

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

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Almost \$127,000 was received in matching funds from Readlyn Telephone Company to the Readlyn Emergency Services Building committee to be used for the building of a new facility which will house the fire and ambulance departments. See more about the building and their upcoming Aug. 8 free-will donation supper on page 7. Photo contributed



Andrew McCrea, his wife, and his cameraman were in Readlyn to talk to a couple of local Grumps.

Grumps on TV!

On July 16, former Readlyn Grump Ron Leistikow and 2024 Grump Bonnie Wittenburg were interviewed by Andrew McCrea from the *Farm Journal*. He is doing a segment titled "The American Countryside." This will be aired on his radio station and broadcast August 3 from 9 to 10 a.m. and Aug. 4 from 3 to 4 p.m. on RFD TV. It will also be broadcast on the Sunday Morning "US Farm Report."

Aiellos have August Yard of the Month

Steve and Jen Aiello, 603 West View Drive, are the recipients of Weeds on Fire Yard of the Month award for August. They moved into their house in 2009.

Since there were no gardens, Steve had

to use a kick sod cutter to create the garden space encircling the house. Five buckhorn trees, a hydrangea tree and a "tree on a stick" are some of the unique features of their attractive yard.

Steve and Jen extend their gratitude to Weeds on Fire for sponsoring the summertime Yard of the Month. See more photos of their yard on page 18 of this *Chronicle*!



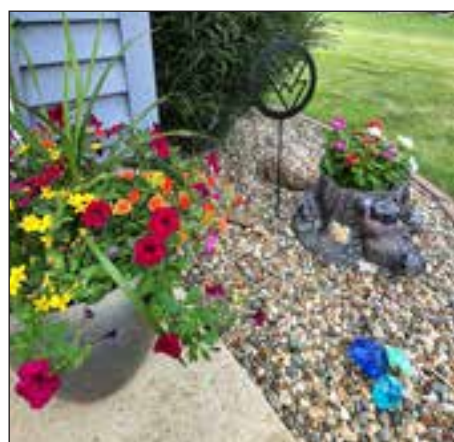
Steve and Jen Aiello are honored to have the August Yard of the Month.



This is the home of Steve and Jen Aiello.



The wooden post with their house number was made by Jen's mom and step-dad, Linda & Mike Hupfeld.



The raccoon planter was a gift from grandmother Cloris Hupfeld; the metal Wapsie Valley sign came from a WVEF benefit.

Historical Society plans Cruising Thru History and Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 4

The Readlyn Historical Society met on June 24 to discuss plans for the Cruising Thru History and Ice Cream Social event on Sunday, August 4.

Registration for the Cruising Thru History event will be at 12 noon at the Bremer County Historical Museum or 12:30 p.m. at the Readlyn Museum. Registration is \$10 per adult, \$5 for youth ages 5-18 with 5 years and under free and includes the route map and opportunity to enjoy the ice cream social.

The annual Ice Cream Social will also be held on Sunday, August 4 from 3-5 p.m. at the museum. All are welcome to join us for a yummy bowl of ice cream.

A thank you to Therese Schumacher for donating two mannequins to the museum. Also, two glass heads were purchased to display caps. The museum is seeking more glass display cases and a Readlyn Jaycee

shirt. Contact the museum through our Facebook page if you have these items.

Donations and memorials to the Readlyn Historical Society are appreciated and allow us to enhance the museum. The 2024 year-to-date memorials include:

In memory of Bob Thran

Readlyn Senior Citizens Club
Ron & Judy Lesitikow
Grace Kuethe
Judy Henn
Marv & Helen Schumacher
Robin Harms
Dean & Lois Buhr
Jo Porter
Joe & Linda Schutte

In memory of Jerry Finder

Vernon & MaryAnn Clefish
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 30 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Inside this Issue

Register online for WV Schools



Wapsie Valley School District is continuing to do school registration online this year!

Registration is open now until Tuesday, August 6. There are two ways in which you can access registration. See all the details on page 6 of this month's *Readlyn Chronicle*.



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 15
Readlyn Community Club's
Annual Esther Wittenburg
Memorial Golf Cart Ride
1:30 p.m.

followed by a
Community Picnic & school
supply collection, 4 p.m.

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





Grump's Grumblings

By Bonnie Wittenburg, 2024 Grump

Hello Readlyn,

Well, this is my very first article as your new Grump and what a month it has been. Preparation for Grump Days was, as usual, busy — a well-organized bunch of very talented people that wanted to bring you a fun time.

At the Queen's dinner, things looked beautiful. All girls had a least one parent join them for the delightful meal supplied by Jim Collins. The girls did a fantastic job at wowing the judges, who declared there were no losers in the group.

The crowning of the Grump was fun and humorous with our outgoing Grump, Ronnie Hartman, offering me a pitchfork. Hmm, thought I was TAKING A BREAK FROM MY CHORES. Eric Johnston did a wonderful job with MC duties. Our Grumpsters were polite and cute as could be. Your new Grump was able to give each one a cupcake. Hope they all liked it.

But there was no shortage of tasty food that night.

Miss Readlyn was announced and crowned — Miss Jaylin May. We are proud to have you represent us.

Golf, food, Pepper Tourney, crowning, music, and fireworks. On to day 2.

I rode in the parade on the back of my Mustang. That was a first. I am usually the driver. The little Grumpsters rode with me. May I say, what an arm that boy has. Thought I went overboard on buying candy. Not a chance.

Kids in the Park turned out great this year. Mother Nature gave us a good weekend. Our vendors along Main had many remarkable things to offer. I purchased several. I also received an unbelievably cute Readlyn dish towel.

The music on Main in front of Grumpy's was fun, as my sister and I

turned on the charm to sell Koozies and raffle tickets with some help from fellow RCC members.

With some encouragement, we took donations for the Grump to take the stage and sing. I dragged my husband up there also. What a good sport. We brought in \$107. This was given to the RCC for future Readlyn activities. Maybe next time they will pay us not to.

Church in the Park worked out even with the rain. What a great service.

I have been enjoying wearing my Grump hat and taking in the attention. I decided to tack a crown to the hat. Now it is much more ladylike.

June also was the birthday month for my husband and me. I thought I would throw him a small retirement party at his shop, but that did not work. He went right to work the next morning!

For my birthday, I went on a visit to have lunch with two of our great-grandsons. This was genuinely nice, as I had not even met the littlest one.

I have worn my hat several times, always gratefully and humorously.

The 4th of July got us out for two parades. We were in the Shell Rock Parade and, after replenishing my candy supply (wow, there were a lot of kids), we headed for Frederika. It was wonderful seeing so many happy and familiar faces of people waving and shouting as I rode by.

I did have a person ask me, "Isn't the Grump always a man? Or are you the first woman?" I replied that there have been women before me, but I am the first one with a crown on my hat. That was good for a laugh.

With that, I will say goodbye till next month. Remember, we are all on the same mission. Be kind.



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Jaylin May

Hello everyone! My name is Jaylin May and I am extremely honored to have been crowned your 2024 Miss Readlyn!!

Grump Days was such a blast as I got to spend time meeting new people, enjoy all of the activities, and make long-lasting memories that weekend. I can't wait for the upcoming events in the community that I get to be involved in, and I am excited to have the opportunity to run as a candidate for the Bremer County Fair Queen. It is going to be such a fun journey and I am so glad to be a part of a wonderful tradition!!

I would like to say thank you to everyone who made this possible including my sponsor, Nick Tobey, DJ with a beat, the Readlyn Community Club for all that they've done to help coordinate this event, and my family and friends, including my parents, James and Leslie May, who've supported me throughout.

Unfortunately, our softball season came to a close on July 12 when we lost to Osage, 4-3 at home. It was a tough loss, but we had a great season finishing 2nd in the conference and had

an overall record of 23-9. Thank you to the seniors for all that you've done, and I can't wait for next year. Congratulations to the baseball team on a successful season and making it all the way to the regional sub-state game.

Earlier this summer, I competed on an AAU/USATF track and field team out of Waterloo called IMPACTT. Although I didn't qualify for the Junior Olympics, it was a very fun experience and it was good to have competition from the big cities in surrounding states to get a feel of what it was like. I PRed in the 200m and 400m as well, which felt great.

I am looking forward to my senior year as it is coming up fast. I have a full schedule in both semesters, while taking some college classes as well. Along with my fall sport of cross country, I have also decided to go out for football cheer! With it being my senior year, I wanted to try something new, meet new people, and create many memories!

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity as being the 2024 Miss Readlyn. I am beyond excited for this journey!



Congratulations to our 2024 royalty! Left to right are 2024 Miss Readlyn Runner-up LeeAnn Oltrogge; 2024 Miss Congeniality Addisyn McElhose; 2023 Miss Readlyn Lily Schwickerath, and 2024 Miss Readlyn Jaylin May.

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Readlyn Community Happenings

Senior Citizens meet July 17

On July 17, 2024, 18 members attended the 11:30 a.m. Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Bowling Alley in Tripoli, IA.

The meeting was called to order by Ron Leistikow, our president.

A birthday celebrated for the month of July was Marilyn Lampe. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to Marilyn.

No anniversaries for the month of July were celebrated by our group.

A card was signed by all the members in attendance for Garylee Thurm and mailed to him. Garylee is now in the Traer Nursing Home until he and Bonnie can move in with his son-in-law and daughter in their home.

Lois read a thank you note from Joyce Heineman thanking everyone for the card we signed last month and sent to her after her surgery. She is now doing well and recovering slowly.

OLD BUSINESS: Mary Jo Rommel has not delivered the 100-year-old Bible to the Readlyn Historical Society as of today's date. A Baptist minister will be making a glass case to put the Bible in and then the Bible will be presented to the Readlyn Historical Society when the glass case is completed. More information will follow later.

NEW BUSINESS: Ron Leistikow reported that he and Bonnie Wittenburg (the current 2024 Grump) did an interview with the RFD TV Channel on how Grump Days started. Their interview will be aired August 3 and 4 from 9 to 10 p.m. each night.

The Readlyn Historical Society will have 5 stops for Readlyn's History tour event on Sunday, August 4. Registration will be at 12:30 in front of the Readlyn Historical Society. The cruise starts at 1 p.m. followed by the 25 cent ice cream social from 3-5 p.m. The cost will be

\$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for ages 5 to 18 years of age for the Readlyn cruise. A route map will be provided at registration. All types of vehicles are welcome and especially the classics.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht. The balance in the account after expenses was \$ 175.00.

A move was made to approve the treasurer's report by Marlys Deterding and seconded by Judy Leistikow. Motion carried.

The secretary's minutes were read by Lois Thacher for the June 19, 2024 meeting. Don Billhorn moved to approve the secretary's minutes as read and Wilda Albrecht seconded it. Motion carried.

The next Senior Citizens meeting will be August 21, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. at the Panther Lanes in Tripoli IA. Larry Ladage moved to adjourn the meeting and Mary Chapin seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Lois Thacher, Secretary



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We serve the needs of our communities!



Barb and Rex Blaylock

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Rex and Barb Blaylock will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, August 11, 2024! There will be an open house at Grumpy's Event Center in Readlyn, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Rex Blaylock and Barb Kehe were married on August 10, 1974 at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger, Readlyn.

Their family includes their children Christy and Jason Kayser, Dan and Kristin Blaylock, and their grandchildren, Maria, Melody, and Max Kayser, and Tanner (fiancée Lexi) and Brody Blaylock.

Readlyn Savings Bank

Readlyn Savings Bank has vouched to match dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 toward the new **Readlyn Emergency Services Building** Now until August 31



Help Wanted: Part-time Library Assistant

We are seeking a dedicated Part-time Library Assistant to join our team, contributing approximately 20 hours per week (including Saturdays). The ideal candidate will thrive in a customer service-oriented environment and possess basic computer skills. Duties include assisting patrons, managing the circulation desk, and shelving books.

Requirements:

Strong interpersonal skills and ability to assist patrons effectively. Basic knowledge of computer systems and software. Capability to work independently and self-manage tasks.

Preferred Qualifications:

Interest in children's programming and services. If you are passionate about libraries and enjoy working with the community, we encourage you to apply. Please submit your resume to readlynlib@gmail.com or stop by to pick up an application.

Help Wanted: Part-time Library Assistant (On-call basis)

We are looking for a Part-time Library Assistant to join our team on an on-call basis, primarily to cover staff absences and assist with special programs and projects. This position is ideal for individuals seeking occasional work in a library environment.

Responsibilities:

- Assist patrons with inquiries and provide excellent customer service.
- Manage the circulation desk, including checking materials in and out.
- Shelving books and maintaining the organization of library materials.
- Support special library programs and projects as needed.

Requirements:

- Experience in customer service, preferably in a library or similar setting.
- Basic knowledge of library operations and procedures.
- Ability to adapt and work effectively in a flexible, on-call schedule.

If you enjoy working in a library setting and are available to fill in as needed, we invite you to apply. Please submit your resume and availability to readlynlib@gmail.com or stop by to pick up an application.



Readlyn Community Library

WE PUT THE READ IN READLYN



Kimberly Hollon, Director

Beth Kingdon, Librarian

Phone and Fax: 319-279-3432 Email: readlynlib@gmail.com Website: www.readlyn.lib.ia.us Text: 319-253-6802



Join us on August 14 @ 4:30 for our End-of-Summer Party!

Jonathan May will be performing a magic show for families & kids of all ages. We'll be serving pizza and handing out those Summer Reading Program prizes! We hope you'll join us for a fun afternoon!

Make sure you bring your reading logs! There are special prizes for those who read the most books!

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The Bremer County Health Department holds Foot Clinics on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Call 319.352.0082 to make an appointment

HOURS

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

LOOKING FOR A GREAT BOOK CLUB?

If you'd like to join our book club, please join us on August 23rd at 5:30 for a 'book-tasting', where we'll enjoy tea, wine and snacks and select our titles for the coming months.

We always enjoy these get-togethers and our method for selection gives everyone the opportunity to weight in regarding possible monthly titles. We hope to see you there!



Obituaries

Yvonne Faye Gillett

Yvonne Faye Gillett, 78, of Cedar Falls, formerly of Denver, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at NewAldaya Lifescapes in Cedar Falls.

Yvonne was born March 25, 1946, to Harold and Dorlene (Kohagen) Kueker in Waterloo, Iowa. She was baptized April 28, 1946, at Immanuel Lutheran in Waterloo and confirmed April 10, 1960, at St. John Lutheran Church in Denver. She attended Denver rural school then went to St. John parochial school. At 6th grade, she began attending Denver Public Schools, graduating in 1964. On March 14, 1965, she was united in marriage to Merle Gillett at St. John Lutheran Church in Denver. To this union a son (Darrin) and daughter (Denise) were born. Yvonne worked at John Deere and Denver Community Schools. She retired in 2004 after 20 years at Denver Schools.

Yvonne was a longtime, faithful member of St. John Lutheran Church in Denver. She enjoyed tending to her flower beds and watching the birds at the feeders. Along with Merle, they were active for many years in a card club with friends. The family took many vacations, most notably to Minnesota where the extended family would gather. She enjoyed her family and friends and was especially proud of her grandchildren and loved to attend their sporting events.

Yvonne is survived by her husband, Merle, of Cedar Falls; two children, Darrin (Stephanie) Gillett of Cedar Falls and Denise (Ron) Oltrogge of Readlyn; grandchildren, Kaitlyn (Aaron) Rosenstiel, Luke (Hailee Merryman) Gillett, Ethan Oltrogge and Lee-Ann Oltrogge; one sister-in-law, Elaine Kueker of Denver; one brother-in-law, Jerry Federspiel of Waterloo, and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Duane Kueker, two nephews, Michael Kueker and Troy Holm, and a sister-in-law, Fonda Federspiel.

Visitation was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver. Funeral Services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 24, at St. John Lutheran Church in Denver with Pastor Larry Feldt officiating with an hour of visitation one hour prior. Burial followed in the Fairview Cemetery in Denver. Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Lutheran Church, St. Croix Hospice or NewAldaya Lifescapes. Online condolences may be left at kaisercorson.com.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver was in charge of arrangements.

Pavelec family reunion held

The Ed and Louisa Pavelec 29th family reunion was held on Sunday, July 14, 2024 at the Readlyn City Park with a noon potluck. Fourteen family members attended from Readlyn, Janesville, Waterloo, Denver, Cedar Falls and New Hartford.

Steve and Sherri Pavelec traveled the

Gladys Piehl

Gladys Piehl, 100, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the Tripoli Nursing and Rehab in Tripoli.

Gladys was born on February 9, 1924, rural Readlyn, Iowa, the daughter of John and Ella (Boevers) Hagenow. Gladys was baptized at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Readlyn and confirmed in 1938 at Immanuel Lutheran-Klinger. Gladys attended country school until the 5th grade and then attended Immanuel Lutheran Parochial School at Klinger. After her schooling she helped her parents on their farm. She was united in marriage to Erwin Piehl on November 12, 1941, at Immanuel Lutheran-Klinger. The couple farmed together east of Readlyn. Erwin died in 1977 and Gladys moved into Readlyn in 1981. Due to declining health, Gladys moved to the Parkview Assisted Living in Fairbank and later to the Tripoli Nursing and Rehab in Tripoli.

She enjoyed playing cards, embroidering, and making quilts. Gladys made graduation quilts for all of her grandchildren and made flannel blankets for all her great-grandchildren. She was a longtime and faithful member of the St. Paul Lutheran Ladies Aid.

She is survived by her children, daughter, Elaine (Arnold) Klocke of Chanhassen, Minnesota; son, Loren (Donna) Piehl of Sumner, Iowa; daughter, Ardith (James) Vandercook of Amarillo, Texas; son, Myron (Joyce) Piehl of Cedar Falls, Iowa; and daughter, Lora Klein of West Union, Iowa; nineteen grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren; and brother, Robert (Mary) Hagenow of Waterloo, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Erwin; an infant brother, Baby Hagenow, two sisters, Donna Hagenow and Florence Wille; a daughter-in-law, Berdeva Piehl, and an infant granddaughter, Olivia Klein.

Visitation was held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, 2024, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn. There was a private burial prior to the service on Friday in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 5, 2024, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Readlyn with Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano officiating and there was one hour of visitation prior to the service. Memorials may be directed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Tripoli Nursing and Rehab or to Parkview Assisted Living.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.



Gladys Piehl

Donna Marlene Reinking Brickman

Donna Marlene Reinking Brickman, age 91, went home to be with her Lord on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, Waverly, Iowa.

Donna was born May 15, 1933 in rural Bremer County, Iowa, the oldest daughter of Walter and Louise (Plaster) Reinking. She was baptized May 25, 1933 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Westgate, Iowa and was confirmed March 30, 1947, at Artesian Lutheran School, rural Waverly. Four years later she graduated Valedictorian from Oran High School.

On January 20, 1952, Donna was united in marriage to Arlen Brickman at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn. The couple lived in Waterloo for several years and then purchased 80 acres five miles east of Readlyn where they built a house and farmed until 1981 when Arlen retired. They sold the farm in 1989 and built a home in Readlyn. In 2006, they moved to The Ledges II in Waverly where they lived until failing health required both Arlen and Donna to move to Bartels in late fall 2022.

When they were first married, Donna worked as a secretary at Allen Memorial Hospital until their son, Rick, was born. She stayed home and lovingly raised their two children, Rick and Becky, and sold *World Book* encyclopedias for 15 years. Donna was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Readlyn, since 1954 and was a member of the Mary and Martha Circle, serving in several offices.

She enjoyed fishing with Arlen on Lake Milona by Alexandria, Minnesota where they owned a summer home for 14 years. They later built a home in Harpers Ferry which they had for 12 years and enjoyed fishing in the Mississippi River and socializing with friends and family, making many fun memories. Donna enjoyed sewing, cross-stitching, playing piano and spending time with her family. She unselfishly supported their children in all their various interests and attended all their school activities. Donna was a devoted wife, loving mother and grandmother, and was known for her kind and gentle spirit.

She is survived by a daughter, Becky and Rich McBurney of Waverly; four grandchildren, Sheena (Ed) Hargus of Oak Lawn, IL, Kristina McBurney of Waterloo, Katelyn McBurney of Des Moines, and Jordan Brickman of Las Vegas; two great-grandsons, Liam and Hudson Hargus; two brothers, Roger (Ardith) Reinking of Grundy Center and Steve (Debby) Reinking of Aurora, IL, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Arlen, and son, Richard. There will be no visitation. The family has chosen to honor her with a private family burial at a future date. Donna will be buried alongside her husband of seventy-one years, Arlen, at St. Paul Lutheran Church cemetery, west of Readlyn. Online condolences for Donna may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.

Memorials may be directed to St. Paul Lutheran Church and Community Lutheran School, Readlyn, and St. Croix Hospice.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home of Waverly assisted the Brickman family with arrangements.



Donna Brickman

VBS at St. Matthew and Zion wrap-up

(Acts 8:26-40)

St. Matthew and Zion

Lutheran Church of Readlyn

We had a fantastic week (June 24-28) with all our campers at Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year was Camp Firelight Psalm 56:3. Each day, campers traveled through 6 different stations: crafts, science, music, bible stories, rec/games, and snacks. They all play a role focusing on the Firelight theme of the day.

- Day 1, Trust God to go with us.
Bible story: God goes with Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22)
- Day 2, Trust God to lead the way.
Bible story: Ruth Chooses to go (Ruth 1)
- Day 3, Trust God to share wisdom.
Bible story: Young Jesus shares wisdom (Luke 2:41-52)
- Day 4, Trust God to give us peace.
Bible story: Jesus Calms the storm (Mar 4:35-41)
- Day 5, Trust God to spark joy.
Bible story: The good news sparks joy



Continued on Page 6



VBS at St. Matthew and Zion wrap-up

Continued from Page 5

We had a record number of participants, 95 campers, pre-kindergarten-6th grade. A lot of the 5th and 6th graders this year took on roles wanting to help versus do. They did a great job stepping into these roles.

Thank you to all our awesome volunteers!!! To our group leaders, Music: Kylie, Ryker, and Gwen. Science: Jody. Crafts: Jennifer, Kelli, and Heather. Bible stories: Pastor. Snacks: Karen and Lois. Games: Danny. Tech helpers: Bob and Brenda. Thank you for stepping up to help

make our week run smooth.

To our 10 junior high and high school volunteers: Ava, Addisyn, Bella, Lexi, Tessa, Addison, Arizona, LeeAnn, Ashlyn, and Amy, thank you for being flexible and supporting students as their "camp counselors" for the week. The role you play keeps things running smoothly.

Without our volunteers, Melanie and I couldn't keep doing what we love to do!

See you in 2025!

Melanie Tiedt (Zion) and
Brooke Meyer (St. Matthew)



Wapsie Valley School Board - July 15, 2024

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular Board Meeting Board Minutes July 15, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Vice President Sauerbrei called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:30 P.M.

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Sauerbrei, Kaufman, & Wolfe excused. Declared a quorum
B. Administration - Supt. Hoover & Secretary: Kim Arndt

C. Others: Brian Stark & virtual attendees

2. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the amended agenda moving up discussion on facilities & project timelines after public comment and all handbooks on the agenda are 24-25 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

3. Public Comment: None

4. Facilities Projects & Timeline-Brian Stark discussed the possible start date of the track project. Needs to know if WV is willing to forgo home football games for a season in order for the sod to grow. Bids for the HVAC project could be presented at the January 2024 board meeting. Discussed parking lot options.

5. Consent Items: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Sauerbrei and a transfer from the Interest Activity account to Golf (\$975.94), Baseball (2.74), Yearbook (\$942.99) and Girls Basketball (\$259.86) to bring the balances to \$0.00 for fiscal year-end. Open Enrollment Out: Ayla Nelson requests to open enroll her kindergarten son to Tripoli. Motion carried 3-0

6. Communication & Reports: Board: 905.03 Weapons in the School District policy will be discussed later in the meeting.

Superintendent: Report included facilities projects, board policy changes, Rural 3, & hand-

books.

7. Personnel-Resignations: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the resignation of Kim Arndt-Nutrition

Director as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Contracts: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the following contracts as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Jeni Nuss-\$977.50-Co-Student Ambassador-Base 1/Year 2, Zane Sittig-\$977.50-Co-Student Ambassador-Base 1/Year 2, Jennifer Merdinger-\$602.00-JH Student Ambassador-Base 1/Year 4, Fall, Tyler-\$2,857.00-7-12 Vocal Sponsor-Base 1/Year 0 &

\$1,504.00-Musical Director-Base 1/Year 0, Menzel, Emma-\$3,213.00-HS Marching Band-Base 2/Year 6, Weepie, Kim-\$1,504.00-Play/Musical-Base 1/Year 2, & \$3,008.00-Speech-Base 1/Year 1, Bockholt, Amanda-\$1,348.00-Website & Facebook-Base 2/Year 6, Gross, Vaughn-\$674.00-Website-Base 2/Year 6 & \$3,298-Robotics-Base 3/Year 13, Nitz, Katelyn-\$752.00-National Honor Society-Base 1/Year 4 & \$977.50-Co-Prom Advisor-Base 1/Year 3, Gross, Jennifer \$977.50 -Co-Prom Advisor-Base 1/Year 3, Dlaynee Ritter-\$1,504.00- Wrestling Cheerleading Coach-Base 1/Year 1-Foster, Duane-\$1,403.67-3 Strength & Conditioning-Base 1/Year 4, Gunnar Rodgers-\$1,403.67-3 Strength & Conditioning-Base 1/Year 0, Zane Sittig-\$1,403.67-3 Strength & Conditioning-Base 1/Year 0 & \$2,997.00-Asst Football, Base 3/Year 12, Davie, Justin-\$3,153.00-Head Cross Country-Base 2/ Year 7, Danny Adams-\$1,950.00-JH Cross Country-Base 2/Year 5, Foster, Duane-\$4,211.00-Head Football-Base 1/Year 4, Jones, Cody-\$3,142.00-Asst Football-Base 4/Year 15, Joey Rigdon-\$2,852.00-Asst Football-Base 2/Year 5, Gunnar Rogers-\$1,955.00-

NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Warrior Families-

We are continuing to do school registration this year online! We appreciate all of the grace and understanding last year as it was our first year of implementing this process at Wapsie Valley! There will always be kinks to work out but overall, we felt it was a great experience and hope that you found it beneficial as well. There were several reasons we chose to go online for registration:

1) Eliminates the need for physical paperwork (in most cases)

2) Eliminates the need to travel to the school office

3) Provides convenience and accessibility by allowing registration to be completed at your own pace from anywhere with an Internet connection

Please take a moment to read the information below and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

REGISTRATION TIMELINE AND ACCESS: Registration is open now until Tuesday, August 6. There are two ways in which you can access registration.

1) For those families who already have a parent portal account- Log into your parent portal, click the 3 lines in the upper left-hand corner, click 'More' at the bottom of the drop-down list, then click 'Online Registration'. This will take you to the school registration. This is the easiest way for returning students to register. All of your information will populate and you will need to review and make changes if necessary.

https://iacloud1.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/wapsie_valley.jsp

2) For those families who do NOT have a parent portal account (including new students to the district)- On Thursday, July 18, a link was sent to ALL families, via email, that can be used to access school registration. You will be able to click on the link, type it into your web browser, or copy and paste it into your browser. The link will also be found on the homepage of the Wapsie Valley School District website at www.wapsievalleyschools.com (**You will want to use a computer, tablet, or iPad as most

cell phone screens are too small to read the registration materials.***) You will be required to input all information requested for guardians and students.

3) Parents registering students for Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten- Please choose 00 for grade level under the Student heading in Demographics.

4) When registering a 7-12 student- All 7-12 students must have the Athletics Participation section completed even if they are NOT participating in any athletics.

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

FEES: When you have completed online registration, please call your child's school building after August 1, to have your parent portal account setup if you do not have one set up already. If you already have a parent portal account you will need to log into the portal to pay your registration fees.

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

FORMS: All forms that are required are available online and at all the buildings. They may be uploaded during the registration process OR turned into the building your child attends before school starts.

If your 7th-12th grade student is participating in any school-sponsored athletics, physicals will be required to be uploaded through the Bound app. The link is below:

gobound.com/ia/schools/wapsievalley

FINALLY: 1) More information will be coming about Elementary Fall and Spring Conference Sign-Up.

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

There will be some challenges again this year, but we anticipate this will be a positive experience overall and look forward to helping you throughout the process. Please contact us with any questions that you may have. We are here to help. Thank you and Go Warriors!

Superintendent Chris Hoover

College News

UW-Platteville announces

Dean's List

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the spring 2024 semester.

The College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science requires students to reach at least a 3.50 grade point average.

Students from this area on the Dean's List include:

Readlyn, IA: Hannah Knight, Biology Bachelor of Science, and Forensic Investigation Bachelor of Science, UW-Platteville

JH Football-Base 1/Year 0, Casey O'Donnell-\$1,955.00-JH Football-Base 1/Year 1, Shepherd, Austin-\$3,008.00-Head Volleyball-Base 1/Year 4, Lenth, Brittany-\$2,190.00-Asst Volleyball-Base 2/Year 7, Peyton Parker-\$2,045.00-Asst Volleyball-Base-1/Year 1-Heather Robinson-\$2,240.00-JH Volleyball-Base 4/Year 15

8. New Business: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the 24-25 Handbooks as follows: Elementary Parent/Student Handbook, Preschool Handbook, Licensed Staff Handbook, Classified Staff Handbook, JR/SR HS Student/Parent Handbook, WV Technology Handbook, & WVHS Course Description Handbook. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the purchase of the Alto-Shaam Prodigy Pro Combi Oven from Wilson Restaurant - \$20,470.00 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the following board policies 401.06, 402.03, 501.03501.09, 501.09-R(1), 501.14, 501.15, 502.06, 505.02, 603.01, 603.12, 607.02, 708, 710.01, 801.03, 803.02, and tabling policy 905.03 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the 24-25 protective gear resolution (\$9,549.46) as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the 24-25 Memorandum of Understanding between WV & Grumpy's Event Center for CAPS as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Discussion on whether to sell or move rural building 3. Will have a special meeting to discuss further.

9. Board Talking Points - Would like to see facility projects started as soon as possible.

10. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 7:45 P.M. Motion carried 3-0



FUNDRAISING SUPPER PLANNED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 AT FIRE STATION

WOW! What a great time at Grump Days!

In case you missed it, Friday night RTC Communications presented us

with a check for our dollar match campaign. The community showed up and we were able to get above the \$100,000 goal and RTC matched ALL OF IT! What a great surprise. Saturday we had our banner in the parade and the kids got filled up with candy and notepads were handed out as well. After the parade, we set up a tent in the vendor fair on Main Street and raffled off a quilt made and donated by locals Nick and Lori Wiley. The winner of this quilt was LaNae Nielsen from Denver.

Lutheran Church, Jeff and Penny Schmidt, Gerald and Beverly Buhrow, Rich and Carol Peine, Jeff and Judy Schutte, Delbert Oltrogge, Nate and Nicole Barnes, Randy and Glenda Kleitsch, Wayne and Kim Brocka, In Memory of Evelyn Strottmann, Ethan and Sara Strottmann, In Memory of Clark Voge, Darin Buchholz, In Memory of Ralph Watts, David and Jeanne Wheeler, In Memory of Diane Kaye, In Memory of Alice Sienknecht, Angie Fritz, and Bob and Deb Westendorf.

Thank you to this month's donors getting us to the RTC dollar match goal and beyond: Jessica Block, Mike and Frances Miller, Diana Turnage, James Boeckman, Kevin and Cathy Kuhrt, Gerald, Scott and Dixie Thurm, Brenda Buenzow, Ronald and Ella Matthias, In Memory of Jerry Finder, In Memory of Arlin Poock, Dennis and Janice Wittenburg, Steve and Penny Kohagen, In Memory of Vergil Matthias, In memory of Bob and Dolores Unga, Larry and Kathy Heinemann, Randy Parsons and Lory Murphy, Ronald and Nancy Kohagen, Scott Buchholz, Robert Little, Brian and Brenda Meyer, Allan and Bonnie Erickson, Nick and Lori Wiley, Mike Ryan, Emily Kleitsch, Dennis and Lynn Kuker, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Brenda Feckers, Fairbank Knights of Columbus, In Memory of Burton Thies, Mike and Linda Hupfeld, Platte Home Improvement, Zion

With the help of all of your donations over the last 4 months, RTC matched the full amount in total of \$126,964.00! Big thanks to RTC for this awesome contribution!

We have some great momentum and to keep it going Readlyn Savings Bank wants to help and continue the dollar match program through the summer. So, this means every dollar that comes in now until August 31 will be matched by Readlyn Savings Bank up to \$25,000!

Readlyn Co-Op is still accepting bushel of grain donations as well.

Our next community fundraiser will be August 8. Come join us at the station from 5-7 p.m. as Bremer Co. Pork Promoters will be grilling up tenderloins and hot dogs and Readlyn Fire & EMS will be serving up sides for a free-will donation. All proceeds will go towards our new station. So, mark it on your calendars and come hungry!



Donation to RESB



- There are 3 payment options: Make checks payable to: RESB
- 1) Mail to : RESB PO Box 276, Readlyn, IA 50668
 - 2) Venmo: @ReadlynFire
 - 3) Drop off donations at Readlyn Savings Bank

Please print the name or names that you wish to have listed on the plaque.

Name: _____

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All donation tiers are tax deductible



WAPSIE VALLEY FOOTBALL CHEER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, August 24th
Readlyn Community Library
9:00am - 1:00pm



Purchase a new stuffed animal friend and meet the cheerleaders!

15% of sales go to the Wapsie Valley Football Cheerleaders!

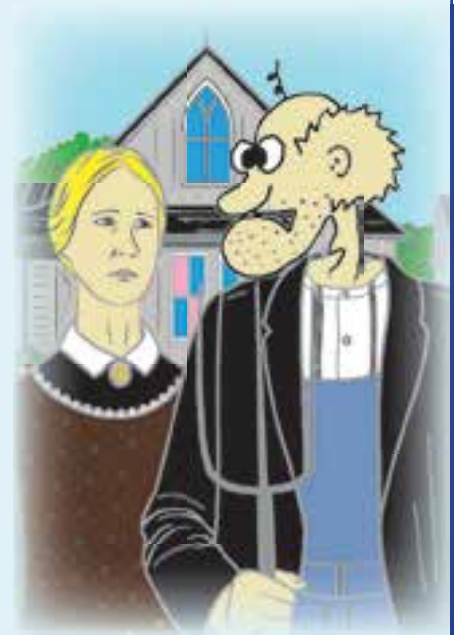


Thank You!

Readlyn Community Club has countless people to thank for making "Take a Break from your Chores in 2024" Grump Days a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

A special *thank you* to these major contributors:

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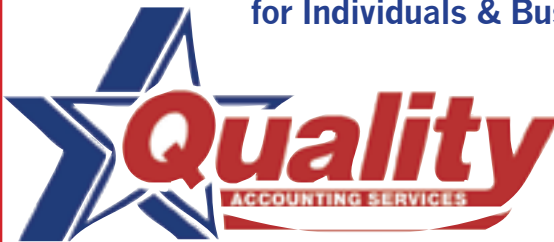


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Deadline for the Aug. 28 Chronicle is Thurs., Aug. 15 at 5 PM



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Grump Days Highlights



Playing off this year's logo, Ron Hartman passes the fork to new Grump, Bonnie Wittenburg.



Jake Schutte and Everly Michael were crowned the 2024 Little Grumpsters!



Miss Readlyn candidates and their FFA escorts are, left to right, Runner-up LeeAnn Oltrogge, Ryker Oberle, Kylee Moulds, Finn Schaefer, Miss Congeniality Addisyn McElhose, Jack Munk, Miss Readlyn Jaylin May, Cole Munk, Avery Jones, and Evan Wedemeier.

Grump Days Pepper Tournament

The Grump Days Pepper Tournament was held in the Gazebo Friday night, June 14. Prize money was awarded to:

- 1st place: Grace Kuethe and Judy Henn - 163
- 2nd: Roger and Connie Buhr - 137
- 3rd: Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 136
- 4th: Coty Albers and Sean Van Natta - 121

It was a fun night! We hope to see you all next year at Grump Days! Thanks for playing!

Shirley Kuker and Judy Henn



Daryl "The Balloon Man" Andersen of Waverly kept the kids (and adults!) entertained with his creative balloon art at the 2024 Grump Days. Photo contributed



First place honors at the Grump Days Parade went to Roland Noel from Waverly VFW.

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Second place for best float went to Readlyn Community Club. Left to right are Kristie Boies, director; Michelle Harrington, president; and Ed Harrington, director. Riding the float are the Little Grumpster candidates.



The Rainbow Clovers 4-H Club took third place at the Grump Days Parade.



Best Golf Cart award went to St. Matthew and Zion Lutheran Churches. Left to right are Ron Kohagen, Lisa Meier, Nancy Kohagen, David Heinemann, Pastor Rabary, and Brenda Meyer.

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Telecommunications Combination Technician Position Opening

About RTC Communications:
RTC is an independent telecommunications company serving the City of Readlyn and surrounding areas with broadband, telephone and cable TV services since 1907. This position will also assist Little Wapsie Communications in serving the Fairbank area with broadband and VOIP telephone service.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities include the following: Other duties may be assigned to meet business needs.

- Service installation and maintenance of broadband, television, telephone, and fiber optic equipment
- Complete locates of buried fiber optic cable
- Provide excellent customer service during service calls and installs
- Ability to utilize basic computer applications and software systems
- Keep inventory record of equipment and materials
- Use hand tools and operate equipment as needed

Requirements:
High school diploma or equivalent; experience in telecommunication or equivalent work experience is preferred. RTC is willing to train eager-to-learn candidates without prior experience. Must possess a valid driver's license.

Other Requirements and Notes:
Must be willing to work in a fast-paced environment and adapt to change easily. Flexibility to work occasional evenings or weekends as needed, including an "on-call" rotation. Ability to work independently, communicate with peers and take direction. Willingness to perform other tasks as assigned. This position provides a competitive hourly wage, comprehensive benefit package including, but not limited to, PTO, retirement plan contributions, as well as health, dental, vision and short-term disability insurance. This position is based in Readlyn, IA.

To apply, please send your resume to **RTC Communications, Attn: Sharon Huck, PO Box 159, Readlyn, Iowa 50668** or send via email to manager@readlyntelco.com.

Bookkeeper/Customer Service Representative


RTC Communications is a forward-looking Independent Telecommunications company that has served the City of Readlyn and surrounding area since 1907. RTC Communications has a 100% fiber optic network and offers High-quality Broadband, Telephone, and IPTV services.

RTC Communications seeks an individual to perform Bookkeeping and customer service representative duties 30-32 hrs per week w/benefits. The bookkeeping duties include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and yearly invoicing/reporting along with payroll responsibilities. This entails balancing all accounts each month and closing the books for reports that are shared with the Board of Directors. The individual will also learn the billing software for Customer Service Representative duties, answering the phone, answering customer billing and technical issues, daily deposits and posting payments and comply with laws and regulations.

The applicant must possess excellent customer relations in interruptive situations, attention to detail, be able to transition between tasks, be an effective communicator and be motivated to learn and adapt to required functions of the position. The applicant must be detail oriented with the ability to organize, prioritize, multi-task and work independently, along with being polite and courteous.

The applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent, proficiency in Windows based applications, including Microsoft Word and Excel, and office equipment.

To apply, please send your resume by July 22, 2024, to: **RTC Communications, Attn: Sharon Huck, PO Box 159, Readlyn, IA 50668** or email to: manager@readlyntelco.com



What's Cooking?

A recipe to share can be sent to billhorn@rtc279.com

Time to use the fresh heads of cabbage from your garden!

Freezer Coleslaw

Submitted by Judy Leistikow

Make 5-6 pints

- 2 lbs. cabbage
- 1 large green pepper (cored and seeded)
- 2 large carrots, peeled
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. mustard seed
- 1 tsp. celery seed
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup water

Core and trim cabbage. Shred cabbage, green peppers and carrots; combine with onion in a large bowl. Sprinkle with salt; let stand one hour; drain.

Combine sugar, mustard seed, celery seed, vinegar and water in a large saucepan; bring to a boil; boil three minutes, stirring constantly to keep it from boiling over. Cool.

Pour sauce over cabbage mixture; stir; let stand five minutes; stir well.

Pack slaw into freezer containers or freezer bags. Label and freeze. *Enjoy eating all winter. This is one of Ron's favorite coleslaws.*



Ret. TSGT Charles J. Levendusky received the Quilt of Valor.

TSGT Levendusky receives Quilt of Valor

Ret. TSGT Charles J. Levendusky received the Quilt of Valor on May 27, 2024. He was a Technical Sergeant serving in the Air Force from 1981-2001.

Levendusky served in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Calm, Ecuador, Bolivia, Bosnia and Italy as a microwave and satellite communication technician.

He earned several medals including: Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas

Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, NATO Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

The quilt was pieced by Mary Althouse and quilted by Sandy Koenig. There was a lunch hosted by Randy and Ellen Althouse after the ceremony at their home.

Charlie and Janell (Heineman) Levendusky live in Moore, Oklahoma. They have 3 sons, Joshua (Lauren) Levendusky, Brian (Taylor) Levendusky and Troy (Mariah) Levendusky, and one granddaughter, Oliva Levendusky.

Charlie is the son-in-law of Don and Joyce Heineman.



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“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

The beginning of August is a trigger for big season change in our house! No more laying by the pool and watching the days go by...

Cody and the WV Football coaches are chomping at the bit to see where all of their off-season work stacks up. There is always work to do and fundamentals to pin down, so our family will see Coach Jones again sometime in November.

Calvin and Carver are also in two leagues of flag football having their own fun making plays and making memories. This is their favorite sport. There is nothing better than watching them compete and make new friends.

Carissa (a.k.a. Squish) and I squeeze in Ice Cream Cone dates whenever we can while we chauffeur the madness. She makes friends on the sidelines and is her brothers' and Dad's biggest cheerleader!

No idle hands in our house! Hopefully there is a smooth transition from summer to school for all of our WV and CLS students!



Something that translates from our coaching adventures to my profession as a Financial Advisor is prioritizing the best interest of those we serve. Not all kids are at the same level of athletic ability just like not all clients have the same amount of assets or the same goals and ambitions. Our fiduciary duty requires us to customize our approach to each individual's needs. In addition to the fiduciary rule, I am a huge believer in a collaborative team approach! I don't think any single advisor has the bandwidth to navigate clients + the constant changes in investments and legislation + financial planning + market volatility at all times.

I am lucky enough to work alongside my mentor and Partner of the firm, Joe Harrish, as well as our Financial Planner, Taylor Yaw, who keeps us organized and efficient. Between the three of us, we are so much more effective than anything we can do alone and of course, it is much more fun!



Joe Harrish
Financial Advisor



Ashlea Jones
Financial Advisor



Taylor Yaw
Financial Advisor

We each bring our own pockets of experience and availabilities so that no stone is left unturned. The resources behind us are plentiful and there is no box around our capabilities. We lead with financial literacy, often incorporate a Financial Plan, then work it backwards to find the best path for our clients. From passive mutual fund-like investments to complex investments like covered calls, structured notes, and private funds, we seek to find solutions for all sizes of ambitions.

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones



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“Friends and the Outdoors”

Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

As I sit down to write, it’s early July and we have dealt with flooding A LOT this spring and summer. It’s made for a struggle to get in fishing trips or get any work done in the hunting land. I had five days off work around the Fourth of July holiday and I described myself as a man without a country as the Mississippi River was closed to boat traffic and the hunting land was under the Wapsie River. I was lost and, needless to say, my garage and yard are the neatest and most organized they’ve ever been!

In between the ups and downs of the river, I did manage to get in one really memorable trip back in early June with my good friend, Jim Mastain. We caught a lot of bass and shared a lot of laughs. We used to share a lot of time in the boat together, but the last couple years with our schedules we only get a trip or two together each year lately, so that June morning was special. This month, I thought I would give you the back story on how Jim and I became friends along with others in the outdoors.

The year was maybe 2004/2005, somewhere in that time frame. I was an eager, early 20s, very inexperienced, yet very driven, bass tournament angler. I had finally put together a small 14-foot flat-bottom jon boat with a 25 horsepower Johnson outboard and a small 36 pound thrust trolling motor with a small live-well and now had a rig capable of competing in the local Tuesday night tournament series. I had fished it since 2001, but always hitching a ride in someone else’s boat. I was

now on my own with my decisions and could compete how I wanted to!

The scene was set on a stretch of the Cedar River in downtown Waterloo near the ballpark. I readied and launched my boat and paid my entry. As I waited on the water for takeoff at 5:30 p.m., I devised a plan to jump out ahead of everyone at the start in this little boat. Cue the word “inexperience” again....

At this time all these tournaments were a “shotgun” start which meant, at the sound of the horn, the entire field of 30 or so boats could takeoff all at once. The danger factor of this is high and no longer happens these days in tournaments. You can imagine the chaos as boats with 25 to 250 horsepower all mixed together hammering the gas at the same time take off. Well, my eagerness of getting to “my spot” first overshadowed the danger factor. As the horn blew, I was a good forty yards up river from everyone else and already in the gas. I ended up with about a 100 yard lead on the field and was feeling pretty good about myself for about 15 seconds until the field of boats caught me and were passing on each side and my little boat was being slammed with waves. I found myself towards the bank as we all ended up where the river necked down to one narrow path that had deep water. I quickly took a hard right without even looking behind me, and shot through the narrow channel.

Little did I know at the time that I had totally cut off Jim Mastain and Paul Heron and they had to nearly run into the bank and kill the motor to avoid running into the back of me. I hadn’t a clue of this

mishap as I fished all evening. As I made my way back to the ramp for check-in at 8:30, I was walking to my truck to pull my boat out and heard, “You in the red shirt, I need to talk to you!” I did not know this guy at all and he told me what I did and gave me quite a talking to. I gained a little experience that evening for sure and felt sick over it. It was Paul that was talking to me, and later Jim came up and talked to me as well and relayed the danger and what I’d done.

As I said, I was sick, the last thing I wanted to do was have a reputation of recklessness. A couple days later, my phone rang with a number I didn’t recognize, but I answered. It was Jim Mastain. After cutting him off like I did, he called to talk fishing and asked if I would like to go with him the next weekend. I said yes and a friendship was born. Somehow, out of an on-the-water confrontation, we became friends and anybody that knows me well knows Jim is one of my best friends and we’ve done lots of tournaments and fishing together over the last 17-18 years.

I have met so many great friends over the years through fishing. For many years, I ran that same Tuesday night series alongside Jim and the Cedar Valley Bassmasters Club and made so many friends in those times that still continue today.

Today, running our No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series, we continue to make more friends and get to know so many people. Whether it’s the business relationships, or the comradery of getting to know the anglers, those friendships are made. In my mind, these days this is the best part of tournament fishing and owning a series.

Just recently, Aubrey, Adam, Monica, and I that own No Nonsense have become great friends with our Angler of the Year in 2021, Joey Renner, and his wife, Leah. They live in Prairie du Chien and invited us to grill out with them. Their daughter and son are around the same age as my daughter, Delana, and they’ve become friends as well and, after that cookout, we even share a crazy story or two!

Another great story that’s come from owning No Nonsense happened at our last tournament June 23. Young anglers Drew Campbell and Noah Wiegel won our tournament of 69 teams — no easy feat for a couple high school-aged young men, for sure! As the awards were handed out and checks written, my wife called Drew up to the table as he had some tax info to fill out and his mom came up with him. (Many of you know I’ve worked sports shows through each winter in various capacities for over a decade now.) When his mom came up to the table, she got my attention and relayed to me that Drew had talked with me at a sports show as a very young boy and that had sort of planted a seed in him on tournament fishing. Fast forward to him winning the series I co-own! At first, I was just like that’s awesome and congratulated him and thanked his mom for the story.

It wasn’t until later while packing up, Aubrey relayed the story to me again and it hit me the impact of a conversation from years ago that inspired a youth to take on a sport I’m so passionate about. A little overwhelming, to say the least. The friendship mantra also holds true in the hunting side of the outdoors as I’ve made many friends through hunting as well. Some great friends are the farmers and landowners where I hunt, to the friends I’ve made on trips like last winter in Texas. Being now friends with Jeff Schutte after that trip has led to friendship with Gary Matthias and helping him with his land.

I guess where I’m headed with this in this month’s column is share your outdoor passion with others and a lot of times it leads to friendships and relationships that last many years. I’m so thankful for all the great people in this world that I’ve met through the outdoors, and it continues to grow all the time. So, next time you strike up a conversation with someone about the outdoors, share a fishing trip or a duck blind together. It just may lead to a life-long friendship!

Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!



Eric Johnston



Jim Mastain

Winners Announced — 2024 Annual Wapsie Writing Contest

(Cedar Falls, Evansdale, and Oelwein Writers)

Fairbank, Iowa native and award-winning novelist Betty Brandt Passick announces the winners of the 2024 Annual Wapsie Writing Contest—selected by judges who are published authors, poets, creative writing teachers, and avid book readers. The annual contest aims to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to express and share their creative writings.

This year, over 30 stories and poems were submitted in the three age categories: adult (19 years and older), youth (12-18 years), and child (11 years and under).

The winners are judged to have poems and stories that are the most creative and original and demonstrate a quality of beauty and intensity of emotion for their age category.

The ability to convey ideas through narrative and writing is a fundamental skill in so many fields—even in this new era of ChatGPT and artificial intelligence. Through this annual contest, join me in celebrating the achievements of these talented and creative people, and thank all the entrants (and their families) and the judges for their participation.

Beth K. (Adult Category) Oelwein, Iowa



Beth K.

I wrote Friday Night Lights in my head driving home from my job at the Readlyn library one beautiful fall evening when I could see so many lights of all kinds in the darkening sky—streetlights, distant stadiums and towns, nearby farms... I wrote it down as soon as I

got home. I'm excited to have won! I'm busy and don't make time to write as much as I should, and I need to work on that. Congratulations to all of the other winners. Keep on writing.

"Friday Night Lights"

The last Friday of September
I shut down the computers
extinguish the fluorescents
let the authors rest.
I step from the dark library
into the rising night
Indigo and violet
the last hint of dusk.
Small town
street lamps along Main.
The cross on the church
illuminated by the highway
The harvest moon
Hangs in the east
Luminescent.
Asphalt unspools in the headlights
Gossamer fog in the valleys,
silvered by the lunar glow.
Wagons and combines in the fields
move through an aura of platinum dust
cities of light.
Here and there
other small communities
visible only by the halo
of stadium halogens
still miles away.
Farms; flickers of brightness
in a sea of dark.
An open window, a TV flickering
the soft glow of a barn aisle
the blue-white glare of a machine shed
lit up
in the gathered dark.
Here and there
bright bursts of worklights
cast arrays of bins and silos
in a daylight brilliance--
Cornfield Cathedrals.
The spool of silver road
curves along the river
into the silvered night.
I turn down a dusty road
Watch for deer
Wonder at the flicker
of a high-above airplane,
headed for Dallas or Denver
And watch for the welcoming yard light
of the home place.

Alyssa R., 11 years (Child Category) Cedar Falls, IA, St. Patrick Catholic School



Alyssa R.

I am a writer, and I love writing, and I write multiple stories per month, and through the process of writing, I get to explore the characters' lives. I most enjoy positive stories where I can help my characters achieve good outcomes and that is what inspires me

to write. As a young author, I'm proud to share my work with a broad readership. This contest means that I can join a community of writers, and tell stories that have never been told before.

"Mistake"

Mistakes are a common thing. Some mistakes are bigger than others. Some people make more mistakes than others. I, Abigail Swarthenberg, age twelve, have made a lot of mistakes, but my most recent one is the one that I most regret.

I was at the public library, reading a book. It was an adventure novel, which is my favorite type of book to read. I was very deep into the book. So deep, in fact, that nothing could pull me out of the realm of the book.

Then an announcement came on over the library loudspeaker.

"The library will be closing in five minutes. Please take your books directly to the book checkout and exit the building. Thank you for reading with us today," the voice in the loudspeaker said, then ended with a "click."

Oh, whatever, I thought to myself. It isn't like I need to hurry or anything. I'll just finish this chapter and then go check out. They're just trying to rush everybody out of the library so they can finish their work earlier than usual.

So, I kept on reading. Every minute, the loudspeaker protested against my not going to check out my book, but I didn't care. The book was too good to put down! I just had to finish the chapter and then I'd go check out. There were only eight more pages, and I'm a very fast reader. I could finish on time. At least, that was what I thought. But now I know very well that I'd overestimated my reading skill.

"The library is now closing," the loudspeaker finally said.

Click! After the final announcement had been made, I stretched, closed the book, got up, and walked over to the check out. The lights were off, and there wasn't a soul to be found in the library but me.

"I wonder where everyone is," I said to myself. "Oh, well. The librarians probably haven't left yet, and even if they have, I'm sure there's someone on duty to make sure that nobody is stealing any of the books."

So, I walked to the book check-out counter. There was a computer that was used to scan the code on a book and check it out. The computer was turned off. I pressed the power button, but it wouldn't turn on. Frantically, I swerved the mouse around. What if I wasn't able to check out my adventure novel?

Finally, I just gave up. I walked over to the counter where there was usually a librarian. Nobody was there. I walked behind the counter to search for a librarian to help me with the check-out computer. Still no one. There weren't any cars in the parking lot, since I had taken the city bus there.

That was when I decided that I would just have to check out the book next time and I would have to leave. No one was there to help me and the computer wasn't working, so what else could I have done?

I walked over to the door and pulled on its handle. It wouldn't budge. I hadn't thought that they would lock the doors after closing hours. I pulled on it again and again. It wouldn't move. After that, I tried the other doors. They were all locked, and there wasn't a key in sight! What was I going to do?

I had to find a way out. I'd promised my parents I'd be home by seven. It was just about seven o'clock right now, and at this rate, I wouldn't get home until tomorrow morning! The situation seemed hopeless, until I saw one way out. And that was not an easy way. More like a dangerous way, if anything.

The library had a second floor, which had windows, which might not be locked, and the fire escape was just below one of the windows! I would have to jump from the window to the fire escape, and then climb down. It was the only way, and if there was a way to get out, I would do it. I had no choice. Well, I did have another choice, and that choice was to sit in the library until tomorrow morning.

I ran up the stairs to the second floor. I found the window above the fire escape, and it seemed to be a miracle that it wasn't locked. I quickly opened it, then sat on the window sill as my heart pounded wildly. The fire escape seemed much farther beneath me than I had remembered. Maybe that was only because I was scared, though.

Oh well, here goes, I thought. I jumped. I fell about six or seven feet before I reached the fire escape. I'd fallen on my leg. It hurt, but I hadn't broken it.

The metal fire escape was very slippery. It had rained a while ago when I was reading my book.

I slid down the slippery fire escape until I reached the bottom. The bus wouldn't be in service until morning, so I had to walk all the way home. When I got there, I told my parents the whole story, and from then on, I always left the library at the five minute warning. After that, I didn't make so many mistakes.

Kaileigh J., 13 years (Youth Category)

Evansdale, IA, Waterloo Community
Schools District / Bunger Middle
School



Kaileigh J.

The inspiration to write my story came from Luna, this little kitten that I had when I was nine. I was struggling to figure out what I should write my school essay about while I was sitting in literacy class in November. It was a personal narrative and I've always struggled with thinking of things to write about. I thought, "What significant things have happened in my life that changed how I think?" And I thought about Luna. She was the sweetest little kitten, and I still miss her a lot. Winning this contest means a few different things to me. I'm very proud of myself, but at first I was shocked when my favorite teacher called my mom and I and told me I had won. This story was difficult for me to write, not because of deadlines or requirements, but just the pure emotion that came with it. I'm very grateful for my teachers that helped me with this and my parents as well. Thank you!

"Luna"

That day just felt different. I don't know if it was the fact that I woke up late, or that I couldn't find my hairbrush, but something about that day was... off. I walked to the driveway, and I slipped on the ice on the sidewalk. I cursed under my breath and got back up to walk to the car. It was freezing outside, given it was mid-January. I hopped into the car, possibly as cold as the outside.

My dad got into the car, buckled his seatbelt, and before I knew it we were at Poyner already. It felt like time was going at double speed, but the snow was falling in slow motion.

I walked into the school, and maybe my body was there, but my mind wasn't. I was thinking about normal fourth-grader things, like what we were doing in class and what would happen at recess.

"...Kaileigh?" Mrs. Mason asked me. She put the phone down, the phone I didn't notice she had picked up. I wasn't paying attention, "Er... huh?" Yet again, I wasn't there, and

couldn't focus. My mind was blank. "Go to the office with your things."

I grabbed my backpack. "How come?" I stuffed my folder and the book I was reading into my bag.

Mrs. Mason looked up from her desk and said, "Your parents are here to bring you home, they called you from the office." I stood up and slung my backpack over my shoulder. A few of my friends look over or turned to me, curious about what's happening.

"Lucky!"

"No fair, can I come with?"

"Where are you going?"

I felt a bit confused like something was off. I assumed it was a doctor's appointment that my parents forgot to tell me about or something along those lines, "I have no idea."

I distinctly remember one person saying, "Have fun!" I shrugged it off and opened the classroom door, waving to my friends and teacher. As I was walking to the office I felt my stomach drop a bit. I thought about the worst things, a family member dying or something being wrong with one of my nephews. I was overthinking the whole way to the office, dead silent as I walked into the small room to see my dad standing there with a half-effort smile.

"Something's wrong, something's wrong." I kept telling myself. It was strangely quiet when my dad signed me out of the office, he only said a few words to the secretary. We finally got outside, and by then my breathing was a bit heavy and my mind was racing at the speed of light to make up new scenarios about the worst things that could happen.

I was worried, to say the least. My dad and I reached the car, and to my surprise, my mom was in the car. Oh no, oh no, oh no, oh no. I was thinking even faster, anxiety off the charts.

My mom was there, too, and it was a rare occurrence that both of my parents came to something as unimportant as a doctor's appointment.

"What happened?" I asked my dad, getting into the car and buckling my seatbelt.

My mom looked at me with a sad expression, and I noticed her tear-streaked cheeks.

"Kaileigh, we have to tell you something." I nodded and prepared for the worst. "Luna..."

She cleared her throat and I knew. I knew that our kitten, Luna, had been sick for a while. I knew that it had been getting worse. I knew that she could barely eat, and she always threw up.

"No..." My voice was quiet, pleading.

My mom continued. "We... we have to put her down, she's really sick," and my tears started falling. A choked noise came from my throat, and I was crying, hard. "Please, no... Luna," I cried, in an attempt to voice my distraught through my tears. My dad put a hand on my shoulder, and my mom sighed. Thinking back on it, this must have been so hard for them, to keep tough faces for their crying ten-year-old.

I must've cried for a good five minutes before my dad cleared his throat. "Sweetie, she's really sick," his voice broke. "We don't want to let her suffer." I swallowed, nodded, and didn't say anything. My heart felt like it was breaking into a million pieces. My dad drove out of the school driveway, and the whole ride was silent. Time moved in slow motion. My head was resting on the cold window, but at that moment I couldn't care any less.

We got to the veterinary, and my breath got stuck in my throat. I rubbed my eyes with the sleeve of my pink coat, and my nose, throat, and eyes burned from crying so hard. I opened my door slowly and climbed out of the car. My heart ached, and I could barely breathe at all. We walked into the vet, and my parents talked to the receptionist. My chest tightened and tightened like I was going to explode. We walked into a different room, and then waited and waited. It felt like an hour just sitting in the little room with 2 chairs, a bench, a counter, and a few paintings of cats and dogs. I sat on the bench with my head on my knees, completely silent. My mom rubbed her hand up and down my back in an attempt to comfort me.

What felt like hours passed, sitting in that little room that smelled like NyQuil. Finally, a man with blue scrubs on walked into the room

Continued on Page 17

Writing Contest winners named

Continued from Page 16

with a bundle of blankets in his arms. He said a few words to my mom, and I looked up from my knees, shifting so my feet were on the floor again. Inside the bundle of blankets was a sad little kitten, with huge eyes. I started bawling and held the tiny cat in my arms. My dad looked really sad and was petting Luna with his index and middle finger on the top of her head. Her black, orange, white, and brown fur stood up slightly, she looked scared. I held her for a long time, then kissed the top of her head and whispered, "I love you."

The vet took her into a different room, and I walked outside the glass sliding door. Outside, it was beyond cold. It felt as if the tears were freezing on my face. Snow fell into my hair, my eyes, all over my face. I hadn't noticed my dad was out there too until he hugged me. I hugged back. I kept thinking and thinking, "I knew something was wrong, I had a bad feeling, and it was right."

The drive home was possibly one of the saddest moments in my life. Mixed thoughts of "It was my fault," or "I knew something was wrong."

Should've listened to my instinct.

Betty Brandt Passick is an independent, self-published author who's won Notable In-



Betty Brandt Passick

die Book Awards for her historical crime novels in the gangster series that are largely set in her hometown of Fairbank, though she incorporates historical stories, people, and places from other communities in northeast Iowa. The author currently resides in

the Twin Cities.

The 2024 entries came from well beyond northeast Iowa: California, Minnesota, Wisconsin—even England. The topics varied from cats, personal loss, domestic abuse, harvest, heroes, technology, and COVID-19 to political strife between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Adults made up 42 percent of the entries; 44 percent came from youth; and 14 percent came from children.

Watch for the 2025 Annual Wapsie Writing Contest to be announced in early January. Contest rules are posted at BettyBrandtPassick.com.



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Aiello's Yard of the Month



A variety of hostas decorate the side yard while knock-out roses lead to the front.



The chair (left) came from Grandmother Cloris Hupfeld and the birdhouse was made by Linda & Mike Hupfeld; Jen's dad, Steve Carey, created the cacti art (center); day lilies skirt the deck (right).



The gnomes came from Steve's mom, Laurie Slater (left); the welcome gnome (center) was a memorial gift when she passed; potted plants adorn the deck (right).



The Aiello name on the landscape edge was made by Shirley Fettkether. The rock with the unique shape next to it is one that Steve's grandpa, George Edwards, used as a doorstep for several years.



These former Readlyn Grumps took a break from their chores to ride in the 2024 Readlyn Grump Parade.



It was a beautiful day for a carriage ride in the 2024 Readlyn Grump Parade.

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and Excavation**
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(319) 230-1618
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Smith Excavating, Inc.
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www.tatroelectric.com

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Denver Family Dental
131 Tower St., Denver
319-984-6191

Edward Jones-Troy Delagardelle
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(319) 277-4446

Fidelity Bank & Trust
Adam Schaufenbuel Waverly
319-483-1001
Megan Niewoehner Oelwein
319-283-2524

First Bank (fka First National Bank)
(319) 352-1340 www.myfnbbank.com

Hillcrest Living
915 W. First St., Sumner • 563-578-8591
www.hillcrestsumner.com

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home
205 Highland Ave. • (319) 279-3551
www.kaisercorson.com

Parkview Assisted Living
Fairbank, Iowa • (319) 635-2585

Quality Accounting Services
1002 Broadway St., Waterloo
(319) 234-2813 www.qasiowa.com

Readlyn Community Library
309 Main St., Box 249 • (319) 279-3432

Readlyn Savings Bank
141 Main St. • (319) 279-3321
American Savings Bank-Tripoli
312 S. Main St. • (319) 882-4279

RTC Communications
121 Main St. • (319) 279-3375

Security State Bank
103 3rd St., Frederika, IA 50631
(319) 275-4301

Smiley's Family Dentistry
2024 3rd Ave. NW, Waverly
319-352-2270

Tripoli Nursing Home
604 3rd St. SW, Tripoli, IA
319-882-4269

Food and Restaurants

Douglas Den
1195 Hilton Ave., Plainfield
(319) 275-4528

Hair and Beauty

Mane Event Family Hair Salon
239 Main Street, Readlyn
Salon: 319-279-3060
Becky South ~ 319-464-2614

Insurance Services

Farm Bureau - David C. Matthias
Office: (319) 352-3667
Home: (319) 279-3545

Security Mutual Insurance
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The Accel Group
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www.AccelAdvantage.com

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877-418-3090

VanDaele Insurance, Inc.
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(319) 939-4112

Tiedt Nursery
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(319) 352-0418

Wells Hollow Landscaping
(319) 404-9133
Ask for Zach Kuhlmann or Matt Wells
www.wellshollowlandscaping.com

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Schuldt Repair
2261 Reed Ave.
(319) 279-3539

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www.myerspolaris.com

Schumacher Elevator Company
One Schumacher Way, Denver, IA
800-7795438 www.schumacherelevator.com

Tenenbaum's Jewelry
219 E. Bremer Ave., Waverly
319-352-4112



Immanuel Lutheran Church
 2683 Quail Avenue
 Readlyn, IA 50668
 (319) 279-3977
 Pastor Miguel
 Gonzalez-Feliciano
 Divine Service 10 a.m.



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



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



Zion Lutheran Church
 240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668
 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
 (319) 279-3643
 Sunday Services 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:05 - 9:45 a.m.
 Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday
 Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:30 p.m.

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



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