

## Saturday, October 28 Halloween UTV Poker Ride

Join us for the Second Annual Readlyn Community Club Halloween UTV Poker Ride. The money raised will be used for various projects around Readlyn. Last year the money was donated to build a new set of dugouts at the ball diamonds.

Poker Ride stops are still being confirmed, but the ride will take place in Readlyn, Denver, Tripoli, Sumner, Westgate and Fairbank. Please watch the RCC Facebook for further details.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., (first machine sent put at 10 a.m.) and ends at 11 a.m. at the Grumpy's Bar in Readlyn, IA on Saturday, October 28. There is plenty of truck and trailer parking at the TruServe Insurance Group, Wittenburg Trucking, Wapsie Valley Elementary and St. Matthew's Lutheran.

### Poker Rules:

- > Each poker hand is \$20.
- > Each player may buy as many hands as they would like.
- > Players will collect stamps on their poker card at each stop.
- > There will be a bonus playing card awarded if you wear a costume during our Halloween ride!
- > Players will return to Grumpy's Bar by 5 p.m. to turn their cards in. Please plan accordingly!

> A minimum of 5 stops are required to play each poker hand.

> Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 hands. In case of a tie, winners will be notified, and cards will be redrawn to determine a winner.

Everyone should be back to Grumpy's in Readlyn no later than 5 p.m. From there, we will play the poker hands, have various raffles and 50/50 drawing winner will be announced.



FALL BACK

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR

**Daylight Savings  
Time ends Sunday,  
Nov. 5, 2023**

## RCC decorates Main Street



The "Welcome to Readlyn" sign got decked out with fall decorations by members of the Readlyn Community Club (photo at right).

**Above:** RCC members, left to right, Pat Wehr, Michelle Harrington, and Rod Wittenburg, and at right, the Hogans - top to bottom - Caleb, Ben, Jaci, Macie, and Duke.

**Photo at left:** Left to right, Michelle Harrington, Dustin Palmer, Roger and Marlys Deterding. Thank you, Jon Jaschen, for donating the corn-stalks and Ron Leistikow and family for chopping them down.

## Trick or Treat in Readlyn Sunday, Oct. 29 4-6 PM



## Readlyn Community Club's Annual Christmas Lighting Contest!

**Prizes: First - \$75 Second - \$50 Third - \$30**

Judging of homes will take place December 3 – 9. Readlyn homes will automatically be judged unless they were winners last year. Pictures of the winning yards will appear in the December issue of the *Readlyn Chronicle*.

## Sabrina Leistikow selected as royalty for 2023 University of Iowa homecoming

Iowa City, IA — Sabrina Leistikow of Cedar Falls, Iowa was selected as royalty for the 2023 University of Iowa homecoming celebration.

Sabrina was one of two selected from an outstanding field of candidates based on community service, leadership, academics, integrity and Hawkeye spirit.

Sabrina carries a 4.1 GPA while majoring in history and secondary education as well as minoring in sport and recreation management. She will graduate in the spring and plans to attend graduate school next fall.

Royalty participated in the week-long homecoming events including the spirit rally, the annual homecoming parade and were recognized at the Iowa versus Purdue football game on Saturday, October 7. Royalty will also receive a small scholarship for the spring semester.

Sabrina is a 2019 graduate of Cedar Falls High School and is the daughter of Kurt and Jenifer Leistikow and the granddaughter of Ronald and Judy Leistikow of Readlyn.



Sabrina Leistikow





# Grump's Grumblings

By Ron Hartman, 2023 Grump

On the September 16, we went on the annual Esther Wittenburg golf cart ride on the bike trail. The guest of honor was Esther Pooch. Royalty Emily, Kali and Matilda were in the cart behind us. They screamed through the tunnel under Highway 63 and scared all the wildlife away. There were rumors of Big Foot sightings in the area west of 63, but, with all the noise, no Big Foot was seen. It was a beautiful day for the 25 golf carts on a fun ride. Thank you to Esther Wittenburg's family for sponsoring the carts, the Readlyn Gardeners for providing cookies and water, and to everyone participating.

It was good to be back on the road with our trip to Montana. I figured it would be a two-day trip, but my co-pilot said NO!! We didn't do bad making it in 2 1/2 days. Thanks to the Kuhlmann boys at Larry's Skelly for replacing all the worn-out parts in my 2010 F-150 in 2019 and Jim Wolff servicing and checking my truck over. Shop and buy local when you can. We topped the Continental Divide at 47 mph

pulling our camper. Louie did well with just a couple of whimpers and OMGs.

My son retired from the Navy and bought 10 acres outside of Stevensville, MT. Wow, what a beautiful area. Their acreage is in the Bitterroot Valley with a pond and small creek. We spent a week helping clean up and clear brush and going to a couple of our grandson's football games. One game was 2 hours north of Missoula and one by Darby, where "Yellowstone" is filmed. The camper stayed in Montana, so the ride home was easier, quicker and cheaper. We arrived in Readlyn at 3:00 p.m., changed cars and headed to cross country at Fredericksburg. Two days later, a trip to soccer at Ames. It's good to be home, but we are still driving. Not over-the-road though—I love retirement.

I would like to thank the Community Club for decorating Main Street with the fall lights and decorations. It takes a lot of time and hard work.

Readlyn Grump, Ron Hartman



# Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lily Schwickerath

## Hello Readlyn Community!

These past two months have been a whirlwind of activities.

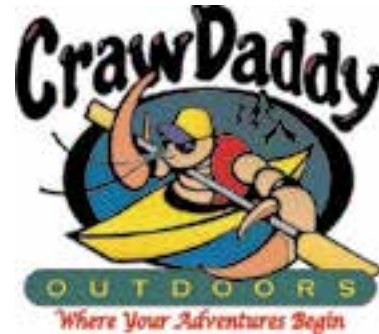
Starting with swimming, last month I had seven meets total, including senior night. Then finally, in November, I will have Districts on Nov. 4, followed by state on Nov 11.

Next, I had a handful of FFA activities. On Oct. 5, I had the amazing opportunity to facilitate North-Central's District Greenhand Fire Up, which is a conference for new members to FFA. They are being taught the many skills you need to be a

valuable member of their chapter, school, and community. Then our District Greenhand Fire Up was held in Waverly, Iowa. I got the chance to meet with a lot of our district's Greenhands, and got to know a lot of them. The last of the GFUs I will facilitate will be on the 16th in southeast Iowa.

I am really enjoying my time as Miss Readlyn. My favorite event so far has probably been the golf cart ride on the bike trail. It was a great way for community members to get together. I look forward to the many fall and winter Readlyn events to come!

**Deadline for the Nov. 29 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., Nov. 16 at 5 PM**



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# Readlyn Community Happenings



Mary Matthias

## Mary Matthias to note 80th Birthday

Mary Matthias will celebrate her 80th birthday with family members and a winter trip to Arizona.

She was born Oct. 27, 1943, to Kenneth and Edythe Mills of Central City, IA. She graduated from Upper Iowa University with a B.A. in elementary education in 1965. She married Virgil Matthias on June 14, 1969.

Her family includes Greg (Kris) Matthias of Readlyn, Julie (Greg) Froning of Dike, IA, Annette (Darin) Trimble of Bennington, NE, Eric (Andrea) Matthias of Gilbert, AZ, and Brett (Justina) Matthias

of Gardner, KS, along with 10 grandchildren (two grandsons deceased) and six great-grandchildren.

Mary is a former elementary school teacher in the Denver school district.

Mary is an avid bird watcher and enjoys identifying various species and their songs. She also enjoys classic movies, word and board games, interacting on Facebook, and especially spending time with family and friends.

Cards may be sent to P.O. Box 32, Readlyn, IA 50668.

## Next Pepper Tournament Sat., Nov. 4

The first pepper tournament of the fall was held at Grumpy's on Saturday, Oct. 7.

The winners and their scores were:

- 1st - Roger and Connie Buhr - 194
- 2nd - Sean and Lorna Van Natta - 188
- 3rd - Joan Matthias and Judy Henn - 163

4th - Grace Kuethe and Shirley Kuker - 101

The next pepper tournament will be Saturday, November 4 at Grumpy's at 1:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$3.00. Everyone welcome! Bring a partner!

## Happy 90th Birthday, Harold Wehling



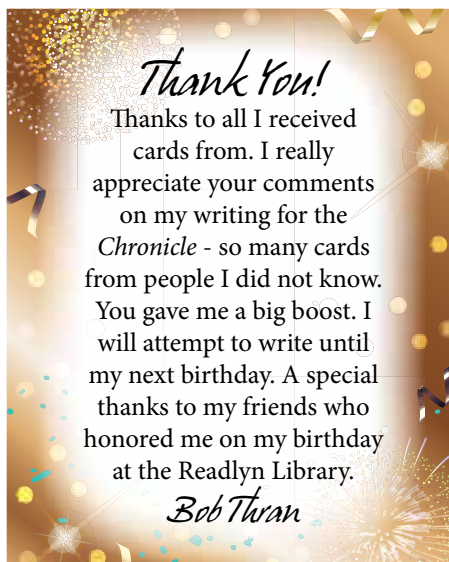
Harold Wehling

Harold Wehling is celebrating his 90th birthday on November 18 with a card shower.

Harold and his family lived in Readlyn where he was pretty famous for his Zenith TV shop and being a regular at the Center Inn.

Help his family wish him a Happy 90th Birthday by sending cards to:

Harold Wehling  
425 Allen St. Apt 305  
Waterloo, IA 50701



*Thank You!*

Thanks to all I received cards from. I really appreciate your comments on my writing for the *Chronicle* - so many cards from people I did not know. You gave me a big boost. I will attempt to write until my next birthday. A special thanks to my friends who honored me on my birthday at the Readlyn Library.

*Bob Twan*



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# Readlyn Savings Bank

invites YOU to Our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Grümptoberfest 2023

“A COMMUNITY Appreciation Party!”

October 26, 2023— 4:30-8:30 pm

@ The Grumpy's Event Center

- FREE Brats & Dogs Dinner 4:30-7:00 pm
- Live Music, Raffle & Prizes, Oktoberfest Beer
- MAIN EVENT: Costume Contest 6:30 pm sharp!

*All Ages Welcome to Participate!*



Member FDIC

**Obituary - Norma Edgeton**

Norma Jean Edgeton age 77 of Sumner, IA died Monday, September 18, 2023 in Rapid City, SD.



Graveside service was held 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at St. Michael's Cemetery in Nashua, IA. Hugelback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Nashua were in charge of arrangements.

She was born on December 20, 1945, to Elvin and Meta (Bullen) Nordman in Charles City, Iowa. Norma was one of three children, and her early years were marked by a loving family and a zest for life that would define her for decades to come.

Norma's educational journey led her to Nashua High School and eventually

to her graduation from Plainfield High School. Her early career saw her waitressing, a role she took to naturally due to her warm and welcoming personality. Norma had an uncanny ability to strike up conversations with anyone she met, making friends easily and leaving lasting impressions on everyone she encountered.

Following her time in the restaurant industry, Norma found herself working at convenient stores, often in management roles. Her dedication to helping people and engaging in heartfelt conversations continued to shine through in her work, where she provided excellent service and made customers feel like family.

In a beautiful chapter of her life, Norma married the love of her life, Carl, on December 23, 1995, in Oran, Iowa. Together, they embarked on a journey filled with love and adventure. Norma was a vital partner in managing their hardware store.

One of Norma and Carl's favorite pastimes was their annual winter getaway to Texas and summers in South Dakota where they embraced their love for horseback riding, camping, and trail riding with their beloved mules. Their travels together were filled with joy and shared adventures, and the memories created during those trips will be treasured by all who knew them.

Norma had a special place in her heart for her animals, especially her loyal companion, Teddy. Her love for animals was evident in the care and affection she showered upon them, making her home a haven for four-legged friends.

Norma is survived by her husband Carl of Sumner, IA; one son, Dana (Holly) Benning of Greene, IA; two daughters, Brenda (Ed) Noteboom of Reinbeck, IA, Annette (Troy) Sage of Waverly, IA; two step-children, Kevin (Pam) Edgeton of Fairbank, IA; Trisha Loob of Texas and many grandkids and great grandkids.

**Wapsie Valley School Board Meetings**

**Sept. 18 & Oct. 2, 2023**

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular School Board Meeting, September 18, 2023

- Pledge of Allegiance
- 1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:31 PM A. Directors: Wolfe, Sauerbrei, Aiello, Van Daele, Auel (virtual)
- B. Administration: Chris Hoover, Principal Forsyth, Murphy, & Myers
- C. Board Secretary: Kim Arndt, Others: Madysyn Richards, Carmen Wille, Vaughn Gross, Mark Moine, Joshua Sieglaff, Jonathan LaCroix, Mae Wedemeier, Jackson Adair, and virtual participants.
- 2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the amended agenda eliminating discussion on the track project as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- 3. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve fundraisers for FFA fruit and national convention trip to Indianapolis as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- 4. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Van Daele to approve KCL Engineering to put HVAC gymnasium upgrades out for bid as presented. Motion carried 4-0 Aiello-absent
- 5. Public Comment - Robotics will be hosting a competition this year per Vaughn Gross. Robotics is more expensive with new supplies.
- 6. Spotlight-Mae Wedemeier & Jackson Adair presented information on outsourcing the schools lunch program. Feasibility study will be done to determine if it will be sustainable financially.
- 7. Consent Items - Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Wolfe and open enrollments: Mckinley Gage kindergarten daughter from Oelwein Augustina Ingersoll 5th grade son & 8th grade daughter from Oelwein, & Heidi Schultz's 3rd, 4th, 12th grade sons & 9th grade from Sumner-FYI Nicole Reaves kindergarten and 5th grade sons to Oelwein, Gary & CJ Wilson 12th grade student to Oelwein, & Nicole Christopher kindergarten son to West Central as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- 8. Board - Sauerbrei-have gotten great feedback regarding facility updates. Wolfe discussed Bill of Sale for Rural 3 prepared by Beecher Law Firm at no charge.
- Superintendent - Report included outsourcing lunch program, thanks to all involved with homecoming, & activity dates.
- PK-6 Principal Hurley/Forsyth: Homecoming, Professional Development, Back To School Night, School Ambassadors, Leader in Me, & Activity Report
- 9. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the following resignations as presented: Zach Kuhlmann-JH Basketball Coach, & Shelby Hill - Special Education Associate and thank them for their service at WV. Motion carried 5-0
- Contracts: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve Mike Duffy-Part Time Custodian-\$15.24 P/H Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the following volunteers as presented-Motion Carried 5-0
- Tammy Erickson-PTO-Art, Debra Heineman, Laura LaMasters, Susan Frost, Marilyn Steggall-Elementary Classrooms
- 10. New Business-Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve Joseph Little's bid of \$3,650 for the 2010 Chrysler Van as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- Will bring early retirement options for fiscal year 2023 to the meeting in October
- Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the Wegner quote of \$10,035 for Choir risers as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship agreement with Waverly CSD for Orchestra for the 23-24 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to table the SAVE/PPEL/Management expenditures for FY24 as presented. Motion carried.
- Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve Martin Gardner HVAC gymnasium upgrades for professional services and architectural design phases (\$58,600) as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the quote from Phillips Floors (\$16,673.65) with \$6,000 being donated by WV Archery Club for a multi-purpose netting system in the Multi-Purpose room as presented. Motion carried 5-0.
- Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the District Developed Special Delivery Plan as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- Moved by Sauerbrei Seconded by Aiello to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement with Oelwein for Dance for the 23-24 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve FY23 Special Education Allowable growth of -\$317,277.71 as presented. Motion carried 5-0
- 11. Board Talking Points - No comments
- Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to go into closed session at 8:13. Roll call-Sauerbrei-Aye, Aiello-Aye, Van Daele-Aye, Auel-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye. Motion carried 5-0 Board will go into a "Closed Session to evaluate a licensed employee" as provided by Iowa Code 21.5(1) To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Aiello to come out of closed session at 8:40. Roll call-Sauerbrei-Aye, Aiello-Aye, Van Daele-Aye, Auel-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye. Motion carried 5-0
- 12. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Sauerbrei to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully, Kim Arndt

**Wapsie Valley Special Board Meeting 10/2/23**

The special meeting of the Wapsie Valley School Board was called to order by President Wolfe at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Brent Sauerbrei, Jeannie Wolfe, Angie Auel, and Steve Aiello. Van Daele-Absent

A motion was made by Steve Aiello to go into closed session-Iowa Code 21.5(1) 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. The motion was seconded by Angie Auel. Roll call vote was taken: Brent Sauerbrai- Aye, Jeannie Wolfe- Aye, Steve Aiello- Aye, Angie Auel- Aye. Motion carried 4-0 The closed session was entered at 5:32 p.m.

The board came out of closed session at 5:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Angie Auel, seconded by Brent Sauerbrei to terminate the employee's contract. Brent Sauerbrei -Aye, Angie Auel-Aye, Jeannie Wolfe-Aye, Steve Aiello-Abstain. Motion carried 3-0

Motion by Brent Sauerbrei to adjourn and seconded by Steve Aiello. Motion carried 4-0. Adjournment at 5:34 p.m.

Submitted by Supt. Hoover

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In Memory of Jeanette Iverson-Junge  
Glennys Wedemeier

In Memory of Dean Franzen  
Barb Meyer

**Memorial Books**

In Memory of Evie Strottmann  
When God Made You by Evan Paul Turner, given by Chris and Sharon Davis

### Two Great Programs in November!

**Gangster(s) in Our Midst: The Untold Story**

Fairbank, Iowa became a haven for mobster Louie La Cava in the early 1920s. Take a deeper dive into the history of Midwest gangsterism and its notorious past.

Readlyn Community Library  
309 Main Street, Readlyn, IA  
**Thursday, Nov. 2 (was July 13), 6 pm**

Award-winning Author  
Betty Brandt Pannick

**Nov. 9 @ 6pm**

## STORYTELLER

# DARRIN CROW

S'more Stories: These are the perfect stories to enjoy with a warm fire and your favorite gooey treat. Enjoy a mix of tall tales, American folk tales, and a few creepy tales thrown in for good measure. These stories are ideal for scout groups and church youth groups. This program is for all ages - s'mores will be provided and the program will run about 45 minutes.

Watch us on Facebook to hear about dates for two programs we're planning in November/December: one will teach you how to create a living will and the other is an educational program that covers how to recognize signs of dementia, as well as how to support and communicate with people living with dementia.

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Thurs - 10am - 7pm  
Fri - 10am-5pm  
Sat - 9am - 12pm  
Sun - Closed



# 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>

## Readlyn Boxing Matches

Wayne and Dale Kuethe's father, Elmer, as well as Uncles Reinhart and Ervin Judas were involved in boxing. Boxing matches were held in the 1930s until some years thereafter. Wayne remembers traveling to Clarksville with his family to attend a boxing event. His Uncle Erv feared his opponent. Elmer Kuethe took his place.

I assume the bouts were staged in Readlyn in the outdoor movie lot. I attended no boxing events. I did hear people say that Erv Judas and Edgar Albrecht were both skilled boxers.

### Last Boxing Matches Held In Readlyn

Six young kids, 10 or 11 years old, dreamed up promoting some boxing matches among themselves. We got permission to use Wolf's Hall, the upstairs of the building across Main Street from Readlyn Public Library. Wayne and I do not remember how we advertised the bouts. Maybe we talked Lou Sherman into printing some fliers for us or possibly we handprinted them ourselves.

The boxing card:

Ervin Fortsch vs Dale Keuthe

Allen Fortsch vs Reiny Frietag, Jr.

Wayne Kuethe vs Glenroy Fortsch (Norman Seeman was originally slated to compete, but Glenroy replaced him.)

We set up chairs in the hall. Boxing matches were set on the stage. I was older and served as business manager and collected the money at the top of the stairs. Admission was 10 cents per person.

The day of the bouts came. To our great surprise, lots of people came. The gate was split among the six boxers. Maybe each got a couple dollars. Big money, at that time, to those young kids.

Wayne and I now laugh about the individual matches. Dale was much taller than Erv Fortsch. Reiny Frietag was much bigger than Al Fortsch. The only two on the boxing card that were evenly matched in size were Wayne vs Glen Fortsch. Glen was two years older than Wayne. No one was hurt in any of the matches.

Wayne and I do not remember how we kept track of rounds. Wayne thinks Fat Meyer was the referee. It is difficult to recall for this happened more than 75 years ago. When Wayne and I look back we find it difficult to comprehend the success of our evening of boxing matches. Many people attended. One major measure of success—not one person asked for their dime back.

**Note:** The interesting poster was mailed to me by Wayne Kuethe's sister, Judy Henn. Bout bill was saved by Mrs. E. H. "Ernie" Gehrke, mother of Stan Gehrke.

**Wrestling Match**  
— AND —  
**BOXING EXHIBITION**  
AT THE OPEN THEATRE  
**READLYN**

---

**SATURDAY NIGHT**  
**SEPTEMBER 12**

---

**MAT EXHIBITION**  
Roland Drewis vs. Arnold Strottman  
OF TRIPOLI OF READLYN

---

**Nineteen Rounds of Boxing**  
Reinhart Judas, Readlyn vs. Ed. Olejniczak, Tripoli  
Erwin Judas, Readlyn vs. Chas. Alcock, Waverly  
Edgar Albrecht, Readlyn vs. Lester Boeckman, Tripoli  
Elmer Spier, Readlyn vs. Bobbie Bryan, Cedar Falls

---

Music Furnished by the Readlyn Senior and Junior Bands

---

**REFEREE: JACK DEINEMA**

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**Deadline for the November 29  
Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., Nov. 16**  
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**Readlyn Gardeners** (left to right) Ruth Wittenburg, Bonnie Erickson, Bonnie Wittenburg, Ruth Happel with the help of sisters on either side of her, and Marlys Deterding remove flowers to make room for the 200+ tulip and daffodil bulbs they planted.

## Senior Citizens meet at Panther Lanes

On Sept. 27, 21 members attended the 11:30 a.m. Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at Panther Lanes in Tripoli.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow and he also led us in prayer before our meal.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Larry Ladage, Don Heineman and Millie Crawford as they all had birthdays in September.

We sang "Happy Anniversary" to Ron and Judy Leistikow as they celebrated 59 years together. Don and Joyce Heineman celebrated 61 years together. Congratulations to both couples.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$ 301.00. Motion was made by Alice Soldwisch and seconded by Marlys Deterding to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The secretary's minutes were read by Lois Thacher for August 16, 2023. Motion was made by Janet Ladage and Larry Ladage seconded it to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Lois Thacher read a thank you from the Readlyn EMS for our \$50.00 donation. Lois also read a thank you from His Hands Food Pantry in Oran, Iowa for our \$50.00 donation.

**Old Business:** The Annual Esther Wittenburg Memorial Golf Cart Ride was on September 16, 2023 at 1:30. It was reported that there were 25 that rode the trail that day with golf carts. Fun was had by all.

The Readlyn Historical Society hosted their Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 20 from 4-6 PM. It was reported that 155 people were served ice cream by the Grump Ron Hartman and the Miss

Readlyn Lily Schwickerath.

**New Business:** Octoberfest Celebration at the Poor Farm will be on October 19: 5:30 Social time; 6:00 Soup Served; 6:25 PM German Octoberfest Welcome-Public Comments; 6:30 PM Buffet; 7:30 PM Live Entertainment by the Cedar Valley Blue Grass; 8:30PM Building Tours. Carry outs available/7:15 PM. The price is \$20.00 per person. Contact Ron Leistikow at 319-279-3548 or Charlie Albrecht at 319-279-3228 for tickets.

The Zion Lutheran Church Fall Dinner will be Sunday, October 22 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Dine-In and Drive-Thru. Free-will donation and Quilt Raffle tickets available.

The St. Matthew Church Fall Dinner will be Sunday, November 5, 3-6 PM. Dine-In and Carry out.

A Birthday Party open to the Public was held at the Readlyn Public Library on September 20, 2023 honoring Bob Thran on his 94th Birthday. He received many compliments and thank yous for his articles that he puts in the *Chronicle* each month. Pretty great at 94 years young to still have such a writing and composing ability to get the articles in the *Chronicle* that we all enjoy!

The next Senior Citizen meeting will be held October 18, 2023 at the Tripoli Bowling Alley. Marlys Deterding made a motion to adjourn and Millie Crawford seconded it. Motion carried.

*Lois Thacher, Secretary*

Send news to the *Chronicle* at:  
**ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com**

## Readlyn City Council - October 9, 2023

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:45PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00PM for the regular meeting. Mayor Wedemeier in the chair and the following named council members present: Keith Brunscheon Rocco Imbrogno Joey Jones, Jason Franck. Absent: Nicole Barnes. Others in attendance: Steve Aiello, Barney Wiersma, Austin Matthias, Louie Hartman, Mark McElhose.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve minutes from the September 11, 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.

Clerk and treasurer's reports tabled until November meeting.

Budget report and library reports tabled until November meeting.

Motion by Franck 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.

Readlyn Community Club, representative Louie Hartman discussed plans for fireworks and Christmas decorations.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Jones to approve driveway variance for property owned by Barry McElhose located at 324 Goodell Ave, Readlyn, IA. The request would allow a change from a sixteen foot

to an eighteen foot driveway with a change in the flare from one foot to three foot to match both sides of the driveway. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Franck. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Council received an update on the Readlyn Main Street Reconstruction Project. No contractor pay request or change orders were presented for approval.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve new volunteer fire dept members Ben Anderson and Joe Rundle. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Council received an update on the starting of the water tower maintenance project.

Council reviewed materials costs for police car garage at 311 Main Street. Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve purchase of materials from Sumner Building Supply. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve Police Chief, Steve Aiello to attend Iowa IAI Conference. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Brunscheon to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

*Dan Wedemeier, Mayor*

ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk



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# News from Wapsie Valley Schools



It is hard to believe that the month of October is half over and the cooler weather has definitely arrived. A big congratulations to all of our fall activities and the success that each of our teams has had this year. The strong traditions continue in the valley!

Over the next few months I am going to be sharing information in regards to school finance in Iowa. I feel this is an important topic for all patrons to have a basic understanding of so that you are knowledgeable about what schools can and cannot do with funds. It will also help you understand how staffing and facilities decisions are made.

### Iowa School Finance

Iowa school finance can be difficult to navigate. Below are a few basic concepts that will start you on your way to a general understanding of where school funding comes from and how it can be spent.

Iowa school finance is based on the number of students in the district. The total amount of money a district has is determined primarily by the number of children enrolled. The Iowa Legislation sets the amount that school districts receive per child. That amount currently is \$7424. Except for a few specific tax levies dedicated to specific purposes, the state prohibits districts from levying as much local money as they might otherwise want to fund the school district. Therefore, when

the number of students enrolled in the district increases, the amount of money for the district increases. On the contrary, when the number of students decreases, so does the amount of money available to the district. Schools are a labor-intensive business, with about 80 percent of a district's General Fund made up of staff salary and benefit costs.

People often wonder how the district's tax rate is figured. The district's tax rate is set by the school foundation formula. There are only limited steps a school board can take to increase or decrease the property tax rate. Each tax levy has a limited purpose and the General Fund is for everything else. Property valuation has a big impact on the overall tax rate.

Certain funds have to be spent on certain things. Although it may not make sense that the district has enough money to pave a parking lot, remodel a building, or buy computers but not enough money to hire teachers (or vice versa), that's how the state law works. These are different pots of money that can be used only for specific, legal purposes.

Next month I will discuss the different types of funds in the district budget and what those funds can be spent on. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support and Go Warriors!

*Chris Hoover, Superintendent*

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 Oct. 29th, 2023  
**Wapsie Valley FFA  
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## - 21st Annual - WAPSIE VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION FALL DINNER & AUCTION

Join us to support Wapsie Valley Community School District. We've raised over \$500,000 in 20 years for school programs, teacher grants & scholarships, and we invite you to continue to build on the tradition of excellence!

**Friday, November 17**  
American Legion, Fairbank, IA



➤ **5:30-7:00 pm, Dinner**  
Menu: BBQ pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans & dessert  
Live entertainment during dinner featuring alum *Emily (Erhardt) Bauer '15*

➤ **7:00 pm, Live Auction**  
Follow us on Facebook for auction item details:  
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[www.wapsievalleyschools.com/198355\\_2](http://www.wapsievalleyschools.com/198355_2)

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| Joey Rigdon     | Annette Hyde     |
| Tanya Hagenow   | Darren O'Donnell |
| Doug Sheppard   | Mitch Coffin     |
| Lisa Oberle     |                  |
| Alex Schmitz    |                  |
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**WAPSIE VALLEY  
 VETERANS DAY  
 MEAL & CEREMONY**  
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**Friday, November 10th**  
 ★★★★★★  
 All veterans are invited to join us at Wapsie Valley Jr/Sr High School for a meal at 11:30am. RSVP required. Veterans Day ceremony will begin at 12:30pm.  
 Wapsie Valley students in kindergarten through 12th grade will be in attendance at the ceremony to honor our local veterans and their families.  
 TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE, PLEASE RSVP WITH JENNI GROSS BY NOVEMBER 1ST WITH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING.  
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# News from Wapsie Valley Schools

Sixth grade students teach building-wide expectations to the elementary students during Leader Academy (photos below).



Homecoming Week!



Firemen visit during Fire Prevention Week.




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## Wapsie Valley High School Class of 1973 reunion

Wapsie Valley High School Class of 1973 attended their reunion Sept. 9 at Grumpy's in Readlyn. In the photo at left, way in the back, left to right, are: Terry Bush, Kevin Niebuhr, Tim Curley, Keith Brandt; back row: Jeff Milks, Dennis Sprague, Stephen Rourke, Larry Pavelec, Duane Schmidtke, John Friedrich, Judy Pock Chase, Lucy Schmitt Wiebbecke, Pati Frost Thompson, Diane Kohagen Rourke. In the center: Jan Schmitz Straley. Front row: Cheryl Whitehill, Bev Plaster Bushaw, Susan Wedemeier Hulbert, Jane Mock Pagel, Trish Meier Pint, Lynn Gill Plaster, Jane Kerns Heine-man. Not in the photo: Rachel Brandt Skvor, Becky Hesse Lindsay.

## Crane Creek Firefighters take the trophy for tabs at annual convention

Iowa's Annual Firefighters Association Convention was September 6-10, 2023 hosted by Iowa Falls.

One of the competitions that takes place during the convention is collecting of can tabs. Crane Creek recorded 536 pounds of tabs and were this year's champions. It takes approximately 1,300 tabs to make a pound. This equates to approximately 696,800 tabs for the champs. These tabs can be pulled from beverage cans, soup cans, cat food cans, or any miscellaneous aluminum can tabs. Plainfield, Sumner, Waucoma and Westgate have joined forces for tab collections and are bound and determined to dethrone Crane Creek.

Jen Happel of Denver has been the leader in getting the communities focused to save tabs. That desire has also been spread on to Nancy Kleitsch, Readlyn,

and Ann Harms, Tripoli. These gals report that they have several people from across the state gathering tabs and getting them for the annual competition. They even report folks from other states bringing them tabs.

The 2023 results were (in pounds): Crane Creek - 536, Atlantic - 451, Plainfield and friends - 203, Stacyville - 167, Key West - 50, Latimer - 47, Little Rock - 28, Lineville - 2. This means 1,484 total pounds were collected this year which is approximately 1,929,200 tabs.

The price for aluminum when melted down ranges from \$.85 to \$1.00 per lb. Bremer County alone donated over \$650.00 - just from taking a tab off and saving it! Everyone involved in saving says, "Just make it a habit! It doesn't cost you any extra time!"

At convention, the tabs are collected by

the Can Tabulous crew. They work with a man by the name of Jeff Jefferson. He has been sorting and cleaning these tabs for 53 years. After meticulously doing this, the tabs are turned in to a cash donation to the Shriners Hospital for the children's burn unit to help families pay for their medi-

cal expenses. In Jefferson's years of doing this he calculates over \$86,500 going to help burn victims.

Thanks everyone for your help! This is an ongoing effort where the tabs are turned in every September at convention. Keep tabbing!



Crane Creek Firefighters and Friends include, front row, left to right: John Kleitsch, Galen Nuss, Nancy Kleitsch, Cory Hesse, Larry Piehl; standing: Tyler Kroese, Rachel Dezarn, Derek Dezarn, Deb Kroese, Courtney Hesse, Randy Kleitsch, Ron Oltrogge, Glenda Kleitsch, Tim Cappel, Scott Kroese, Scott Broten, Ann Harms, Vern Joerger, Angie Joerger, Jen Happel, Tom Thurm, Hailey Broten. Photo and article contributed by Ann Harms

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**St. Matthew's**  
**FALL DINNER**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**  
**3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Turkey, Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Stuffing, Corn, Sauerkraut, Rolls, Orange Salad, Cranberry Salad, Pie

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By: Eric Johnston



The Mossy Oak Gang



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**“It’s Not A Passion, It’s an Obsession” Part Three**

Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

When I last left you in this story of my Mossy Oak Journey, I had given you a background on my start, and we had made our way through losing Tim, and the impact of that loss. This month, I will take you through my first trip to headquarters in West Point, Mississippi.

After losing Tim, our prostaff family was in times of, “What do we do now?” Not only had Tim started and built the Mossy Oak prostaff, he was our go-to person and the man with all the answers. To use the term “void” was an understatement. Folks within Mossy Oak scrambled to fill his role until a more permanent solution was found. For a year, the “Leadership Board” was formed comprised of five regional managers across the country each holding a specific duty that Tim had taken care of. This worked well to help keep things going and good friend that I’ve written on quite a bit through this journey, Perry Peterson, was one of the board members. I was quite happy with this as I was well-versed in working with Perry. Throughout the time of the leadership board, two others that were on it, DJ Randolph and Perry Cremeans, also became good friends through email and Zoom meetings. This rolled along well and, in late 2022, Jason Hart was named our new National Manager to fill Tim’s role. Jason had quite a task ahead taking over Tim’s role. Luckily, Jason was well-versed in Mossy Oak and was a friend of Tim, so he knew the role he would fill.

We went through the winter into 2023 and I became quite excited as Jason announced we would have the managers’ meeting in West Point in June 2023. I was finally going to headquarters! With the announcement came time to book flights and myself, Perry Peterson and Ryan Recker would be traveling together and meet up with DJ Randolph and Perry Cremeans on our way to Mississippi. DJ would fly from North Dakota and meet us in Minneapolis and Perry would fly from California and meet the four of us in Memphis, Tennessee. As you might imagine, the days leading up to that early June trip were exciting for me, to say the least, but I also felt a little nervousness and anxiety as I would be meeting not only my new manager, but my colleagues that, other than Perry and Ryan, I had only known through email, Zoom, and occasional phone calls.



Eric Johnston (left) and Ryan Recker

The Thursday morning we were to leave finally came and I was to meet Perry and Ryan at the Cedar Rapids airport early in the morning. My nervousness quickly went away as I walked up the stairs at the airport and soon saw Perry and he immediately made a joke and greeted me with a handshake. I realized right then that,

while this was a business trip, it was going to be a lot of fun. In Perry’s friendly way he joked we were waiting on Ryan as usual, as Ryan was checking a bag.

Once Ryan met up with us and we were through security, the trip truly began. We boarded the plane and conversations of deer, turkey, fishing, and land all ensued. The flight to Minneapolis seemed to pass in a snap with the three of us just hanging out talking. Once in Minneapolis, we met up with DJ Randolph. I had met DJ in person one other time out of the blue in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin at Cabelas as he was passing through. We all four decided to pass the time waiting for our flight to Memphis in the airport lounge with a few beverages to knock the nerves off. Once again, with DJ, we talked outdoors and what to expect on the trip. The flight from Minneapolis to Memphis went smooth and we began our search for Perry. Perry was to be renting a van for all five of us to ride to West Point, roughly a two-hour drive. We waited outside and, when we spotted Perry, he rolled up in a Toyota Tacoma. Yes, five guys with luggage, small truck... Luckily it was an “extended” cab and myself, DJ, and Ryan aren’t big guys and we rode in the “extended” cab. We made our way to Plymouth Bluff Environmental Center where we would spend the next few days.

Upon arrival, we all stretched out as our knees were locked in our chests. Plymouth Bluff is a beautiful setting for a conference like we had if you can picture a large lodge building and newly remodeled cabins for each of us to stay in dotted throughout the park-like Mississippi woods setting. Once settled in our cabins, we all made our way to the lodge. There we met Jason Hart, our new National Manager. I was excited to finally meet him and the usual talk of outdoors and getting to know each other began. Jason rolled out the red carpet for us with catered meals, and all the snacks and drinks you could think of. Soon, one-by-one, managers from across the country began to arrive and it was so fun to meet and get to know each of them besides email or seeing them on a screen. The first evening we had a great meal and socialized and got to know each other better. Jason gave us a rundown of what to expect on the weekend. Friday and Saturday would be meetings in a classroom-type setting with multiple partner company representatives across the outdoor industry showcasing their products to us and how we can help promote them. And Friday evening would be a trip to the Mossy Oak Store in West Point followed by a fish fry at the Mossy Oak cabin with Toxey Haas and others within Mossy Oak. “Wait, Jason back up... Did you say a fish fry with Toxey?” “Yes, I did, Eric!” Jason smiled. Just then, Ryan grabbed my shoulder smiling and said, “Settle buddy” with a smile.

If you remember at the beginning of this journey I said remember the name Toxey Haas. My longtime readers probably know I get a little star-struck, like my article spending a day with Kevin VanDam. This was no different. There are a handful of people in this world I looked up to as a younger person and modeled my life after, so to speak. To no surprise, KVD is certainly one of those with names like Dale Earnhardt, John Wayne, and a few others. Well, Toxey is very high on that list as well. Mossy Oak was found-

ed by Toxey in 1986 by starting with handfuls of dirt, leaves, and sticks at the fabric store to better match nature with camo. I, being born in 1981, was a very obsessed-with-the-outdoors young boy when Mossy Oak really took off and made hunting videos and TV shows through the ‘90s. From the beginning, with no ties to the company, I had to wear Mossy Oak for not only the great patterns of camo, but what the company stood for with land stewardship, family, and passing it on. I could hardly contain myself as I was about to meet another one of my childhood heroes. It was honestly hard to sleep that night knowing what lay ahead.



Eric Johnston (left) with Toxey Haas

I was up early and to breakfast at the lodge Friday morning and met with Perry to eat. Shortly after, our meeting started and Toxey walked into the room. Once again, Ryan grabbed me and I looked over to see him and Perry with grins at me and I relaxed. Toxey spoke to all of us, telling how important we all are to the brand and how much he appreciates the work we do. Shortly after, he left and the day began with companies showcasing products. It was so cool to not just get an email with a picture of a product that hadn’t been introduced yet, but actually hold it, look it over and, with some products, try it. The day on Friday was informative and Jason kept it fun as to not make it a total classroom event.

When the meetings finished up for Friday, tour buses rolled up and we were on our way to the Mossy Oak Store, a huge building with wall-to-wall camo and hunting and fishing products. Jason gave us all gift cards and the shopping spree was on! I was in heaven and quickly realized I needed to get all this on a plane to go home! Problem solved with a Mossy Oak duffel bag!



The Mossy Oak Store

Once done at the store, it was time to head to the Haas Cabin. This cabin is in all the pictures of the Mossy Oak ads and commercials you see on television and has been in the Haas family for generations on the Haas farm. As we drove down the long lane into the property, a lake was to our right and I could see fish swimming and breaking the surface everywhere. Oak trees lined the property everywhere and we pulled into the circle drive and saw the cabin. Picture old hand-worked wood with square nails and beautiful craftsmanship throughout. It truly was a sight to see. We were greeted by Cuz Strickland, another man I look up to that’s prominent within Mossy Oak. We started hanging out on the porch that overlooked the lake, just relaxing. Miss Mag-

gie, the social media coordinator for Mossy Oak, took a few of us on a tour of the cabin and when we made our way to the back porch there sat Toxey, catfish cooking and relaxing with an ice cold beverage. He offered me one and we sat and talked about the outdoors, prostaff, and family. Cuz joined us and Bobby Cole joined in as well. Bobby is with Mossy Oak GameKeepers and BioLogic and is also an author. I told Bobby, “My wife, Aubrey, would like to thank you.” Bobby says, “What for?” Eric, “Yours are the only series of books I’ve read cover-to-cover.” Toxey and the group laughed.

We had the most wonderful catfish dinner on the porch and joked and socialized. I was in heaven, I couldn’t believe I was hanging out with a group that had quite an impact on my life and they probably didn’t even realize it. As Toxey was headed out for home, I shook his hand and thanked him for the opportunity. He thanked me for being there and working for his company. We took some group photos and got back on the bus to Plymouth Bluff.

On the way back that night, I was sitting next to Perry and I thanked him for every opportunity he presented me with. As you might remember from part one, this all started for me because of him and what he saw in me. He fist bumped me and we made our way back.

On Saturday, we met with a few more companies and Jason gave us a breakdown of where he sees the prostaff heading, keeping Tim’s legacy intact and incorporating his ideas along with it. I feel great about the direction the prostaff is headed with Jason at the wheel. Saturday evening was more socializing and hanging out at the lodge and saying goodbyes as most were leaving early in the morning on Sunday. I’ll spare you all the breakdown of our trip home, as this was when flight delays were prevalent and, needless to say, it took us a minute to get home.

First off, I want to say to all my brothers of prostaff managers, I had a fantastic time meeting you all and, although I don’t have the space in my column to name you all, it truly is a brotherhood and I feel I’ve made some lifelong friends. Jason, Toxey, and everyone at Mossy Oak, thank you so much for the great hospitality and making it feel like a true family atmosphere! It’s a blessing to be part of this. Ryan Recker, thanks for keeping my feet on the ground throughout the weekend and being a great friend from the beginning of my time with Mossy Oak.

And last, but definitely not least, Perry Peterson, as I wrote a few paragraphs up, none of this would be possible without you believing in me enough to urge Tim to promote me and



Perry Peterson

you helping me along the way. I know I don’t call and hang out enough, but you truly mean a lot to me and after this trip I really feel our friendship was strengthened. BUT! Please, still bust my butt if I make a mistake or could be doing something better as I still feel like I’m learning and I look up to you! This is truly a trip I’ll never forget and, God willing, will see all these folks again soon. Thanks to all the readers for following along, and until next time, GET OUTDOORS!

# News from **Community Lutheran School**



Three-year-old preschool picked apples from Jason and Krissy Franck's apple tree during their apple unit.



The 5th-8th graders took a field trip to Millstar Farm in Oelwein to visit their flower garden, pumpkin patch, and look for Monarch butterflies in September. Our students had fun spreading milkweed seed for butterflies! They learned a lot about their habitats, but had even more fun picking and cutting flowers to make our own arrangements! Thanks to Rachel Mills and family for the flowers and fellowship!



The three-year-old preschool enjoys their monthly story time with Ms. Beth at the Readlyn Library!



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# Deadline for the November 29 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., November 16 at 5 PM



**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano  
Divine Service 10 a.m.



**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**  
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**Zion Lutheran Church**  
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