

# Readlyn Chronicle



Home of **857 Friendly People and One Old Grump**

Volume 15, No. 1, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Denver Forum, Denver, IA, January 26, 2022



Receiving Quilts of Valor are these five veterans from Readlyn, all VFW members of Post 5661. Left to right are Ronald Wolff, Jim Wolff, Burton Thies, Charlie Albrecht and Tom Power.

## Five Readlyn vets receive Quilts of Valor

The Wayne Teisinger VFW and Auxiliary #5661 met at the library December 14, 2021 for their annual potluck.

A special presentation was held following the potluck with President Patrick Brodigan emceeing. Five Readlyn veterans were honored and received Quilts of Valor.

They are as follows:

Charles Albrecht: Army/Korea 1958-

1961

Burton Thies: Korea 1951-1953

Ronald Wolff: Korea 1951-1953

James Wolff: Army/Vietnam 1969-1970

Tom Power: Army/Vietnam 1967-1969

### About Quilt of Valor

Quilt of Valor was founded in 2003. Founder Catherine Robert's son, Nat, was deployed in Iraq. In her dream, she saw a young man sitting on the side of the bed

in the middle of the night, huddled over, the feeling of utter despair. She saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His demeanor had changed from despair to hope and well-being. The message she felt was: **QUILTS = HEALING**

The quilts are by the QOVF standards. They must be pieced and quilted and presented to an active duty or veteran that has been touched by war to thank them for

their service.

At the present time, more than 212,000 quilts have been awarded. The quilts by QOVF standards were pieced and quilted by Betty Power.

### Nomination Process

You can fill out a nomination form online at [QOV.org](http://QOV.org) to honor an active duty or veteran that has been touched by war.

## Grump Days at risk – volunteers needed!

Volunteers are necessary and extremely helpful for a healthy community. Readlyn Community Club is made up entirely of volunteers from people of all ages. This group is responsible for many of our town events such as the Easter egg hunt, Christmas on Main, Christmas decorating and Grump Days.

In the last few years, we have seen our volunteer engagement decrease dramatically, which has caused a few of these popular events to become at risk. Last year Grump Days was planned by a group of 3-4 individuals and was extremely hard to pull off. These folks are overwhelmed, overworked and unable to continue at this level of work alongside their full-time positions. Many of the individuals that have ran the events in years past now have very active schedules with careers, side businesses and children's activities that will not allow them to

remain as engaged.

This message is to stress the need for volunteers for Grump Days and other events! Being completely transparent with the community, we do not have a committee currently to hold Grump Days. Unless we have individuals willing to help we will be unable to host the event in June. We do not want to push anyone into an officer position, force anyone to spend countless hours on RCC work or even attend every single meeting. We are simply asking for people in this community to help us keep Grump Days and these events running!

In years past, the committee has met once or twice a month to determine the theme, schedule/plan vendors in the park, create the schedule and more. This committee is completely separate from the Community Club and does not require any further commitment to community club. The week of the event

does require a bit more time but if we had a good active group we can make this very easy! We are not asking for anyone to run this entirely on their own, but we need help! We will be hosting an informational Grump Days meet up on February 9 at 7pm in the Readlyn Event Center. The Community Club will be purchasing appetizers and some pizza for anyone that attends. During this time, we will be looking/discussing the need for help and what exactly this 3-4 day event entails/requires.

We ask that anyone interested or willing to help please attend- if we have low attendance or no interest from additional volunteers we may have to forgo Grump Days this year or immensely scale back. For anyone that has questions please reach out to any of our current officers: Hailey Broten, Eric Johnston, Dani Sauerbrei, Courtney Hesse or Sheila Boevers.

## WV Classes of 1961 and 1962 to hold reunion

The Wapsie Valley Classes of 1961 and 1962 are having a reunion on June 11, 2022!

It will take place at the park by the elementary school in Readlyn, IA starting at noon.

Due to Covid-19, people are asked to bring their own food. It will be outside to provide for social distancing. People may wish to bring a chair along if they do not wish to sit at a table.

If you have any questions, call Kurt Lehmkuhl at 612-269-5939.

The response has been very positive so far!

**Readlyn Community Club to meet Wednesday, January 26, 2022 7pm at The Center Inn**

## Readlyn Firefighter's Annual Breakfast

The Readlyn Firefighter's Association's annual breakfast will be held Sunday, March 6, 2022 at The Center Inn, on Main St. in Readlyn. Serving will be from 8:00AM to 1:00PM and carry-outs will be available.

The menu for the event includes the following: Scrambled Eggs, Smoked Sausage Patties, Rinderwurst, French Toast, Cinnamon Rolls, Toast, Juice, Coffee, and Milk. A free-will donation will be accepted at the door.

All proceeds will be used toward funding the betterment of the Readlyn Volunteer Fire Department.

Readlyn Volunteer Firefighter's Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization established in 2012.



## Grumps meet for lunch; next meeting is Feb. 9

The Readlyn "Grumps" met January 12 for lunch at The Center Inn to discuss the Grump candidate process in anticipation of this year's Grump Days.

Present were Ron Leistikow, Chair; Charlie Albrecht, Vice Chair; Louie Hartman, Secretary; Marlys Deterding and Larry Sauerbrei, current Grumps. Also attending were Roger Deterding, Don Billhorn, Burton Thies, LaVern Brase, Larry Ladage, GaryLee Thurm, Verdeen Pavelec and Roland Schmidt.

Roger Deterding moved to find four or more candidates. Seconded by Roland Schmidt. Vote passed unanimously.

Roger Deterding also made a motion that candidates do not need to be a current Readlyn Community Club member. Seconded by Larry Sauerbrei and approved by unanimous vote.

There was discussion concerning who will vote and when that will happen. Most agreed to vote at the annual meeting with voting at the bank a second option.

The next meeting to work on this process will be February 9, with an 11:30 AM lunch at The Center Inn.

*Respectfully submitted by Louie Hartman*

**Deadline for the Feb. 23 Chronicle is Thurs., Feb. 10 at 5 PM - Send news to [ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com](mailto:ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com)**



## Miss Readlyn Comments

*By Lydia Imbrogno*

Happy 2022 Readlyn! Last month's mystery item was the backdrop at the Christmas on Main Event. Zoomed out picture here:



Now this month's mystery item is something that

1. Was new to Readlyn this past summer
  2. Includes a variety of colors and designs
  3. Are made of vinyl
- Zoomed in picture at right.



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**Saturday, February 5, 2022**  
**9 AM-1 PM**  
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Lunch/soda/water available for purchase 10-1

# Readlyn Community Happenings

## Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger VFW Auxiliary met at the home of Verdeen Pavelec with 7 members present at 7:30 pm. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes were read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and subject to audit. General orders and chairman reports were read by members. A motion was made by Darlene Peters and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to pay the bill, carried. Old business: volunteer hours were turned in. 321 hours were turned in for November.

Mid-winter conference will be Jan. 22-24 in Des Moines. Third District meeting is Jan. 15 at Nashua. Department convention will be June 2-5 at Des Moines.

Third District President Kathryn McDonald was given a monetary gift for coming to inspect our Auxiliary. She returned it, and said give it to charity so we gave it to National Home for Children. A motion was made by Betty Power and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to send it there, carried.

Get-well cards and monetary Kwik Trip cards were sent to Luann Happel and Kathy Heineman for surgeries and hospitalization they underwent.

Betty Power researched the library display case about Vietnam where veterans served. March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Day. A motion was made by Betty Power and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn, carried. Hostess was Verdeen Pavelec.

## Pepper winners

The January pepper tournament was held on Saturday, January 8 at The Center Inn with 10 players participating. Winners and their scores were:

- 1st Place: Suzy Heineman and Grace Kuethe - 235
- 2nd Place: Connie and Roger Buhr - 162
- 3rd Place: Karan Boevers and Shirley Kuker - 147
- 4th Place: Joan Matthias and Judy Henn - 113

The next tournament will be Saturday, February 5 at 2:00 p.m. at The Center Inn. Entry fee is \$3.00. Bring a partner!

## Senior Citizens meet December 15

December 15 — Eighteen members attended the 11:30 AM meal at The Center Inn Event Center for the Senior Citizens lunch and meeting.

Ron Leistikow called the meeting to order.

Celebrating a Birthday in December was Ron Leistikow. We all sang Happy Birthday to him. There were no anniversaries in December.

A thank you note was received from Rick Thacher and read to the group.

The secretary's minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting were read. Wilda Albrecht made a motion to approve the secretary's report and Larry Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$243.00. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Roger Deterding. Marlys Deterding seconded it. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Kim Brown reported the Wapsie Valley Education Dinner was a success and about \$22,000 to \$23,000 was raised that evening. Big thank you to all that donated for this great event!

Ten Grumps and spouses filled 150 Christmas Sacks the Saturday before Thanksgiving. All 150 sacks were used.

Verdeen Pavelec attended the meeting and thanked everyone for all the well wishes as she was recovering from a fall.

### NEW BUSINESS:

The second Wednesday of January, on the 12th, the Grumps will have a dinner and meeting. The lunch will begin at 11:30 at The Center Inn and a meeting will follow. They will be electing candi-

dates for Grump Days in 2022. Spouses are included.

Ron Leistikow received a Distinguished Service Award for Farm Bureau this past month. Congratulations!

At the VFW, December 14 potluck and meeting, Charlie Albrecht, Ron Wolff, Jim Wolff, Burton Thies and Tom Power were all presented patriotic Quilts of Valor. They were all different and sewn by Betty Power. What an honor. Thanks for your service, gentlemen!

The next Senior Citizens meeting was planned for January 19, 2022 at 11:30 at The Center Inn.

Motion was made by Verdeen Pavelec and seconded by Marlys Deterding to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

*Janet Ladage, Secretary*

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# Readlyn Community Library

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Patrick Brodigan  
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Nancy Lockard

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Roger and Connie Buhr  
Ron and Louie Hartman  
Erin Matthias  
Lynn and Dennis Kuker  
Ruth Rathbone

## Book Memorials

**In Memory of Betty Koschmeder**  
"How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodbye?" by Jane Yolen from Larry and Carol Strottmann

"We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt" by Goldie Hawk and "Two Many Birds" by Cindy Derby from Dean and Lois Buhr



## New DVDs



No Time To Die  
Venom: Let There Be Carnage  
Shan-Chi: Legend Of The Ten Rings

## Baby's First Book

The Readlyn Library strives to promote a lifetime of reading. If you know anyone in the Readlyn area that is expecting, stop by the library and register them to receive a free book. Help us welcome new Readlyn's newest residents to the world and also to the world of reading!

## Visit Our Webpage!

<https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us/>



## Hours:

Monday	10:00 - 7:00
Tuesday	10:00 - 5:00
Wednesday	10:00 - 5:00
Thursday	10:00 - 7:00
Friday	10:00 - 5:00
Saturday	9:00 - 12:00

# Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the honor of working as the library director over the past three years. I've greatly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities I've had to serve the community, and I've grown to appreciate (even more) the value of libraries especially in rural areas. I have enjoyed my time with the library immensely but have decided to look for full-time employment. My final day will be on 11 February, however, I will still be two blocks away and will help out as much as I can.

The Readlyn Library truly stands out because of the support we receive from the City Council, our dedicated Board of Trustees, and the entire community. Also, a special thank you to Lois, Barney and the City Shop for helping keep the lights on and the bills paid.

## We Are Hiring PART TIME LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Qualified candidates should have good customer service, communication, and computer skills, be able to work with children and adults, be flexible with hours, and maintain a professional appearance. A High school diploma or a GED is required. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older.

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**Closing Date:** 24 Jan 2022

Library Address: 309 Main Street PO Box 249 Readlyn, IA 50668 Please email readlynlib@gmail.com to request an application or pick one up at the library. A cover letter, completed application, and resume may be emailed to the above address, dropped off at the library, or mailed.

## Readlyn Reads - Book Talk

**February's title: Waiting For The Night Song**  
Pick up a copy at the library and join us for discussion on **February 24th.**

*Due to COVID disruptions January's book talk selection will be used for February*

Cadie Kessler has spent decades trying to cover up one truth. One moment. But deep down, didn't she always know her secret would surface?

An urgent message from her long-estranged best friend Daniela Garcia brings Cadie, now a forestry researcher, back to her childhood home. There, Cadie and Daniela are forced to face a dark secret that ended both their idyllic childhood bond and the magical summer that takes up more space in Cadie's memory than all her other years combined.

Now grown up, bound by long-held oaths, and faced with truths she does not wish to see, Cadie must decide what she is willing to sacrifice to protect the people and the forest she loves, as drought, foreclosures, and wildfire spark tensions between displaced migrant farm workers and locals.

*Waiting for the Night Song* is a love song to the natural beauty around us, a call to fight for what we believe in, and a reminder that the truth will always rise.



\*\*\*\*\*



Compiled by Bob Thran

# Readlyn, Long Ago

## Creeks in the Area

### Quarter Section Run Denver Creek

Quarter Section Run begins east of Horton, flowing southeast under Highways 63 and 3 near the Big Corner, then into Denver (population 1,919 in 2020 census). Here it flows over the dam in Brandt Park then under 63 into Denver City Park. From Denver, it flows in a westerly direction and enters the Cedar River midway between Waverly and Janesville.

Years ago, I saw people fishing in the Run near the Big Corner. Art Kurtt said that hardly a day went by in summer in the 1930s that he and his friends did not swim, play, or fish in the creek. He said the fish they caught were mostly bass. Marv Schumacher said that a decade later Denver Creek was still a play area, especially near the dam in Brandt Park.

According to Marv Schumacher, Denver has had a problem with flooding. The buildings on the west side of old Highway 63 near Denver Creek were susceptible to flooding. Cartons of cigarettes floated around in the basement. Other merchandise was ruined.

Since the Big Corner, the crossing of Highways 3 and 63 north of Denver, was revamped and holding ponds constructed, Denver has experienced no flooding. However, Marv has his own problem with flooding. A dry run comes down from the northwest. The ditch on the east side of the north lane of Highway 63, next to the Schumacher Elevator building, serves as the dry run creek bed. In a downpour, water backs up onto the parking lot. Employees have had to wade in water ankle deep to enter or leave the building. The Iowa DOT has made little effort to alleviate Marv's flooding problem.

### Crane Creek

Crane Creek has its source in an area 5 miles east of Nashua. It flows under Highway 188 east of Plainfield, one mile west of Highway 63. Further on, under 63 near the huge BMC quarry, Crane Creek then runs southeast five miles past Crane Creek Lutheran Church into the Readlyn area.

My Grandfather and the Knittle Creamery made ice for their ice houses in Crane Creek ½ mile north of Highway 3 in Paul Strottman's pasture.

Fishing for black suckers under the old bridge on 3, circa 1946, in the spring was very good. Crane Creek was straightened, the bridge moved a short distance west, and that good fishing hole was gone. Down a mile there is an old gravel pit in Wehling's pasture where we would ice skate. The older guys, my Dad's age, played hockey on the gravel pit. Herb Wittenburg's skate caught a crack in the ice, breaking one of his legs. I fished there. Wayne Kuethe mentioned a few weeks ago that he fished there, too. Caught small bullheads and sunfish too small to keep.

In 1947, my graduation year, I worked for Art Schneider and Chris Muehlenhapt on their construction crew. We waited at 7:00 in the morning for Vince Albrecht. He finally showed up and said he had little sleep. He had gone to Waterloo and because of the torrential rain they had difficulty finding somewhere to cross Crane Creek. Highway 3 was closed for a day or two. Hank Lau had a bridge on his property, one half mile south of the railroad bridge. His lane extended through his farm, a mile long from the gravel road on the west to the road on the east. His bridge across Crane Creek was passable. He allowed cars to use his bridge but, after he saw a semi cross the bridge, he closed his lane.

The flood changed Crane Creek in our area. The water gouged deep holes under the bridges. We took advantage of the deep hole on Hank Lau's property. A couple hundred feet downstream from Hank's bridge on Crane Creek somebody put up a diving board. We swam often in that swimming hole. Young people from Denver swam there, too. I remember Swede Walter being there.

A few miles further south, Gary Mathias built, near Crane Creek, an elaborate three-story tree house. Gary has his own private park that has a backwater in which he has caught northern pike and bass. He said that several years ago Crane Creek stopped running.

Five miles directly south of Knittle, or



from Klinger two miles west and one mile south, there was a settlement called Crane Creek. In my research I could find that only Crane Creek Creamery and the buttermaker's residence were located there.

Art Diercks' farm was nearby. Ice was taken from Crane Creek in Bremer County and hauled south several hundred feet to the Crane Creek Creamery in Black Hawk County. I remember a Kid's Fish Day at this location in the late 1950s. The Iowa DNR placed big bullheads into Crane Creek. Some bullheads were tagged. A kid catching a tagged fish was given a prize.

Crane Creek flows in a southeasterly direction through the north edge of Dunkerton (population 824, 2020 census), then three miles east where it empties into the Wapsi, a short distance north of East Dunkerton Road, in River Bottom County Park.

### Buck Creek

Buck Creek begins several miles northwest of Sumner, flowing just west of the former active settlement of Buck Creek, then under Highway 3 one mile east of Oran. Buck Creek empties into the Little Wapsi two miles north of Fairbank. Northern pike have been caught in Buck Creek.

### Little Wapsi River

The Little Wapsi is a far more interesting creek than Crane Creek. It provides a recreation area for two towns along its way to the Wapsi. It begins east of Fredericksburg, winds down through Sumner (population 2124, 2020 census) and Sumner City Park. One of its branches coming from the west provides hazards on the Sumner golf course. From Sumner, it flows south under Highway 3 two miles east of Oran, dropping down 5 miles into Fairbank (population 1111, 2020 census).

Fairbank has made great use of the Little Wapsi. In 1854, a dam was constructed creating the natural Island Park. The next year a grist mill was built which used water power to grind corn into cornmeal and wheat into flour. The mill was destroyed by flooding in 1865.

In 1855, another grist and flouring mill was built on the northeast bank of the Little Cedar next to the dam. Ownership changed often. Robert Bentley was one of the owners taking over when Wall Street collapsed in 1929. In 1938, Island Park was enlarged by taking soil from the creek on the south side of the island. The mill burned down in 1943. The property was eventually deeded to the town of Fairbank as a park. This area now includes Island Park, East Bentley Park, West Bentley Park.

In visiting with Wilma Welsh, who has lived in Fairbank for all of her 91 years, she said swimming in the Little Wapsi was forbidden but some did it anyway. At least 5 people have drowned in the

creek. People fish both above and below the dam. Northern pike are caught below the dam. People enjoy kayaking above the dam. From Fairbank the Little Wapsi River flows approximately 8 miles further south into the Wapsi River near Littleton.

From the Internet- Living in Farbank: In 1950-51 settlers suffered many deprivations, in some instances living on cornbread alone. A. Stevensen and family at one time subsisted for a week on boiled corn. This was owing to the condition of the creeks, which were so high that people could not ford them. In 1850-51 there were large numbers of Indians in the township of different wandering tribes, but they were friendly and offered no hostilities whatever.

### Our Readlyn Stink Creek

The Town of Readlyn, (population 824, 2020 census) is situated atop a gentle sloping hill halfway between Crane Creek and the Wapsi. Water from the west side of middle Main Street flows into Crane Creek, the east side into the Wapsi. We do not have a creek running through Readlyn as Denver, Sumner or Fairbank have. Our recreation, along a stream, is 2 ½ miles away in either direction. I envy those three towns. They have adapted their creeks for recreation.

However, we do have one advantage, we do not worry about flooding. We do have a creek, Stink Creek. Years ago, the Readlyn Creamery allowed their waste to pour down the drain unto tile leading directly into Stink Creek, hence the name, Stink Creek. The creek drains land north of Readlyn. It begins at the corner of Highway 3 on V49, runs a half mile south in the east ditch of V49, then angles through Lavern Brase's farm under the bridge on 240th Street, 1/4 mile east of Readlyn. Continuing south Stink Creek flows under one of the seven bridges, and empties into the Wapsi.

My Grandfather Thran came back from fishing in the Wapsi (probably traveling with horse and buggy), sometime in the early 1900s. He noticed fish jumping in Stink Creek a few feet south of the CGW tracks. They seined northern pike from that hole. When I was about 12, I rode my bicycle to fish in that same hole in August Detterding's pasture. Stink Creek, at that location, was about 2 ½ feet deep and 4 feet wide. I got nary a bite. Polliwogs, which develop into frogs, were active.

Years ago we youths used the Wapsi and creeks in our area for fishing, swimming and other activities. Life was simpler and it seems we had more fun. We were blessed by the absence of television and the Internet.





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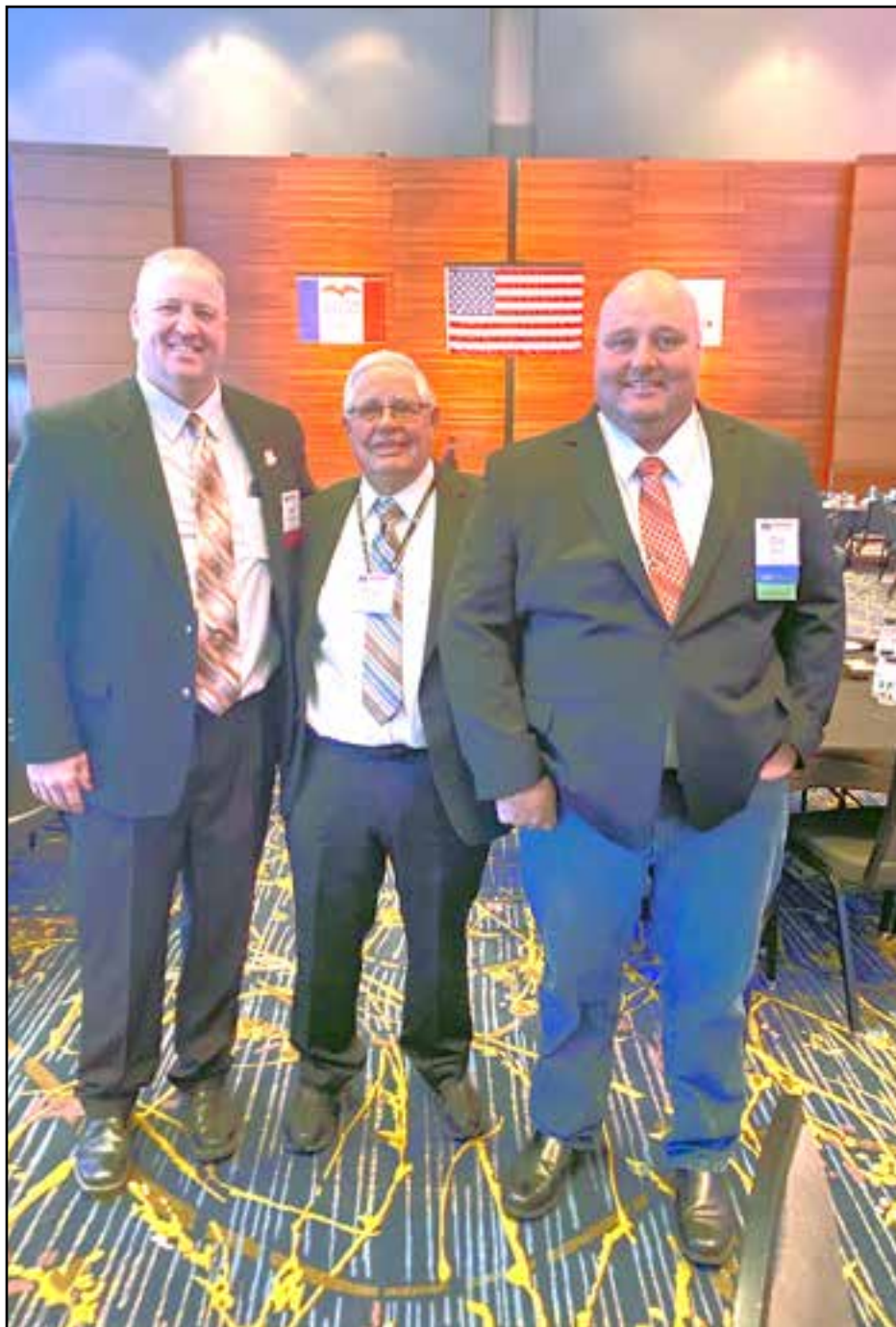


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Luke Schuldt, Ron Leistikow (center) and Clint Munk

## Leistikow honored with distinguished service award

Ron Leistikow of Readlyn was honored on Wed., Dec. 8, at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting held in Des Moines.

Leistikow was nominated by Bremer County Farm Bureau board of directors in July. Bremer County Farm Bureau felt Ron represented agriculture in Bremer County as well as the state. Ron has served on the board of directors of the Bremer County Farm Bureau, as well as Secretary, Vice President, President, Delegate for State and National Farm Bureau, and on the nomination committees.

Ron volunteers on the Poor Farm Board, Bremer County Corn and Soybean Association, Readlyn Historical Society, Read-

lyn Betterment Group, Readlyn Community Club, Senior Citizens, and the 2009 Readlyn Grump.

He was a charter member of the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation and Bremer County Dairy Promoters. Also a member of Bremer County Cattlemen, Bremer County Pork Producers and served on the Bremer County Fair Board for 20 years — 10 years as President.

Ron and Judy want to thank the State Fair Bureau and the Bremer County Farm Bureau, in particular Clink Munk for working to get him entered in the Farm Bureau Agriculture Award.

**Faith - Family - Friends - Farming and Farm Bureau**

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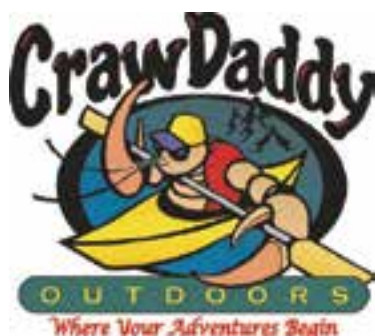
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# Obituaries



## Jeremy John Rich

Jeremy John Rich, 40, of Dubuque, Iowa, and previously from Cedar Falls, Iowa, passed away on Friday, December 17, 2021, at Hills and Dales in Dubuque.

Jeremy was born on September 12, 1981, in Waverly, Iowa, the son of Kandi Kae (Westendorf) Rich and Gilbert Edward Rich. He was baptized on September 13, 1981, at Saint Francis Hospital in Waterloo. Jeremy attended River Hills from 1984 until 1994 when his education transitioned to the Dubuque Public School. He received his High School Certificate in 2003. Jeremy made his home at Hills and Dales in Dubuque, where he worked in the Life Training Center.

Jeremy was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Oran and Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. He liked the simple things in life such as holding hands, and the outside breeze, especially while going on car rides. He also enjoyed food with his favorites being vanilla shakes, cosmic brownies, and chocolate.

Jeremy is survived by his father, Gilbert (Deb) Rich of Sumner; his mother, Kandi (Roger) Hoffert of Fairbank; grandfather, John Rich Sr. of Sumner; special stepsisters, Karen (Nathan) Thompson of Cedar Rapids and Laura (Joel) Nelson of Council Bluffs, and also Joe, Roger Jr. and Jeremy Hoffert, Sherri Buhr and Rebecca Wilson; many nieces and nephews, to include Noah and Emma Thompson, and Abigail, Angela, and Allison Nelson; and many special friends and staff at Hills and Dales. He was preceded in death by paternal grandmother, Greta Rich; maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Shirley Westendorf; and cousin, Brandon Rich.

Funeral services for Jeremy were at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Oran, with Pastors Brian King and Joel Becker officiating. The service was livestreamed on the St. Peter Lutheran Church Facebook page. Burial followed in St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery, Oran. Visitation was from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2021, at Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Masks were respectfully required for all services.

Memorials may be directed to Hills and Dales, 1011 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001.

Online condolences for Jeremy's family may be left at [www.kaisercorson.com](http://www.kaisercorson.com). Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.



## Mardell Mae Zekoff

Mardell Mae Zekoff, 82, of Denver, Iowa, passed away on December 20, 2021, at the Birdee Cottage Assisted Living and Memory Care in Waterloo after a long battle with dementia.

Mardell was born on July 5, 1939, north of Sumner, the daughter of Herbert and Esther (Schellhorn) Niemeyer. She graduated from Tripoli High School in 1958. She was united in marriage to Roger Zekoff on July 3, 1960, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn. After their marriage, Mardell and Roger settled in the Denver area. Mardell worked at the Denver Sunset Home after the kids were raised from 1992-2000.

Mardell and Roger enjoyed traveling together on their many fishing trips.

While fishing, she seemed to be the one that always caught the biggest fish. They also enjoyed their trips to Florida, Arizona, Hawaii and Europe. Family was very important to Mardell, and she especially loved spending time with her grandchildren. She could be found baking or cooking with them or attending their sporting events. She also enjoyed spending time with friends, going to dances and music.

Mardell is survived by her husband, Roger Zekoff of Denver; a son, Greg (Tracy) Zekoff of Phoenix, Arizona; a daughter, Leslie (Chad) Tierney of Denver; five grandchildren, Jeff (Shana) Zekoff; Hannah (Shawn Gulstad) Zekoff; Mason Tierney, Logan Tierney and Mollie Tierney; a great-grandson, Easton Zekoff; a brother, Merle Niemeyer of West Des Moines and a sister, Merna (Dave) Stobbe of Shell Rock. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Julie, and a son, Jeffrey; her parents, Herbert and Esther Niemeyer; her father and mother-in-law, William and Doris Zekoff; and a sister-in-law, Shirley Niemeyer.

Visitation was held on Monday, January 3, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver and also for one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the church. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Denver with Rev. Craig R. Henderson officiating. The service was livestreamed on the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Homes Facebook page. Burial was held in St. Paul United Church of Christ, Denver.

Memorials may be directed to Birdee Cottage Assisted Living and Memory Care in Waterloo or to Care Initiatives Hospice, Waterloo.

Online condolences may be left at [www.kaisercorson.com](http://www.kaisercorson.com).

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver assisted the family.

## Readlyn Firefighter's Association

### Annual Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Center Inn, Main St. Readlyn, Iowa

Serving 8:00AM to 1:00PM

**Carry-Outs Available!!!**

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Smoked Sausage Patties, Rinderwurst, French Toast, Cinnamon Rolls, Toast, Juice, Coffee, Milk

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All proceeds will be used toward funding the betterment of the Readlyn Volunteer Fire Department

***"Thank you for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated!"***

Readlyn Volunteer Firefighter's Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization established in 2012.



Klinger campus January baptismal birthdays! God bless you and keep you!



# News from Community Lutheran School



Wapsie Valley High School students Issy LaRue, Kate Risse, and Lydia Imbrogno visited three-year-old preschool for real life experience for their Child Development class. We are proud to partner with the Wapsie Valley school district.



Happy baptismal birthday Easton! God bless you!



**Go Wildcats!** These ladies are working hard playing basketball every Saturday in January at Wapsie Valley High School with many other area school teams. Thank you Coaches John and Megan Schutte for your dedication and for sharing your love of the game with our students. Thank you Wapsie Valley girls basketball program for hosting this beneficial opportunity!



## Community Lutheran School

### Preschool Registration Night

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

124 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Readlyn

Phone: (319)-279-3541

Email: [office@communitylutherschool.com](mailto:office@communitylutherschool.com)



#### 3 Year Old Options

- M - F 8:00 - 11:30am - \$175/month
  - M,W,F 8:00 - 11:30am - \$150/month
  - T ,TH 8:00 - 11:30am - \$125/month
- (Scholarship Options Available)

\*\*Registration paperwork is available online under the PARENT tab on our website:  
[www.communitylutherschool.com](http://www.communitylutherschool.com)

#### 4 Year Old Options

- **Morning Preschool:**  
M - F 8:00 - 11:30am – No Tuition, covered by grant
- **Extended Day Preschool Program:**  
M - F 8:00am - 3:30pm – Learn more at Registration Night or call the office. Activities include lunch, recess, rest time, specials, interest area choices, and structured teacher directed Kindergarten experience activities.

Must be of age on or before September 15.

Scholarships may be available based on family income. Please ask if you are interested.

All information is kept confidential.

#### Items to bring to Registration Night

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Doctor's Annual Physical
- \$55 nonrefundable registration fee
- Registration paperwork\*\*

**Before and after school care available** for preschool and school age children at \$3/hr per child. Registration fee \$10. Please ask for more information.

*Mission Statement:* Community Lutheran School exists to provide a Christian environment for a quality education while inspiring students to go forth living Christ-centered lives as witnesses of the one true faith in God's Kingdom.

Send news for the Chronicle to [readlynchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:readlynchronicle@gmail.com)



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# Bremer County Community Foundation and Readlyn Community Fund 2022 grant application now available

January 3, 2022 – Grant applications can now be submitted to the Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund's 2022 grant cycles with a deadline to submit applications by 5:00 p.m. on March 31. The online grant application and guidelines can be found at either [www.bremerccf.org](http://www.bremerccf.org) or [www.readlyn.org](http://www.readlyn.org). There is one application process for both grant cycles and detailed information can be found within the grant guidelines.

Grants are awarded to projects in the following areas: arts and culture, community betterment, education and youth development, environment and animal welfare, health, and human service. Grant applicants must be a 501(c)(3) designated organization or a government entity serving Bremer County in order to be considered for funding. First-time grant applicants should contact Dotti Thompson, program manager for the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, at (319) 243-1358 or [dthompson@cfnea.org](mailto:dthompson@cfnea.org) prior to submitting an application. Grant recipients will be announced in June 2022.

In 2021, a total of \$145,337 in

grants were awarded to 43 area nonprofits and government agency projects serving Bremer County. Since 2005, the Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund have awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants benefitting Bremer County residents and communities.

For more information, please contact the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa at (319) 287-9106.

The Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund are local organizations making grants to organizations creating a stronger and more vibrant quality of life in Bremer County and helps people establish permanent funds for the causes they care about in their community. The Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund are affiliates of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, a nonprofit committed to creating long-term impact in 20 counties in Iowa. For more information, contact 319-287-9106 or visit [www.cfnea.org](http://www.cfnea.org). CFNEIA is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.



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# Warrior Way & More

January 2022

It feels like the new year of 2022 got here sooner than those in the past! I think it is because we may be trying to make up for fewer activities last year that many of us encountered. I would personally like to wish you all a Happy New Year that includes super memories and a healthy family. As I write this letter, WVCSD is just finishing the 1st semester of the school year. In my eyes, this has been a fantastic start to the school year with so many accomplishments.

Our extra-curricular teams and club members are off to a superb start in the 7-12 grade levels. I see so many students enjoying activities outside of the classroom to help them experience team atmospheres. I love the quote that NBA coach Phil Jackson made at one point, "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." Many things are learned for future challenges by being a member of a team.

The true Iowa winter has set in with a little amount of snow with a few sub-zero temperatures and wind chills. I tend to lean on the safer side with late starts when wind chills get to -25 and we have numerous students who walk to our district schools. I know this is more of an inconvenience for some families with daycare needs, so I thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility in helping to keep all our students safe.

Last, I do want to mention that we are seeing an upswing of positive COVID cases in our staff and student populations. Surrounding county positivity rates continue to surge to higher levels comparable to last winter. We continue to offer on-line learning opportunities to students during quarantine periods who report positive COVID results.

Enjoy the Iowa winter and all those activities that we get to enjoy in the winter!

Stay Warrior Strong and Safe,

Dave Larson - Wapsie Valley CSD Superintendent

**Deadline for the February 23  
Readlyn Chronicle  
is Thurs., Feb. 10 at 5 PM - Send news to  
ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com**

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# What's Cooking?

A recipe to share can be sent to [billhorn@rtc279.com](mailto:billhorn@rtc279.com)

**Chunky Chocolate Bars**

*Submitted by 2013 Readlyn Grump GaryLee Thurm*

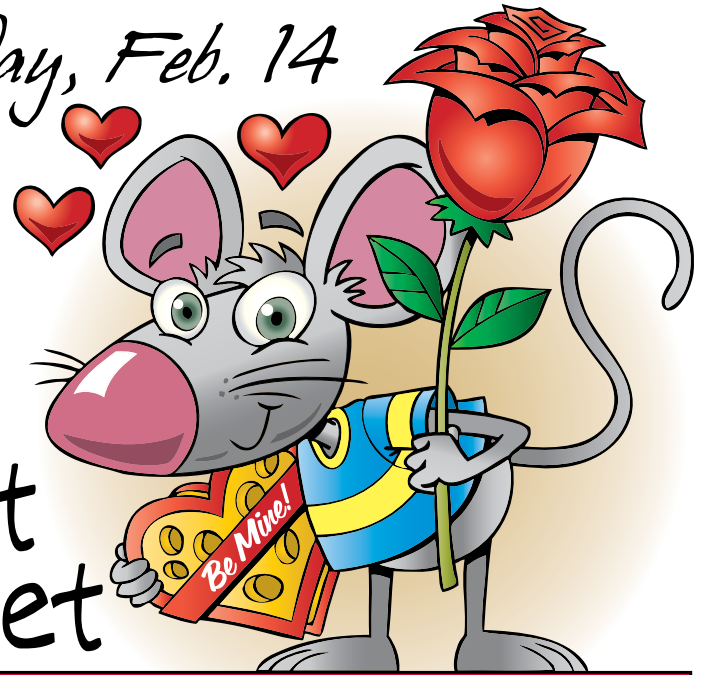
- 1 3/4 C. flour
- 3/4 C. powdered sugar
- 1/4 C. cocoa
- 1 C. chilled butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 2 C. chocolate chips
- 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk

Cut butter into dry ingredients. Press into 9x13 pan and bake for 15 minutes at 350.

Melt 1 C. chocolate chips, vanilla and almond extract in sweetened condensed milk and pour over crust. Smooth the top.

Top with nuts and the rest of chips.  
Bake for 20 minutes.

Monday, Feb. 14



Don't forget

**YOUR VALENTINE!**

## Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa's 2022 Scholarship application open

January 10, 2022 – The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa's 2022 scholarship application process is now open and students may apply for scholarships available through the Community Foundation at [www.cfnea.org/scholarships](http://www.cfnea.org/scholarships).

The deadline to apply for 2022 scholarships is 8:00 p.m. on March 9.

CFNEIA awarded \$526,960 in scholarships to high school, college, and adult students in 2021. A total of 271 scholarships were awarded to students pursuing higher education opportunities and the average amount awarded was \$1,976.

Students interested in applying for 2022 scholarships should visit the CFNEIA website to view the scholarship eligibility checklist. Once scholarship eligibility is determined, a common application, also available through the CFNEIA website, must be completed. The common application requires basic student information, transcript of academic record, summary of extra-curricular experiences, an essay portion, and a letter of recommendation. Some scholarships will require additional information.

All required materials must be submitted through the online system. Students must visit the Community Foundation's website for instructions and to begin the application process. A frequently asked questions webpage is available to answer commonly asked questions any students may have. Scholarships are awarded based on various factors, including, but not limited to, academic excellence, financial need, the pursuit of certain fields or majors, past experiences, location or high school attended.

For more information about scholarship opportunities, please contact Tom Wickersham, Program Director, at 319-243-1356 or [twickersham@cfnea.org](mailto:twickersham@cfnea.org).

More information about the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa can be found at [www.cfnea.org](http://www.cfnea.org).

### About CFNEIA

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa is a local nonprofit committed to creating long-term impact in 20 counties in northeast Iowa. CFNEIA helps people establish permanent funds for the causes they care about and makes grant investments to organizations that create a stronger and more vibrant quality of life for all of us. For more information, contact 319-287-9106 or visit [www.cfnea.org](http://www.cfnea.org). CFNEIA is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. community foundations.

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**Bow Season 2021-Part 2**

When we left off last month, I was anticipating the possible sighting of a target buck on Nov. 3, and the story continues.

I left work early as I felt it would be a perfect evening. Misty, windy, and cold, I felt as though the bucks would move well in legal light.

I decided the north oak flat stand would be the area to sit for this dreary evening. I was able to slip in completely undetected with the wet leaves and strong wind. As the hunt wore on, conditions got worse and it began to all out pour down rain. About a half-hour before dark, I caught movement coming out of the cottonwood thicket to the west.

The first two does came out and I caught more movement behind them. It was him, a buck I'd been after since I started hunting the properties. I have numerous trail cam pictures of him, but it's very rare to lay eyes on him in daylight.

He slowly followed the two does out into the grass, his antlers shining bright in the dreary daylight, and they worked their way north towards the cornfield. I tried getting his attention a few times with my grunt call, but he paid no attention and was locked on the does. They made their way to the corn to feed and, by this time, legal light was over and I got out of the stand and quietly made my way out.

The next two days, the wind was not right to sit that north oak flat and I hunted a couple other stands with a lot of sightings but none of the three I was after. A check of the weather forecast Friday night, November 5, they were calling for a very light northwest wind, clear and cold. With that forecast, it was time to get back in the north stand.

The next morning I was up early and took a little different route to where I would park the Ranger and ease in. As I started across the open switch grass, a pheasant burst into flight right at my feet! In the pitch dark, that made the heart jump a bit! Another ten steps and another pheasant! My heart rate was up and I wasn't even to the stand yet.

As I made my way to the timber, the

leaves were very frosty and loud. Every step was painful and I felt like an elephant walking to the stand. I certainly have spooked deer, I thought as I climbed into the stand. A half-hour sit in the dark and the woods began to wake up. I could hear turkeys all around me and the whistling wings of ducks flying overhead. A rustling of the leaves and footsteps got my attention as a big rooster pheasant walked directly under my stand and out to the cornfield.

Shortly after I again heard footsteps and a small buck made his way towards me from the south as the sun began to rise. He fed his way by feeding on acorns and I even filmed him for a minute as he walked through a mere ten yards away. As I scanned to the south again, I caught movement of antlers in the thick underbrush to the south, the sun shining brightly on his antlers as he stepped out of the thick brush.

It was a big nine-pointer I had on camera, one of the three I was after. I grabbed my bow off the hanger and readied myself for the encounter. He saw the small buck that was now out in the grass to the west and ran right at him. He chased the small buck around as if to run him out of the area. Once he stopped, I grunt called at him and he perked up and looked my way but remained focused on running that small buck off. He chased him around some more and after a short time finally ran him off.

As mature bucks will often do, he immediately started walking towards me to where he had last heard a grunt. I readied for a shot. He walked directly into the small section of timber I was in and went to a mock scrape I had made on the ground a month ago. He stopped right in front of my trail camera a mere 10 yards away. I went to full draw, settled my sight pin at his off side shoulder due to the angle of being this close, and touched off the shot. The arrow connected perfectly and he ran a short 50 yards south and fell over.

It was all over in 30 seconds. It all came together in the area I had found back in February! I was elated and couldn't



wait to show Delana. I tagged him, field dressed him, took some pictures and let the landowners know the morning's success. Fortunately for me, the big nine expired right on a mowed path so I was able to drive the Ranger right to him, load up and head home.

As I pulled into the driveway, Delana was waiting for me and we both just sat there admiring the buck as I told her the story of the morning. Soon, neighbors and friends stopped by and celebrated with us.

Now is when the season became really fun. I still had a doe tag in my pocket and Delana was really fired up to go. Fortunately, the weather warmed up and the mosquitoes were a distant memory, so conditions were perfect for her to sit with me.

I don't have a safety harness for her yet to be in a tree stand, so we set up our ground blind to hunt from. The first evening I was very thankful to have that blind as Delana was wired 220 out there. Her excitement was through the roof so sitting still was not an option. The ground blind kept her movements hidden and also helped with warmth.

I let Delana call the shots so she decided we would set up the blind at the north end of the food plots she worked so hard on. She thought it was so cool that all of the wildlife were utilizing what she helped plant. In our sits, she got to see pheasants, turkeys, deer, raccoons, ducks and even had a flock of swans fly over one evening. I'm not sure who got more out of these hunts, her or me.

As we would sit each time, she opened up and talked about school, sports, friends, etc., and didn't have her head in her phone as most kids, including her, do these days. She was focused on her surroundings and we talked and quietly laughed every hunt. We didn't shoot a deer while sitting. As she said, "We haven't seen one plump enough yet, dad."

Our last hunt before the season closed, on our walk out, I told her I was sorry we didn't get a deer. She looked up at me holding my hand and said, "I'm happy we get to spend time out here together, dad." Not gonna lie, my eyes watered from the cold and wind at that moment.... As I stated before, 2021 was one of my favorite seasons yet, and I know it's only going to get better in 2022 as I feel Delana is finally educated and big enough to participate in Iowa's youth turkey in the spring, and youth deer in September.

I can't thank the landowners enough for these opportunities they allow us to have. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year in 2022! Until next time, *Get Outdoors!*



# Wapsie Valley School Board Minutes December 20, 2021

## Wapsie Valley CSD Work Session & Regular School Board Mtg December 20, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Sauerbrei called the Work Session to order @ 6:08 pm.

1. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Sauerbrei, Wolfe & Van Daele. Declared a quorum

2. Administration - Supt. Larson & Board Secretary: Kim Arndt

3. Others Present: Travis Squires

2. Travis Squires discussed the financial position and unspent balance of Wapsie Valley. Travis stated we are currently in a sound financial position. One-time expenditures were discussed from the general fund. Explained that property tax may need to be increased in a couple of years to stay comparable with the current financial position.

3. Adjourned at 6:42 pm

1. President Sauerbrei called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:42 pm.

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe & Van Daele. Declare a quorum.

B. Administration: Dave Larson, TJ Murphy & Jayme Hurley

C. Board Secretary: Kim Arndt, Others: Lois Heineman, Vaughn Gross, John LaCroix, Brian Stark, Melanie Curley & Bridget Seemann

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

3. Public Comment - Vaughn Gross presented a garage sale fundraising opportunity for the Prom Committee to be held on 1-7-2022 in the multipurpose room. The robotics team is ranked 17 out of 160-170. The students are doing nice

work.

Bridget Seeman presented a dodgeball fundraising event for 2-12-2022 for the WV Honor Society and will be selling Texas Roadhouse rolls for Student Ambassadors.

Melanie Curley spoke on the training of her dog, Remi to become a comfort dog for the Wapsie Valley students

4. Consent Items - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Jeannie Wolfe and Heather & Corby Holt's request to open enroll their 8th-grade daughter into the Sumner-Fredericksburg district as presented. Motion 5-0

5. Board - Brian Stark discussed updates on the HVAC and Concession stand project. The concession stand will be completed in the Spring of 2022. Waiting on the electric transformer and mandated testing. Rooftop units to be purchased with ESSER money were discussed. Need to finalize funds available to confirm the number of units we can purchase.

Superintendent - Discussed Mr. Hurley's schedule, supporting Mrs. Forsyth when Admin coverage is needed, Kay Chapman, CPA, WVEF dinner and auction, prom 2022, absenteeism reached over 10% last week at the 7-12 building due to influenza and COVID, Iowa School State Profiles have been released and OSHA mandatory policy on employee vaccinations.

PK-6 Principal Hurley - Discussed 12-1-21 professional development, motivational speaker, Joe Beckman, 5th-grade coin drive, Music concerts, staffing updates, and Administration coverage changes.

7-12 Principal Murphy - Discussed 12-1-21 professional development, CAPS, FFA and their fruit sales, Student Ambassadors, and gave activity updates.

6. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve the resignation of Lindsy Hruska - Elementary Teacher and thank her for her service to the students & staff effective the end of the 21-22 school year. as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Contracts: Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the following contracts as presented: Motion carried 5-0 Austin Jeanes - JH/HS Special Education Associate-\$13.15 P/H, Brooke Meyer - Special Education Associate, \$13.40 P/H, and Zach Kuhlmann - JH Boys Basketball Coach - Base 1/Year 1 - \$1,955

7. New Business-Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to award the Lawn care bid to Weeds on Fire for the entire district including Rdlyn JH/HS, FB & Rurals for the 21-22, 22-23 & 23-24 seasons as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Wolfe Seconded by Auel to award the snow removal bid to Weeds on Fire for the JH/HS and Readlyn elementary locations for the 21-22, 22-23 & 23-24 seasons and Adam Kaufman for Fairbank and all Rurals for the 21-22, 22-23 & 23-24 seasons as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the bid from Premiere State Supply (\$13,356) to furnish and install stage curtains and minor updates to the roping as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Van Daele to approve the quote from Morley Athletic to purchase 4 rollout track runways 150' long by 36"

each, (\$4,763) as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve the bid from Hawkeye Alarm & Signal for an upgrade to Card Access program (\$1,832), update burglar alarm system work, (\$827), annual cellular service (\$225 per year), and annual alarm monitoring services (\$300 per year), install two magnetic door locks (\$1,823), replace existing with HD Analog (\$3,179) and Premium Upgrade-ExacqVision (\$7,253). Will check on cloud-based storage vs hard drive storage and purchase the cheaper option. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the At-Risk/Dropout Comprehensive Plan and SBRC request for Modified Supplemental Amount (\$121,972) for the 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the agreement between Wapsie Valley CSD and the Oelwein CSD Online (O2) program to provide services starting the second semester as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the Cooperative sharing agreement for G/B soccer with Denver for the 2022 season as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the cleaning of all rural buildings by Hannah Rulapaugh for a fee of \$1,500 per month as presented. Motion carried 5-0

8. Board Talking Points- Steve confirmed the continued services for Readlyn latchkey and discussed daycare issues


9. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn at 8:59 pm. Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully, Kim Arndt

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