back of the neck, or whether he came while Mr. Downing was there in the house and shot him afterwards, is not known. Whichever way it may have been, Mr. Downing was evidently stooping over this pile of wood to get some to put in the stove when he was shot.

The body was found by John Boiling and Harry Leiser, who had brought some chickens from Westgate to deliver to him. Mr. Downing had bought the chickens but had not yet paid for them, and these men were making the delivery. Looking around the place to locate Mr. Downing and not finding him, they knocked at the east door of the house. Receiving no response, they pushed the door open and there they met the gruesome sight on the floor just back of the door. They immediately notified the sheriff's office.

The sheriff and the coroner soon arrived as well as the county attorney. The house was full of people by that time so that it was difficult to locate anything that might lead to a clue. There was a large number of notes and mortgages in the house, for Mr. Downing never kept any money to speak of, he invested it as soon as he received it. Some of these notes were good and some of them never were. While he was most eccentric, he was also a sociable sort of man, and enjoyed company stopping and visiting with him. Living a hermit's life seemed to be largely from choice. His wife left him about six years ago, since which time he has been entirely alone. The wife died at the home of her daughter in Oregon about a year ago. He has three sons, two of them, Roy and Arthur, living at Parkersburg, Minn., and one, Ralph, living in South Dakota. The daughter, Mrs. Ethel Quinn, lives in Oregon.

Miss Ethel Gherken, teaching at the Galvin school, heard the shot, about three o'clock yesterday afternoon, but she said she thought it was someone hunting and gave it no further thought. Mr. Harold Glew, living a short distance north of the Downing home, saw a man going through the cornfield across the road east from the Downing home, going diagonally southeast from where he went into the field. Footsteps were followed through the field this morning and found to have gone southeasterly to another road.

Mr. Downing was not known to have had an enemy of any kind. While having his peculiarities, he made no enemies. Being a man of considerable means, he had loaned a great many people money, but he had never sued on any of it. In fact, he was too easy with money matters when it came to loans of this kind. About a year and a half ago, he was held up at his home by two men and they secured something like \$72 from him then. This was a larger amount than usual as he had just been paid \$30 a short time before. He was a member of no church and he seldom left his home. It is said that he has sometimes been in the habit of taking a nap right after his noon chores were done, and yesterday it seemed to have been no exception. He had taken off his shoes and they were on the floor near the chair, on which also were his gloves.

Mr. Downing has lived on this farm for the past 55 years. He owns about 800 acres in Fayette County and about the same amount in Minnesota.

The body was brought to the Hintz funeral home in Oelwein last night. The coroner will hold a more extended inquest this afternoon. Sheriff Nehring is at work on the case but reports no definite clues have been found.

Correction

Jason Auel, who manages Sweet Marsh, the subject of last month's column, has a doctorate degree in wildlife management from Iowa State University.

Deadline for the July 26 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., July 13 at 5 PM
 Email news to: readlynchronicle@gmail.com



Agents:

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News from Community Lutheran School



Kindergarten through sixth grade celebrated the last Wildcat Wednesday for the year with Field Day activities! Thank you homeschool families for joining our CLS family and learning with us each week on Wildcat Wednesdays!

Kindergarten through sixth grade students celebrated the last day of school by swimming at the Tripoli swimming pool and a picnic at the park! Have a safe and fantastic summer break!



Together we worship our Lord Jesus Christ at our weekly chapel services! Thank you Pastor Ellingworth from St. John in Waverly for your leading us and teaching us God's Word!



We celebrated the 2022-2023 school year at our Fruit of the Spirit Awards Night! God bless our students, staff, and families! Have a blessed summer!



Mrs. Foster's father-in-law, Wesley Foster, made this beautiful wooden walnut cross. The boys in the fourth through sixth grade stained and finished it. It will be proudly displayed in the Klinger campus hallway! Wesley Foster is 92 years old and attends St. Paul's Artesian church. Thank you for sharing your time and talents! We are truly blessed!



Annual ICE Cream Social

Readlyn Historical Society Museum

Sunday, August 20

4:00-6:00 PM

Ice Cream Sundaes

25¢ Donation
requested per serving.

WE ARE GROWING!

Exciting things are happening at CLS and we need to hire more staff for the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking to fill the three positions listed below.

1. Full-time 3rd-6th elementary teacher (Reading, Language Arts, & Writing)
2. Full-time kindergarten teacher
3. Volunteer Music Teacher (Wednesdays from 12:30-3:00 pm)

Come join our awesome team of teachers!

Resumes and questions can be emailed to:
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ATTENTION: Coming in June - 2024 Calendar
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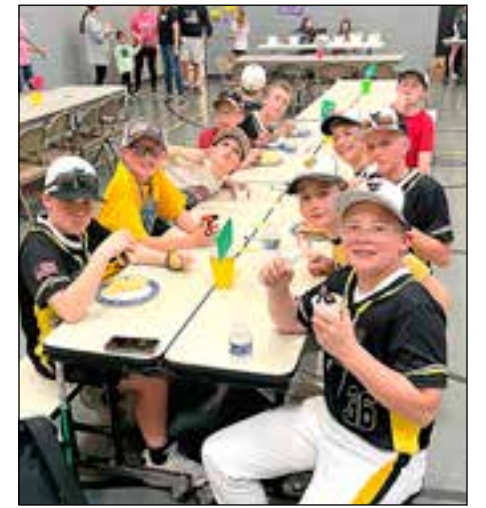
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News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Leader Night in the Valley. Thank you to all of the families and community members who came to support this event!



Congratulations to our school librarian Leslie May! Leslie applied for a grant for our school library and was chosen to receive the grant. We are excited to see the changes and updates happening in our library!



Sixth graders enjoyed a field trip to Tots Lake near Sweet Marsh outside of Tripoli.




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Step 7 of The 7 Habit Tree is entitled "Sharpen the Saw." Students used this step, subtitled "Balance Feels Best" to remember to take care of themselves.

See next month's *Chronicle* for MORE Grump Days highlights!



Miss Readlyn 2023 Lily Swickerath is shown with her Leistikow grandparents.



Ron Hartman accepts the role of 2023 Grump!



Parade winners were, above left, first place float - Readlyn Gardeners; above right, second place float, Immanuel Church, Klinger; below left, third place float, Rainbow 4-H; below right, best golf cart, Poor Farm.



Readlyn Royalty — left to right: 2023 runner-up, Kaliya Lampe; 2022 Miss Readlyn, Sydney Matthias; 2023 Miss Congeniality, Matilda Miller; 2023 Miss Readlyn, Lily Swickerath.



A new addition at this year's Grump Days was the foam machine — a big hit!



There were long lines for face painting. Left to right: Jacqueline Faust, Landon Adams, Cheyenne Hayes, Maleena Sander.



Zion Lutherans offered walking tacos. Left to right: Ruth Wittenburg, Brenda Buenzow, Esther Bast, MaryLou Billhorn, Melanie and Karen Tiedt.

Wapsie Valley 50th class reunion plans

The 50th reunion of the Wapsie Valley High School Class of 1973 will be held Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 4-6 PM. Beer will be provided. You may dine before or after, or you may come for a beer and the conversation.

Dinner is off the menu at Grumpy's Bar & Event Center (www.grumpysbarandeventcenter.com). You will be on your own for all other libations or beverages.

It is an Iowa vs. Iowa State football day. Grumpy's has lots of TVs.

Please RSVP. We have no charge, but will need good numbers, so let me know, yay or nay, if you are attending: Larry Pavelec contact information: On Facebook: Wapsie Valley Class of 1973; Larry on Facebook Messenger, <https://www.facebook.com/larry.pavelec>; Larry Text: 319-939-4968 or Larry's email: pavpavelec@gmail.com.



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"Catfishing"

ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

As many of you know through the years of my articles, I love bass fishing and tournaments. And yes, that part of the sport of fishing makes my world go round through the open water season. But what many don't know is I love to catch anything that swims, I absolutely love fishing for all species! One of my favorite species to fish growing up is catfishing. And it just so happens we have some great catfishing opportunities right in our backyard. This month, I'm going to talk about a fun, inexpensive species to fish for the catfish.

I still remember following my dad down an old dirt path along the Cedar River, the hot sun beating down and the grasshoppers jumping out of the dry grass as we made the long trek to our favorite catfishing hole. It was always so exciting for me, back then I only got to see my dad on the weekends and I would wait all week in excitement to get to go to Dad's as I knew we would be catfishing all weekend. I was probably only nine or ten years old at the time and back then I'm sure Dad was just using this as a way to inexpensively get some fishing in when my family didn't have a lot of money. But what he probably didn't realize at the time is he was creating some of my favorite memories fishing growing up. It was always so cool to me to ride to the local bait shop for catfish bait, I was always in awe at the large bait tanks full of all the different sizes of minnows, chubs, and crawdads. I loved the smell, and the sounds of the tank pumps as we visited the store for our bait of choice for day. It was my wildest dream to one day be involved with that shop. That shop is Hanks Live Bait and Tackle and now currently one of my biggest sponsors on the tournament scene. It's funny how things work out sometimes. Anyway, back to following dad down that path, as I said, it was usually hot and it was all my little arms could handle carrying the bucket of chubs

and our gear down the path. Dad and I had kind of "built" our favorite fishing hole. There was naturally a rocky point that had created a current break, but we added to it. We carried rocks and piled them further out into the water creating an even bigger current break and a deep hole in the water where catfish like to live. On the bank, we found a bunch of bricks and built a makeshift fireplace. A lot of our fishing would go well into the night and a small fire was a necessity as we would usually bring some hotdogs or a can of beans for a snack while fishing. If I recall correctly,



that's even where I got share a sip or two of dad's Old Milwaukee "when I ran out of pop" sitting side by side on the riverbank. Insert winking emoji face here. We would sit there for hours with two poles each propped up on sticks with a different bait on each rod. Dad taught me at the time how to target the two different catfish species in the Cedar. If you targeted channel catfish we generally used dead chubs or stinkbait and if we were after flathead catfish we needed to use live chubs, as flatheads would only bite live bait. We both became obsessed with catching a big flathead. Our goal was always to break that twenty pound mark,



would run out of line, dad expertly took his time and the fight lasted at least twenty minutes. As the giant flathead started to tire out, Dad handed me the rod and waded into the water and grabbed the fish and threw it up on the bank! We high-fived and hugged over that fish. We had achieved a

and I still remember the night we did. We were in our usual spot and it had been a slow evening with only a few fish caught. Dad had decided that he wanted to try some bigger bait and had thrown a nightcrawler out on the bottom to try to catch a sucker or carp to have that bigger bait. He had casted out a small spinning rod to do this and propped it up. We put some hot dogs on the fire and heard the drag on that little rod take off! Dad grabbed the rod and the fight was on. What had been put out to catch bait was now the tool to get our elusive twenty pounder in! The drag on that little reel was screaming and we both feared it

goal and as long ago as that was, I still remember every detail.

It's very easy to get into catfishing, and as I said earlier our local Wapsi River and Cedar are absolutely full of them. To get started I recommend a rod at least 6' 6" and no lighter than medium heavy action. I prefer heavy as catfish fight hard! I like to use no lighter than 20 lb. test line and you can use either spinning or casting reels, whichever you prefer. For a bait set-up use a heavy barrel sinker with a split-shot behind it as a sinker stop. Stop the sinker at least a foot and a half above the hook to let the bait float up off the bottom. Baits of choice are chubs, nightcrawlers, crawdads, chicken liver, or stinkbait. Stinkbait can be purchased in jars and use a sponge or stinkbait holder on a treble hook. If you use chicken liver, I like a treble hook for that as well, as it holds the liver better than a standard hook. For all the other baits I like to use a 1/0 widegap hook. Cast your baits along current breaks that create slack water behind them. I like to cast right where the current meets the slack water. Dead trees in the water are great places for catfish to hide as they create current breaks and deeper water. There are many great accesses nearby to start finding these type of areas for catfish. A good place to start is with an Iowa sportsman's atlas and generally wherever there's a public area along the river, you will find good catfishing. Or simply take a family drive along the river and you can find great areas to start. When catfishing, bring the kids along as it's a very relaxing way to fish throwing your bait out on the bottom and relaxing along the river. Bring snacks and you'll more than likely make some great memories just as I did all those years ago. Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!



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Wapsie Valley School Board Meetings - May 9 and May 15, 2023

May 9, 2023 Special School Board Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance
 1. President Wolfe called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 5:36 PM. No changes to the agenda
 A. Directors: Auel, Sauerbrei, Wolfe, & Van Daele - Aiello (excused) B. Superintendent Hoover
 C. Others: None
 2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Van Daele to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 3. No public comment
 4. Contracts: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the 23-24 Teaching & Support Staff contracts as presented Motion carried 4-0
 5. Board Talking Points - Jeannie asked Mr. Hoover to explain the change in the law for TLC monies and to investigate how some could be utilized differently.
 6. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Van Daele to go into closed session at 5:46 PM Roll Call-Auel, Sauerbrei, Wolfe,
 & Van Daele - All AYES Closed session 21.5(e) To discuss whether to conduct a hearing or to conduct hearings to suspend or expel a student, unless an open session is requested by the student or a parent or guardian of the student if the student is a minor. Exited closed session at 5:53 PM
 7. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Van Daele to adjourn at 5:54 PM. Motion carried 4-0

Submitted by Superintendent Chris Hoover Regular Meeting May 15, 2023

1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:30 PM
 A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Sauerbrei, Wolfe, & Van Daele. Declare a quorum.
 B. Superintendent Hoover, Board Secretary Arndt, Principals: Murphy, Hurley, & Forsyth
 C. Others Present: Alicia Hesse, Brenda, Matt, Jake, & Silas Coffin, Vaughn Gross, & Kaleah Belinsky
 2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0
 3. **Public Comment:** Vaughn Gross - The Behavioral

room will help out at the JH/HS. Robotics had good feedback with Sharpen the Saw activities.

4. **Spotlight on Education:** Jake, Silas, & Kaleah presented their favorite activity stations at Sharpen the Saw activity day. Everyone had a great time. Alicia Hesse presented a slideshow on Sharpen the Saw activities.

5. **Consent Items:** Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Van Daele with no open enrollments as presented. Motion carried 5-0

6. **Communication & Reports:** Board: Logan Rochette had an impressive showing at archery State and Nationals.

The assassin game should not be coming into the school buildings. Graduation went well. Any students should be in good standing academically in order to participate in field trips. Students that have behavioral issues are not allowed to participate.

7. **Superintendent Hoover:** Report included Board Appreciation, boiler inspection, Readlyn geothermal, Rural #3, Legislative updates, General obligation & Sales Tax bond elections, PERL, Budget & Levy certification date, & New budget process.

District: Report included Professional Development updates

Principal Hurley: Report included Leader In Me, FB-PTO, PK-6th grade spring concert, 6th-grade guided tour at the HS, Kindergarten round-up, 3rd-6th grade ISASP testing, JH/HS service learning project at FB, scussed PD, Leader In Me, Report Cards, ISASP & Spring Maps testing, & activities within the building.

Principal Forsyth: Report included EWALU trip, great music concert, 6th-grade tour at HS, Kindergarten round-up, Earth Day activities, Ms May received a \$500 grant from KWWL, & ISASP testing.

Principal Murphy: Report included Professional goal conversations, Mental Health month, 8th-grade and JH Band trip to Adventureland, Run, Hide, Fight, Final day with Seniors, & Activity Updates

8. **Personnel-Resignation:** Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the resignations of Cole

Mather-JH/Baseball Coach, Kristen Dvorak-Special Education Associate, & Jayme Hurley-Fairbank Principal effective 6-30-2023 and thank them for their service to the students and staff at WV as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

9. **Contracts:** Moved by Sauerbrei, seconded by Aiello to approve the 23-24 Sponsorship/Coaching Contracts, Bockholt, Amanda-Fairbank/Readlyn Facebook & Website Sponsor Base 2/Year 5 \$1,348.00, Foster, Duane Strength & Conditioning Coach Base 1/Year 3 \$2,105.50, Fyfe, Abigail 7-12 Vocal Sponsorship Base 1/Year 4 \$2,857.00, & Musical Director Sponsorship Base 1/Year 4 \$1,504.00, Gross, Jennifer Co-Prom Sponsor Base 1/Year 2 \$977.50, Vaughn Website Base 2/Year 5 \$674.00, & Robotics Coach Base 3/Year 12 \$3,298.00, Harter, Jennifer Co-Student Council Base 1/Year 1 \$977.50, & Harter, Jennifer Fall Cheerleading Sponsor Base 1/Year 1 \$1,504.00, Meringer, Jennifer JH Student Council Base 1/Year 3 \$602.00, Nitz, Katelyn Honor Society Sponsor Base 1/Year 3 \$752.00, & Co-Prom Sponsor Base 1/Year 2 \$977.50, Redden, Emily HS Marching Band Sponsor Base 1/Year 4 \$3,068.00, Sittig, Zane Co-Student Council Base 1/Year 1 \$977.50, Weber, Chase Strength & Conditioning Coach Base 1/Year 2 \$2,105.50, Weepie, Kim Play/Musical Sponsor Base 1/Year 1 \$1,504.00, Wiersma, Gina Silver Cord Sponsor Base 3/Year 13 \$1,042.00, and Tom Joecken-JH Baseball - Base 4/Year 11 - \$2,240 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

10. **New Business:** Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Aiello to approve a 4% increase for the Business Manager, Director of Maintenance, and Human Resources Director effective July 1, 2023 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the 23-24, 50% WV, 50% Dunkerton Sharing Agreement with Dunkerton for the Elementary Counselor (\$40,773) and Teacher/Librarian (\$13,238)- 20% WV, 20% West Central, and 40% Dunkerton as presented. Motion carried 5-0 WV will receive approximately \$14,848 in operational sharing dollars for each of these positions to offset these costs.

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the Sharing Agreements with Central Rivers for FY24 Curriculum Director, \$25,216 (20%) Special Education Director, \$48,009.60 (50%) Work Based Learning Coordinator,

\$22,031.20 (20%) & Multi-Occupations Coordinator (MOC) \$22,668.80 (20%) as presented. Motion carried 5-0 WV will receive approximately \$59,392 of operational sharing funds to offset these costs.

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the 23-24 transportation agreement as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Rural 3-Would like to wait a year to make any decisions on the rural 3 building as we are hoping the enrollment will increase in coming years.

11. Board Talking Points - Jerry-let's not lose sight of a six lane track

12. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to go into closed session at 7:34 PM Roll call-ALL AYES Principal increase- Closed session 21.5 (i) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Out of closed session at 8:04

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to go into closed session at 8:05 PM Roll call-ALL AYES Principal increase- Closed session 21.5 (i) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Out of closed session at 8:21

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to go into closed session at 8:22 PM Roll call-ALL AYES Superintendent evaluation- Closed session 21.5 (i) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Out of closed session at 9:00.

13. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to table Principals and Superintendent increases as presented. Motion carried 5-0

14. Moved Van Daele, Seconded by Sauerbrei to adjourn at 9:21 as presented. Motion carried 5-0



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Deadline for the July 26 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., July 13 at 5 PM



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Readlyn, IA 50668
(319) 279-3977
Pastor Philip Giradin
Divine Service 10 a.m.



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
2649 230th Street
Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758
Sunday services 10:00 AM
Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month
Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
120 West 4th Street
Readlyn, IA 50668
(319) 279-3961
Pastor Philip Giradin
Divine Service 8:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study, Sun., 7 p.m.
Mary-Martha Circle
1st Wednesday 7 p.m.



Zion Lutheran Church
240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668
Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
(319) 279-3643
Sunday Services 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:05 - 9:45 a.m.
Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday
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