

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 15, No. 3, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Denver Forum, Denver, IA, March 30, 2022

Miss Readlyn candidates sought

Readlyn Grump Days will be held this summer June 17-19. If you are a Wapsie Valley junior residing in Readlyn, have a Readlyn address, or attended Readlyn Elementary or Community Lutheran, you are invited to be a Miss Readlyn candidate. Our committee will be contacting girls that qualify.

If you have questions or we have missed contacting you, here's our contact information: bonniewittenburg5@gmail.com, 319-231-4476 or ronlouiehartman@gmail.com, 319-239-0533.

We look forward to meeting and enjoying this year's Miss Readlyn candidates.

Burning of leaves April 1 to June 1

The City of Readlyn will permit burning of leaves, but not building materials or other household wastes.

Burning can take place April 1 to June 1, 2022. **Reminder:** No burning on paved streets or sidewalks.

Please be considerate of your neighbors when burning and do not burn wet leaves.

EMS: Did You Know?

The Readlyn 1st Responders meet monthly and discuss different things going on in EMS and what we can do to make our community safe and healthy. We would like to share some of the things we learn with all of you as a way to teach others and keep you informed. We hope you find value in the information we share in these articles. They are meant to educate, not treat, diagnose, or take place of regular follow ups with your provider.

- Call numbers for February - 4
- Average time from dispatch to scene - 7 minutes

Did you know: our crew in Readlyn is all 100% volunteer based? We have a total of 10 EMTs and 2 drivers. We also have 2 associate members who receive our pages as well and assist us when they are in the area.

Did you know: all things blood pressure. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- What is blood pressure? It is the pressure against your artery walls when your heart is pumping. The top number (systolic) is the pressure in your arteries when your heart squeezes. The bottom number (diastolic) is the pressure in your arteries when your heart relaxes. Several things affect blood pressure: diet, activity, smoking, caffeine, stress, and even heritage.

- Why is blood pressure so important? Elevated blood pressure, 140/90 or higher, can cause hardening of your arteries. This may lead to heart disease, heart attack, stroke, or kidney disease.

Not sure if you have high blood pressure? Call your primary care provider and keep regular visits.

Easter Egg Hunt

(10am)

April 16, 2022 at the Readlyn City Park



Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt here in Readlyn!

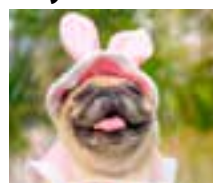
Age Groups:

- 0-3
- 4-5
- 6-7
- 8-9

Sponsored by the Readlyn Community Club

If you wish to be an Easter Egg sponsor and have your business or home on the list, please reach out to Jessica Anderson 319.504.5903.

Easter Egg Hunt for your DOG!



Join us at the Readlyn Ball Park April 16 at 9 am! Dogs MUST be on a leash! Sponsored by the Readlyn Veterinary Associates PC



Readlyn VFW and Denver Legion performed Military Honors at Ron Wolff Funeral.

Readlyn Spring City-Wide Garage Sales

FRIDAY, MAY 20 from 4:00 – 8 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 21 from 8 AM – Noon (Unless Advertised Differently)

Please drop off your registration and \$5.00 to the Readlyn Library by Wednesday, May 18. We'll place the ads in newspapers and online — you provide your yard signs. Maps of listings will be on Readlyn Community Club Facebook, Readlyn for Sale Group, and paper copies can be picked up at the Kwik Star at 8 am on Friday, May 20.

Readlyn City Wide Garage Sales Sign-up Sheet

Cost: \$5.00

Friday, May 20 4:00–8pm

Saturday, May 21 8 am – Noon

Name: _____

Address of Sale: _____

Items you want mentioned: _____

Please turn in your listing and money to the library by Wednesday, May 18. If your sale will run different hours than those listed, please indicate. The list will be on Readlyn Community Club Facebook, Readlyn For Sale Group, paper copies at the Kwik Star at 8 am, Friday, May 20. The Goodwill truck will be parked behind the library from May 19 – May 23. Donations can also be taken to St. Matthew's garage for the Lakota Indian Reservation, S.D.

Book tour for *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse* planned

Betty Brandt Passick announces a 7-stop northeast Iowa book tour following the release of her historical novel, *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie*, in November 2021.

- Tues., Apr. 5, 2 pm, IOOF Home and Community Therapy Center, 1037 19th St. SW, Mason City
- Tues., Apr. 5, 6:30 pm, Waverly Public Library, 1500 W Bremer Ave., Waverly
- Wed., Apr. 6, 4 pm, Arlington Public Library, 711 Main Street, Arlington
- Thurs., Apr. 7, 3 pm, Fayette Community Library, 104 W State St., Fayette
- Thurs., Apr. 7, 5 pm, Wadena Public Library, 36 S Mill St., Wadena
- Fri., Apr. 8, 10 am, Sumner Public Library, 206 N Railroad St., Sumner
- Sat., Apr. 9, 10 am, Colesburg Public Library, 220 Main St., Colesburg

The book launch happened at the Strawberry Point Public Library in Iowa on Oct. 13, 2021. The Wilder Memorial Museum co-hosted the event.

"*The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse* is a period piece of Iowa's earliest history, particularly relevant as Iowa celebrates 175 years of statehood in 2022," Passick said.

The novel tells the forgotten legacy of Dr. Alexander Wiltse—who, in the mid-1850s, left behind his beloved ancestral home in Ontario, Canada to establish new roots in Iowa. Initially, he and his family resided with relatives in Colesburg before moving to the Strawberry Point area, where he established his medical practice. His first clients were newly arriving immigrants — Indians, prairie banditti, and chicken thieves.

When he meets Dr. A. B. Ward from nearby "Oxbow"—a village similar to the author's hometown of Fairbank—the story begins to weave between the two communities. Together they aid authorities with murder investigations across Bremer, Clayton, Delaware, and Fayette Counties.

Eruption of Civil War in 1860 threatens to destroy Dr. Wiltse's dream of making a better life for himself and his family in their new homeland.

"I wanted to write a historically accurate account of Dr. Wiltse's legacy," Passick added. "Europeans and Canadians were the first immigrants to arrive in Iowa. Two of the pioneer physician's Dutch-Canadian ancestors were among my beta readers to review book chapters as I wrote them. Residents of Strawberry Point and Fairbank, along with a physician, and an expert in the Ho-Chunk language and culture, were readers, too."

The author's first novel in the Gangster Series, *Gangster in Our Midst, Bookkeeper, lieutenant, and sometimes hitman for Al Capone* (2017), won a 2019 Notable 100 Indie Book Award.

The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, 232 pages, is available through independent bookstores and Amazon.com for \$16.95 plus tax, shipping/handling.

Passick currently resides in the Twin Cities in Minnesota and welcomes invitations to talk about any of her four books. She also teaches writing workshops: "Writing a Memoir" (all ages), and "Journaling" (grades 5-7); plus she writes a "Gangster Blog," and is a columnist for her hometown newspaper, *The Fairbank Islander*.



Grump's Grumblings

By Marlys Deterding
2021 Grump

Hi,
Hopefully, winter is behind us. The basketball and bowling seasons are done. We enjoyed attending basketball and bowling meets.

We attended the Fireman's Breakfast which was very good and was well-attended; we also attended the FFA Omelet Breakfast.

Roger and I are looking forward to

spring and getting the gardens ready for the blooming of tulips, daffodils and other spring flowers. Also, baseball and Little League will be starting soon, so we can watch grandchildren play.

Not too much else is happening. Don't forget to vote for Grump 2022 and attend the Annual Meeting on March 26.

Co-Grump 2021,
Marlys Deterding



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lydia Imbrogno

Hello! In the midst of many Wapsie Valley extra-curricular activities going far in the post season last month, the mystery items were the WV flags that were hung along the Main Street light poles (right)!



Now this month, the mystery item, pictured at left, is something that was:

1. Introduced to Readlyn within the past few years or so
2. Adds beauty and color to the town and
3. Is along a road that is considered a truck route.



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Readlyn Community Happenings

Senior Citizens meet

Eighteen members attended the 11:30 AM meal at The Center Inn Event Center for the February Senior Citizens lunch and meeting. Charlie Albrecht lead us in prayer before our delicious noon meal and called the meeting to order. We sang Happy Birthday to Marlys Deterding and Janet Ladage as they both were celebrating a birthday in the month of February.

Celebrating anniversaries in the month of February were couples Larry and Janet Ladage and Rick and Lois Thacher. We sang Happy Anniversary to both couples.

We all signed a sympathy card and sent to the family of Dolores Ungs. Dolores was a member of the Senior Citizens for many years and will be missed.

The Secretary's minutes from the January 19 2022 meeting were read. Secretary's report was approved by all members attending.

The Treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$280.00. The Treasurer's report was approved as read by all members attending. It was discussed to donate \$100.00 to the Readlyn Firemen and also \$100.00 to the Readlyn First Responders out of the Senior Citizens account. Roland Schmidt made a motion and Don Billhorn carried it to donate this month to the designated groups. Motion carried.

No Old Business was discussed.

New Business:

Sunday, March 6 will be the Annual Readlyn's Firefighter's Breakfast Fundraiser. Serving will be from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Readlyn Center Inn Event Center. Free-will donation will be taken at the door.

At a recent Community Club meeting for the current and past Readlyn Grumps offered to search for Candidates for the 2022 Grump Days. All Community Club members and new members can go to the Readlyn Library and pay their 2022 dues and vote. Each ballot will be sealed and kept at the Library and then combined with the votes that are also received at the Annual Meeting which will be held March 26 at 5:30 pm at the Readlyn Event Center. Voting will conclude after the Annual Meeting.

The 2022 Grump candidates are Don Heineman, Janet Ladage, Larry Pavelec and Jim Collins. Congratulations to all the candidates that have been chosen to represent Readlyn at the Grump Days event the third weekend in June. Who will be the 2022 New Grump?

The next Senior Citizens meeting will be March 16, 2022 at The Center Inn Event Center at 11:30 am. Motion was made by Roger Deterding and seconded by Sonja Bast to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. *Lois Thatcher, Secretary.*

VFW Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger VFW Auxiliary met at the Readlyn Library with 5 members present on March 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm. The meeting was called to order by President Verdeen Pavelec and opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes were read by Betty Power (acting secretary). The motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Marj Macken to accept the minutes, carried. The treasurer's report was read by Ellen Thies and is subject to audit. General Orders and Chairman reports were read by members. A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Marj Macken to pay bills. Volunteer hours were turned in.

Valentines were sent to 25 veterans by the Auxiliary. Betty Power and others put articles for Vietnam Veterans Day (March 29) in the Readlyn Library display case today, March 8, 2022. Ellen Thies and Darlene Peters attended Delores Ungs' funeral. Four V.F.W. Post members and four Auxiliary members attended Ron Wolff's funeral.

A thank-you was read from the Ungs' family for the memorial to the hospital fund and flowers.

A motion was made and seconded for Delegate Ellen Thies and alternate Betty Power to attend 3rd District Convention.

A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Betty Power to send money for Youth and Patriots Pen for year end report. A thank-you was read from National Home for children for a monetary gift we sent.

A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Betty Power to adjourn. Hostess was Ellen Thies.



Darlene Peters

Darlene Peters' 95th Birthday

Darlene Peters will be celebrating her 95th birthday on Sunday, April 3. She will be celebrating with a family dinner at The Center Inn and a card shower hosted by her family.

Darlene was born April 3, 1927 on her family farm by Readlyn. Cards may be sent to PO Box 74, Readlyn 50668.

Her family would like to wish her a very special 95th birthday! Happy Birthday, Mom/Grandma/Great-Grandma! We love you!!

Pepper Tournament held

The pepper tournament was held at the Center Inn on Saturday, March 5 with 12 players participating.

Winners and their scores were:

1st - Doris Hagenow and Therese Schumacher - 205

2nd - Karan Boevers and Shirley Kuker - 202

3rd - Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 181

4th - Joan Matthias and Judy Henn - 172

The next tournament will be Saturday, April 2 at the Center Inn at 2:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$3.00. Bring a Partner! This will be the last tournament until October.

Wapsie Valley Class of 1982 reunion

The Wapsie Valley Class of 1982 is having a 40th reunion celebration June 17 and 18 during Grump Days in Readlyn.

Watch for information on Facebook. Hope to see everyone!

Questions? Call Lynne, 515-249-8997, or Lisa, 319-404-1159.

City Council Meeting

February 14, 2022

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:45PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00PM for the public hearing followed by the regular meeting. Mayor Wedemeier in the chair and the following named council members present: Nicole Barnes, Rocco Imbrogno, Keith Brunscheon, Joey Jones. Absent: Jason Franck. Others in attendance: Barney Wiersma, Steve Aiello, Austin Matthias.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Barnes to approve minutes from the January 10 and 24, 2022 council meetings. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

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

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve budget report and two months library reports. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Wedemeier opened the Public Hearing on the Max Tax for the FY21/23 Budget. Notice of time and place had been published in the Waverly Newspapers on February 1, 2022. No written or oral objections were received. After all desiring to be heard motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Jones to close the Public Hearing. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to introduce Resolution No. 2022-01 entitled "RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAXIMUM TAX DOLLARS FROM CERTAIN LEVIES FOR THE CITY'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET". Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2022-01 duly adopted.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to set March 14, 2022 at 7:00PM for the public hearing on the adoption of the proposed FY22/23 City Budget. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno,

Barnes, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve Sunrise-Center Inn, Inc. dba The Center Inn liquor license and Sunday sales. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve beer license and Sunday sales renewal for the Kwik Trip, dba Kwik Star. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve new volunteer fireman, Jared Wright. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Council received an update on recent Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation board meeting and EBRA meeting.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve Bernard Wiersma and Austin Matthias to attend Region 1 AWWA meeting in Manchester. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to introduce Resolution No. 2022-02 entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READLYN, IOWA, AWARDED AN OWNER-OCCUPIED REHABILITATION CONTRACT TO KIRVAN ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR PROJECT #6 OF THE READLYN CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM". Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2022-02 duly adopted.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor
ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk

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Barb Meyer

In Memory of Dolores Ungs

Kenny & Bonnie Piehl
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Garylee & Bonnie Thurm
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In Memory of Gary Buhr

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In Memory of Ronald Wolff

Kenny & Bonnie Piehl
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Thank you for your generosity



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

Coffee Fridays Returning!

The weather is warming up, birds are singing and—soon—flowers will be blooming! To celebrate, Coffee Fridays will be returning to the Library on April 1st. We open at 10 and will be serving coffee to those patrons who'd like to wander in, reconnect with friends, work on a puzzle or check out a book or two.



Recycled Art Supplies Needed

In preparation for summer and the programs we'd like to offer our community's kids, we're taking donations for household items that can be recycled into art projects! Here's a list of items that we'd love to have for our future artists to choose from:

- small plastic containers
- netting from produce bags
- bubble wrap
- packaging peanuts
- styrofoam trays
- plastic lids
- cardboard
- magazines
- junk mail



- yarn, cloth and ribbon scraps
- paper bags
- old sheets (bedding)
- feathers
- buttons
- bottle caps
- jar lids
- cans
- string



Readlyn Reads: Book Talk

Have you ever been curious about our Book Club? If you'd like to find out more about our Book Club and what a typical selection looks like, please join us on March 31st at 7:00pm for a 'Book Tasting'! We'll have a list of books that Miranda Wheeler has selected as possible future reads as well as hot chocolate and cookies. If you've wondered what we get up to with Book Club, now's your chance to find out! Maybe you follow Oprah's or Reese's Book Club and are interested in the group reading and discussion experience—whatever your interest, this event is a great way to get started. Returning and new members alike, we look forward to seeing you on the last Thursday of the month!

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



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ReadlynCommunityLibrary>



Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago

Rex Bales: The man, the myth, the legend

Rex O. Bales

Rex Bales was a black marketeer during and after World War II. He was 32 when the draft was instituted. He did not serve. While men were dying and the nation was sacrificing to aid the war effort, he used World War II to become wealthy. So wealthy that he paid \$40,000 in cash for the Seeger's farm. He financed other operations. I heard stories that he came from Chicago and was part of Al Capone's mob or that he had a widespread bootlegging

operation during Prohibition. Who was he?

I asked Jo Porter of Denver, an archaeologist, to research the Waverly papers for articles about Rex Bales. She found 37 items. Some entire items are copied here and others are summarized. Because of the breadth of subjects, some items are not included. I was surprised by what I learned. Dates articles appeared in the paper are noted.

11/25/1931

Bales and Gardner Held in Turkey Theft Case

Admit Stealing Birds From McCaffrey Farm Recently

Rex Bales is in the Bremer County jail and Guy Gardner is in the Butler County jail on charges of "larceny of poultry" in connection with the theft of 61 turkeys from the H. A. McCaffrey farm in Bremer County in October. A third man wanted in connection with the robbery is not yet in custody.

Bales and Gardner were taken into custody Saturday after Butler County authorities and Sheriff Fred Sager and Deputy Harley Ehlert had done considerable work on the case.

Liquor Charge First

Bales and Gardner were first suspected when Constable Evan Wilson visited the farm of Bales' stepfather, Otto Hupp, near Parkersburg and found three gallons of alleged alcohol. Both a harness and some liquor were found, and at the same time the deputy noticed six Bourbon turkeys. Remembering the McCaffrey theft, he notified Bremer County officials and through markings on the turkeys they were identified.

Bales exonerated his stepfather and his mother from any knowledge of his thieving operations, which during his month's career have included harness, lumber, windows, posts and wire. Some of the materials were taken to Minnesota and traded for turkeys and sold for cash. Most of the turkeys were shipped to a Chicago produce house; others were traded for pheasants, and a few were kept.

Expect Plea of Guilty

County Attorney Harry H. Hagemann said that he expected to file a county attorney's information against Bales within a few days. Bales realizes that "stealing doesn't pay" and will plead guilty to the charge.

Windows taken Nov. 15 from an old house belonging to Robert Blake, a mile south of Shell Rock, were found Saturday by Sheriff Burma of Butler County in an old house southeast of Finchford in Black Hawk County, recently leased by Gardner. Lumber stolen from the same house Nov. 17 was found under a pile of hay in the barn of the Hupp farm.

12/2/1931

Turkey Thieves Begin Five-Year Sentences

Bales, Gardner Taken to Anamosa Nov. 30

By Frank Sager

Rex Bales and Guy Gardner, convicted of larceny of poultry, were taken to Anamosa Monday by Sheriff Frank Sager and Deputy Harley Ehlert to begin five-year sentences. The two men who pled guilty to the charge before Judge M. F. Edwards at Allison Friday, were the ones who stole the turkeys from the Howard McCaffrey farm near Waverly Junction in October.

Vic Stevenson of Shell Rock, who was sentenced to five years at Anamosa on the same charge, was paroled to Claude Richardson and his sentence was suspended during good behavior. Stevenson's part in the thieving was minor. He had been paid a small amount of money to locate the goods stolen. He aided the officers in solving the crime.

12/4/31

Stolen Harness Located at Austin

Four sets of harness which Rex Bales and Guy Gardner, now serving time in prison for the theft of turkeys at the Howard McCaffrey farm, admitted stealing, have been recovered at Austin, Minn. where they were traded to a man for 17 turkeys and \$3 in cash.

The final days of Rex Bales

Art Kurtt was fire chief in Denver when the Denver Fire Department answered a call to put out a fire at one of Rex Bales' buildings. The fire was of suspicious origin. Art notified the Iowa State Fire Marshal and accompanied the Fire Marshal to the Bales' home to inspect.

When Rex attempted to introduce his

wife, Helen, to the Fire Marshal, he had forgotten her name.

Helen, in her obituary, requested that donations be given to the Alzheimer's Association. Helen cared for Rex with Alzheimer's. I admire Helen being a faithful wife. The task was not easy. Helen was a lover of flowers.

Timeline

- 2/16/48 Rex Bales and Helen Kirchoff marry
- 6/10/48 Bales buys Seeger's farm with goal to establish a new town called Balesville
- 9/29/48 \$25 fine-improper registration on vehicle
- 11/16/48 Bales to face serious court charges-receiving stolen property at Rex's Fruit Basket-posted \$2,000 bond-charges later dismissed
- 1/23/53 County Home building sells \$1500-officials satisfied
- 2/7/51 Closing out sale-Russell Seehase and Rex Bales-sixty head of Live-stock, etc.
- 10/24/55 Posted bond for altercation with Otto Peterson
- 10/6/56 Sues Highway Commission for property damage
- 10/15/57 Bales awarded \$20,000 by court
- 6/15/67 Judgment against Charles Roberts and Shirley Roberts
- 9/25/75 Court orders Bales to pay Bill Rector and Clarence Bartles \$312.58 for services rendered
- 10/30/75 Gave Merlin and Lillian Ackers notice to vacate
- 8/18/76 Met with Board of Supervisors to discuss conditions for rezoning
- 8/31/76 Board deems property unsightly -Bales agrees to clean up property-two years for one building from poor house-18 months for junk cars
- 11/26/76 County Zoning Board opposes rezoning of Junction
- 1/13/77 Issued permit to build corral and new riding arena
- 9/2/77 Board conducts on-site inspection of property
- 6/10/80 Sheriff's Report-2 plate glass windows broken \$330-Copper stolen \$125
- 3/7/85 Sold strip of land to DOT
- 7/12/87 Rex O. Bales' death - property willed to Helen
- 2/19/92 State purchases property through eminent domain \$505,000

Bremer Co. Board of Supervisors

September 2, 1977

The Bremer County Board of Supervisors met in regular adjourned session at the courthouse in Waverly on the 2nd day of September, 1977 at 10:00 a.m. All members present.

At 10:00 a.m. the Board met with Rex Bales for an on-site inspection of property owned by Rex Bales. Mr Bales has filed a request for zoning of said property from A-2 Agriculture to C-Commercial.

All parties looked at the very south building which is to be torn down by July, 1978. The board noted that some progress had been made in tearing this building down. Mr. Bales said that he has hired a person for cutting up his junk cars. Mr. Bales noted that a car crusher would loose, sic, up to \$2,000.00. The board noted that the elimination of all cars was a priority for granting a change in zoning.

Mr. Bales noted that he would store in a more orderly fashion the excess railroad ties and poles after the corrals are built for the sales barn and riding area. Mr. Holley commented that at the present time Mr. Bales feels he has no obligation to tear down the very north building if it can be remodeled.

The above mentioned parties discussed possible future uses of the land. Mr. Bales mentioned that he has an inquiry from an oil company for a possible gas station. The Board recommended to Mr. Bales to obtain a letter of intent from the oil company if the rezoning would take place.

No action was taken by the board. On motion the Board adjourned.

Rex O. Bales 1908-1987

Rex O. Bales, 79, of Route 3, Waverly, died Sunday afternoon, July 12, 1987 at University Hospitals where he had been a patient for three weeks.

He was born on February 18, 1908 in Milo, the son of Harry and Eva Clapp. After a limited education, he became a bank teller, owned and operated a skating rink in Waterloo and also the Silver Bell Skating Rink near New Hartford.

On February 16, 1948, he was united in marriage to Helen Kirchoff in the Little Brown Church in Nashua. The couple started farming at the four corners east of Waverly and also operated Rex's Fruit Market, a service station, a restaurant, a lumber yard and rental houses. Rex was

also interested in hunting dogs and horses.

He became ill in 1978, and cancer was discovered in 1980.

Funeral services were held at the Kaiser-Corson Chapel in Waverly with Pastor Dean Coridan, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Waterloo, officiating. Burial was in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Waverly.



Helen Bales 1926-2009



Falls. On February 16, 1948, she married

Helen Kirchoff Bales was born April 1, 1926 on her parent's farm three miles west of Denver, the daughter of Henry and Ida Zacharias Kirchoff. She attended school in Janesville. She worked for Diamond Brothers in Cedar

Rex Bales. They started farming at the four corners east of Waverly and also operated Rex's Fruit Market, a lumber yard, a restaurant and a service station. Rex died on July 12, 1987. Helen continued to live in her home east of Waverly until 2001 when she moved to Waverly then, in 2008, moved to a nursing home in Cedar Falls. She died November 14, 2009. She was preceded in death by many nephews and nieces, 8 sisters and 4 brothers. She is buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Waverly.



News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Guest readers from the Wapsie Valley School District gave of their time and talents to read to students during Literacy Week.



Preschool celebrated twos on day 2-22-22 and welcomed Heather Gamm to the classroom. The 6th grade showed their robots to preschool.



The 6th grade class led an assembly to talk about "The 7 Habits" in the program of "Leader in Me" that the school has started this year.

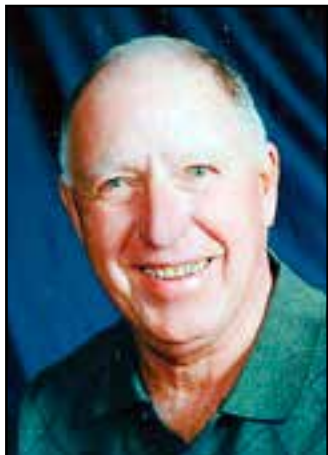


Obituaries

Gary C. Buhr

Gary C. Buhr, 80, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on February 25, 2022, at UnityPoint-Allen Memorial in Waterloo.

Gary was born on June 20, 1941, in Readlyn, Iowa, the son of Carl W. and Berdine Louise (Wittenburg) Buhr. Gary was baptized on July 20, 1941, and confirmed on April 3, 1955, both at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. He attended country school next to St. Matthew Lutheran Church and graduated from Readlyn High School in 1959. In his younger years,



Gary worked at Vic's Grocery in Readlyn and City Laundry in Oelwein. Gary served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves from 1960-1964. After his honorable discharge, he worked in California for a period of time before returning to Readlyn to help his parents on the farm. He was united in marriage to

Barbara Jean Zars on August 21, 1966, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger.

In 1967, Gary started working at Carnation (Nestle) in Waverly and while working in Waverly, Gary and Barb also farmed near Readlyn. After retiring from Nestle in 1997, Gary did seasonal work at the Readlyn Co-Op and delivered for Iowa Glass to the area body shops.

Gary and Barb bought their place at the river in 1989 and together they spent many hours on the river boating and fishing. He also enjoyed playing cards, trips to Canada fishing and had a lifelong love for tractors of any kind. His fondness of antique cars and tractors found him attending many shows and watching car and tractor shows on TV.

Gary is survived by his wife, Barb Buhr of Readlyn; a daughter, Gina (Barney) Wiersma of Readlyn; a son, Chad (Dana) Buhr of Greenwood Village, Colorado; and a son, Shane Buhr of Denver, Iowa; five grandchildren, Hanna (Jeffrey) Ariens, Hallee Wiersma, Elsa, Annika, and Errol Buhr; a sister, Cynthia Snider of Maysville, Kentucky; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger Zars, Kathy Zars, John (Sherry) Tiedt, Larry (Ida) Zars and Steve (Jackie) Zars.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl Buhr and Berdine Buhr Watts; his step-father, Harry Watts; his mother and father-in-law; brothers-in-law, Arlin Snider and Ron Zars; a sister-in-law, Bonnie Zars; and a nephew, Troy Zars.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Jean Rabary officiating. Burial was held in St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. Visitation was held on Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00

p.m. at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn and also for one hour prior to services on Wednesday at the church. Memorials may be directed to St. Matthew Lutheran Church or DaVita Dial-

ysis Center in Waverly. Online condolence may be left at www.kaisercorson.com

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

Ronald "Ron" Arthur Wolff

Ronald "Ron" Arthur Wolff, 88, of Readlyn, died Sunday, February 27, 2022, at the Waverly Health Center in Waverly.

Ron was born October 14, 1933, in Sumner, Iowa, the son of Arthur and Melba (Tank) Wolff. He was confirmed March 21, 1948, at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn. He graduated from Readlyn High School in 1951. Ron entered the United States Army on October 9, 1953 and served honorably until his discharge of September 21, 1955. On April 22, 1956, he was united in marriage to Janette Otto at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Klinger. Ron ran Wolff's Service (automotive repair) in Readlyn with his brothers for over 40 years.

Ron was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn. In his free time, he enjoyed watching westerns, visiting with his grandchildren and watching sports. He was a proud U.N.I. Pan-



ther basketball fan and held season tickets for over 20 years.

Ron is survived by his three sons; Gregory (Melody) Wolff of Crown Point, IN, Brian (U-Dom) Wolff of Marshalltown, IA and Thomas (Lori) Wolff of East Peoria, IL, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren and two brothers; Roger Wolff and Jim (Tamara) Wolff both of Readlyn. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Janette and a sister-in-law, Oriel Wolff.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Phil Girardin officiating. Visitation was held from 9 a.m. until service time. Burial with military honors was performed at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn, by the Wayne Teisinger VFW Post from Readlyn. Memorials may be directed to the church and online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.

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

Greg, Brian, and Tom Wolff would like to thank everyone who gave cards and contributions to the Ronald A. Wolff fund for use by St. Paul Lutheran Church. Dad loved his church community and would be thrilled by the generous support that you provided in his name. Your kind support in words to us, and donations to the church, is very much appreciated.

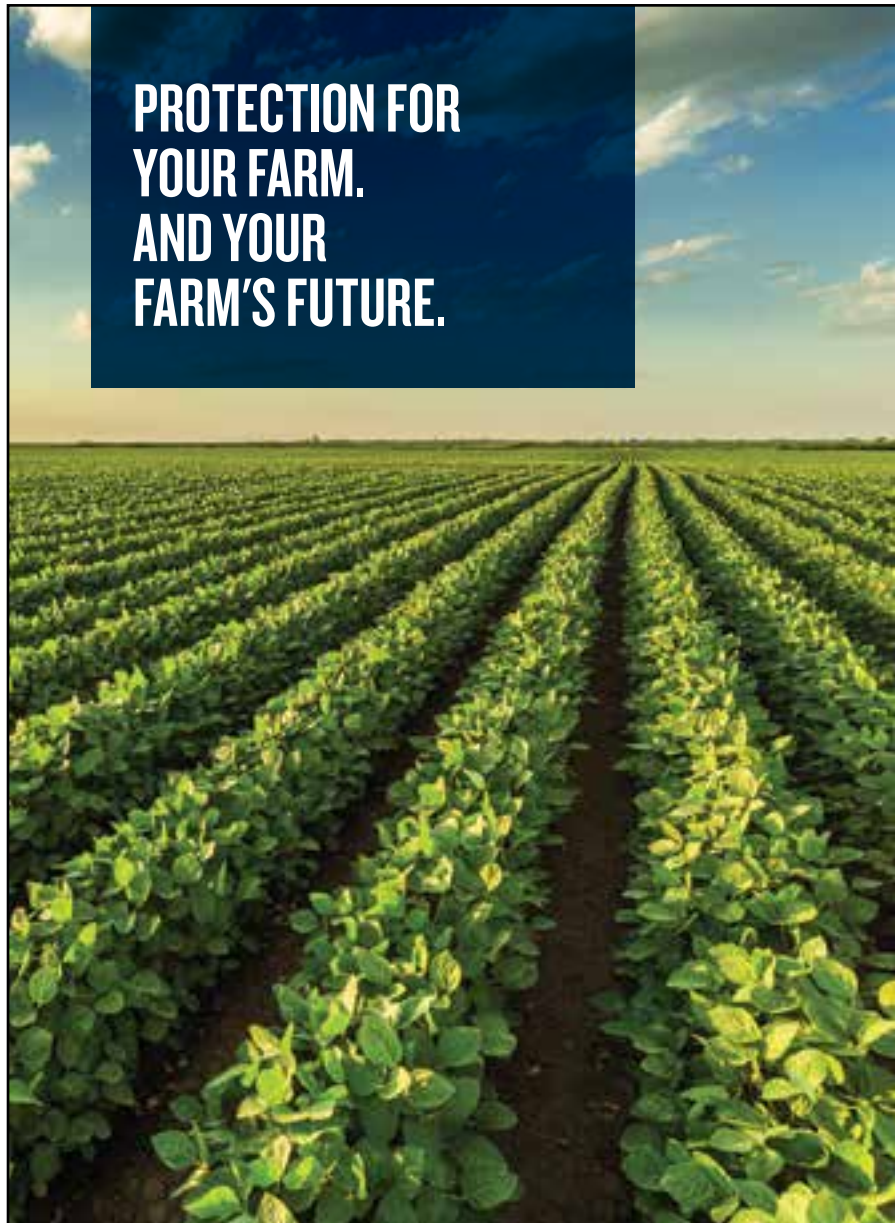
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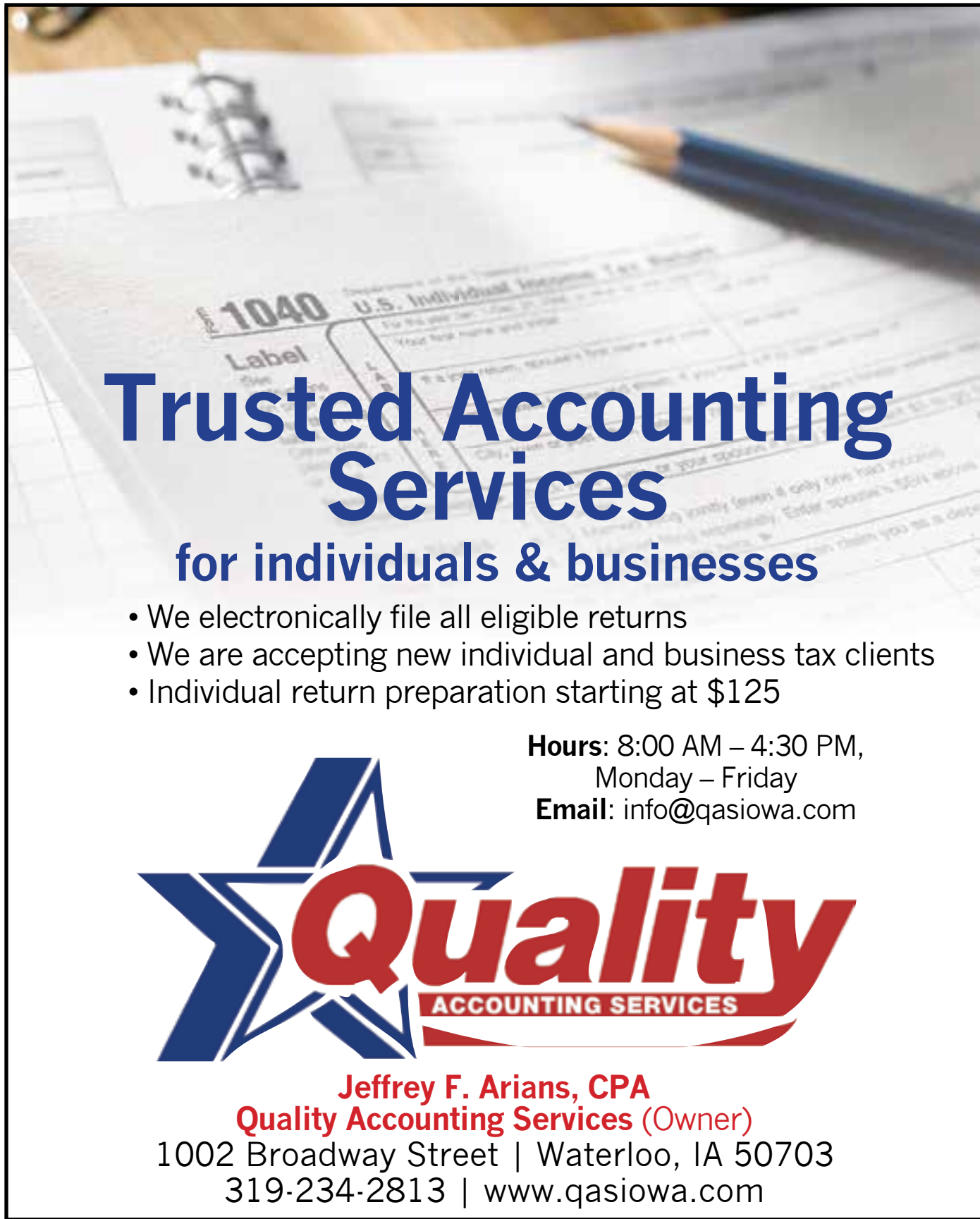
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Thank You
We would like to thank everyone who thought of us on our 50th wedding anniversary. The beautiful cards, wonderful gifts, good wishes, and phone calls were very much appreciated. A special thanks to our children, grandchildren, and family for making our day special in so many ways.
Ron & Nancy Kohagen

"Steve left without saying goodbye, but we know he will always be near to help guide us."
The family of Steve Willwerth would like to thank everyone who showed an act of kindness, comforting words, prayers and just being there for us when we needed you most. Thank you to Father Atwood, Deacon Jim, Roxanne and the choir for such a beautiful celebration of life service. We also want to thank Randy, Jodi and Carson Woods for their expertise during the visitation and funeral. Warm thanks go to Sunrise Catering providing Steve's favorite meal and the ladies guild for desserts and serving. Most importantly, thanks to the Fairbank First Responders, Camping friends and neighbors who were there for Sara and the boys until we got home.
Jesus called an awesome husband, father, brother and son home way too early. Steve's legacy, in some way, will live on in everyone he touched. With your continued thoughts, prayers and support, we hope to live our lives to the fullest just as Steve did. He will be missed dearly but never forgotten. Hug each other every day like it will be your last. God's blessing and love to each of you!




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Business Spotlight

The *Readlyn Chronicle* would like to thank new sponsor Heritage Ag Research Inc., Jon Jaschen.


Also, thanks to Stokes Welding, Janesville, and David R. Wheeler at Bayer

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The *Readlyn Chronicle* appreciates the support of all the businesses who contribute to make the newspaper possible each month.

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Deadline for the April 27 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., April 14 at 5 PM

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News from Community Lutheran School



To conclude our National Lutheran Schools Week we celebrated by hosting our grandparents to a special Grandparents' Day on March 4! We sang songs, prayed, ate lunch and had many different activities to learn from each other! Grandparents are always supporting our growth in our faith and in academics!



Three-year-old Preschool visited the Readlyn Post Office on February 11. We learned about mail, letters, names, stamps, numbers, towns, and community helpers within this unit. We observed our community member, Michele, use her key to open her numbered mailbox and pull out her variety of mail. Ms. Jennifer was so helpful she knew many of our own PO box numbers by heart to help point out our mailboxes! This is a treat for us to visit her each year around Valentine's Day. Thank you, Readlyn Post Office, for partnering with us as we learn about our community and communication.



We celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week Feb. 28 through March 4. Our theme was In All Things from Colossians 1:15-20. In all things Christ is with us in our community, church, creation, children, and in the center of our school!



Preschool through kindergarten celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week with songs and words of love!



We created CLS t-shirts at our Family PTO Night March 2. Thank you Thrivent for supporting our outreach into our community!



Celebrating our March Baptismal birthdays at our Klinger campus! You are children of God!

What's Cooking?

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

Swedish Yum Yums

Recipe from Don Billhorn, 2007 Grump

<p>First Layer</p> <p>1/2 C. Butter 1 C. Flour 2 T. Powdered Sugar</p> <p>Mix like pie crust and pat in a 14x10 pan. Bake at 350 for 12-15 min.</p>	<p>Third Layer</p> <p>1 1/2 C. Powdered Sugar 2 T. butter 3 T. Orange Juice</p> <p>Mix and spread over baked bars.</p>
<p>Second Layer</p> <p>1 C. Coconut 1 1/2 C. Brown Sugar 2 T. Flour 2 Eggs 1/2 tsp. Baking powder 1/2 tsp. Salt 1 tsp. Vanilla</p> <p>Mix together and pour over baked crust. Bake for 20-25 min.</p>	<p>Chocolate Sauce</p> <p>1 T. Butter 1 Square Unsweetened Chocolate 1/3 C. Water 1 C. Sugar 2 T. Corn Syrup Dash of Salt</p> <p>Let simmer for 5 minutes. Add 1 tsp. Vanilla</p> <p>Delicious on vanilla ice cream as it forms a shell over the ice cream.</p>



I am hoping the worst of the Iowa winter is in our past and a beautiful spring season will lead us into this last quarter of the 2021-22 school year. It seems like the illnesses that plagued many of us the past few months have all but vanished. Spending more time outside is always a welcomed event at this time of the year. I see the track, baseball, and golf student-athletes starting some preseason training around the school.

Congratulations to the winter teams that competed in wrestling, basketball, and robotics. We had two WV wrestlers compete at the state tournament this year. Kanen Decker wrestled at the 126 lb weight class as a freshman. Dawson Schmit wrestled at the 120 lb weight class with a 5th place finish. This was Dawson's third appearance and place winner at the state level with a final senior year ahead. The WV wrestling team was sectional team winners. The last time this was accomplished was in 2002. Dawson Schmit, Kanen Decker,

Gavin Leistikow, Aidan Shannon, Chase Ackerman, and Cannon Joerger were all sectional winners. The RoboWarriors robotics team also competed at the state level against all-size schools in the state. This team received state runner-up status for the year.

I would like to give a quick shout-out to all students, staff, parents, and citizens who helped make the superintendent interview process a success. I would like to welcome Chris Hoover as the new superintendent for WVCS D starting July 1, 2022. Mr. Hoover comes to us with a large amount of experience in this position. I know he will continue to lead the school district forward to bigger and better things! I wish him the best and he is lucky to have a stellar staff and a parent/community base second to none.

Stay Warrior Strong and Safe,
Dave Larson
Wapsie Valley CSD Superintendent



Left to right, Wapsie Valley FFA members Matilda Miller, Lily Schwickerath, Brock Kleitsch, Mia Gibson, Delaney Youngblut, Reese Peine, and Iowa Representative Sandy Salmon.

School Board Minutes

February 21, 2022

Wapsie Valley CSD Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes - February 21, 2022

1. President Sauerbrei called the Public Hearing to order for the 22-23 Academic School Calendar and the and the HVAC bids at 6:31.

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

B. Administrators: Dave Larson (virtual) Principal Murphy & Hurley-Board Secretary: Kim Arndt

C. Others: Lois Heineman, Tim & Elaine Zimmerman, Vaughn Gross and the Robotics team, Brett Bergman, Brian Stark, Jeff Hughes, Anna Richards, Mandy Bockholt, Alyson Forsyth & virtual participants

2. Mr. Larson presented the 22-23 Academic School Calendar

3. No public comment on the 22-23 Academic School Calendar

4. Brian Stark presented the HVAC bids

5. No public comment on the HVAC bids

6. Moved by Wolfe, second by Auel to adjourn the public hearing meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0

1. President Sauerbrei called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:36.

2. No changes to the agenda

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

4. Public comment: - Mr. Gross and the Robotics team gave a demonstration with the robot they built and explained their experience at the state competition. The Robotics team placed second at state competition. Awesome job! Mr. Gross questioned board policy 902.4 (Live Broadcast or Videotaping) Mr. Larson states that videotaping is allowed in the classroom for educational purposes but needs permission for non-educational purposes. Elaine Zimmerman voiced her concerns on privacy issues and a breach of confidentiality on her son.

5. Consent Items: Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the consent items including the financials & bills that were reviewed by Steve Aiello including open enrollments as follows: IN-Neil Wilkinson requested to OE his 3rd and 7th-grade sons to WV from West Central after a family move effective 8-1-2022 & Katelyn Gann request to OE her 1st grad daughter to WV from Oelwein effective the 22-23 school year-OUT: Marcie Even's kindergarten daughter to Jesup, Mandy Thurm's kindergarten son to Denver, Jackie & Bruce Berryhill's 9th-grade son to & Emily Briddle's 10th-grade daughter to Oelwein-all Out OE's are effective the 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

6. Communication & Reports: Board: Nothing

Superintendent: Working on transitional days with Mr. Chris Hoover, attended IS-FIS budget, discussed Kern Family Foundation grant (\$27,500) for Leader in Me,

Labor Management Committee meeting on 1-31-22, attended CAPS penning ceremony, CLS meeting, stage curtains will be installed before the spring play and presented staffing proposal for 22-23 school year.

Principal Hurley: Discussed 2-2-22 PD day, Leader in Me Updates, 3rd quarter report cards, MAP & NAEP

testing, position updates, & thanks to the WVEF for the classroom grants.

Principal Murphy: Discussed Professional Development & Leader In Me, FFA, WVEF grants, Activity updates, Robotics club, & security updates.

7. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the resignation of Kim Menuey- Fairbank Lead Cook & Kelli Brunscheon-Asst. Softball coach and thank them for their service to the students and staff of WV as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Contracts: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve contracts for Chris Hoover-22-23 Superintendent Contract - \$150,000, & Shae Kerns - F/T District Paraprofessional Substitute - \$13.88 P/H - Motion carried 5-0

8. New Business: - Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Van Daele to award the HVAC bid to Steege Construction (\$253,352) with adding additional units (\$43,734 each) while staying under the original estimate of \$380,000 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to increase Preschool Tuition from \$325 to \$350 per month effective with the 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Aiello to approve Kay Chapman CPA, PC as WV auditing firm for the cost not to exceed \$9,000-FY22, \$9,200-FY23, and \$9,400-FY24 as presented.

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the 22-23 Academic School Calendar as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the advertisement of a JH Baseball coach for the 2023 season as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Aiello, seconded by Wolfe to approve the purchase of baseball and softball batting cages from

American Fence Company (\$19,800) as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Van Daele to approve the resolution to transfer funds from general fund to activity fund (\$7,501.36 for FB helmets) to purchase protective and safety equipment for any extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition that is sponsored or administered by an organization as currently defined by Iowa Code. Motion carried 5-0

9. Board Talking Points - None

10. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn at 8:56 PM. Motion carried 5-0

Wapsie Valley FFA attended Legislative Symposium

By: Kali Lampe, 2021-22 Reporter

On Tuesday, February 1, the Wapsie Valley FFA attended the annual Legislative Symposium where five FFA members interacted with legislators and heard from Secretary Mike Naig and Governor Kim Reynolds.

Legislative Symposium is designed to build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism. More than 500 members from 70 FFA

chapters across the State of Iowa gathered to learn about the legislative process, discuss agricultural issues and advocate for agricultural education and FFA.

The Wapsie Valley Chapter also got to hear from District 32 Senator Craig Johnson and District 63 Representative Sandy Salmon. Lastly, State FFA President, Mia Gibson, joined the group for lunch.

"It was an amazing experience to see and hear from congressmen and women who were once FFA members, who believe in the future of agriculture," said Chapter Secretary Lily Schwickerath.

Send news to the *Chronicle* at:
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By: Eric Johnston

“A Texas Sized Adventure Part 2”

Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com

When I left you last month, Jeff Schutte, Ben Anderson, Scott Wagner and I had just pulled up to the gate leading into the El Capote Ranch where we would stay for the next few days. This month, we'll dive into part two of our Texas adventure.

The weather was misty, 40 degrees and windy as we rolled through the gate and started down the mile-long gravel drive into the ranch. Immediately, we started seeing deer everywhere. I was in awe as we slowly drove down the lane seeing herds of deer and even a few nice bucks mixed in the bunch. At the end of the gravel lane, it arrived to a “T” intersection. On the left was a small cabin where we would be staying and on the right down the road was the main house where Scott's son, Kaleb, and his family resides on the ranch. Jeff and I would be staying in the cabin and Scott and Ben each had a room in Kaleb's place. Jeff and I unpacked and got situated in the cabin. I call it a cabin, but it's actually a small house that Scott and Kaleb had remodeled. We had all the conveniences of home - very comfortable to say the least, even a big screen TV that would get very little use on this trip!

After getting settled and checking our guns and my archery equipment over after the flight, we made our way over to the shop at Kaleb's house. The shop is an open on each end style barn with different rooms on each side and areas for Kaleb's dogs and chickens. Near the shop is a fenced-in out-building that's home to Kaleb's horse and his pet wild hog, “Rodeo.” Ben told me that Kaleb found Rodeo as a baby and raised him up to the 200-pound hog he is today. Believe me when I say, I was a little intimidated as he stood up on the gate with his big tusks pointing out at me. I soon found out that Rodeo was like a big dog and really just wanted his nose scratched. It felt unreal petting what I would consider a trophy-size animal that we were there to hunt in the wild.

At this time, Kaleb was out checking cattle. This was calving season and I could see calves everywhere across the wide open pastures. This part of the ranch consists of 1800 acres and roughly 4-500 head of cattle that Kaleb takes care of along with working with Scott during the day. I could see that calling Kaleb a worker would be an understatement, he is a busy hardworking young man. It was still



quite chilly even for us Iowa boys, so Scott got a fire going and we stood around the fire swapping stories until Kaleb arrived. When Kaleb arrived, Scott introduced us and I was greeted with a handshake and a “nice to meet you, sir.” I quickly

looked around for my Dad as I'm not sure I've been called sir before, but I would soon get to know that Scott and Wendy raised some great boys that were now great young men. (We will meet Scott's son Blake soon.) Kaleb's arrival brought stories of trapping as he had checked his coyote traps before meeting us. He was successful this particular evening with a coyote in one of his traps. With calving season going on, coyotes were a real problem on the ranch, and Kaleb was doing what he could to take care of the problem.

The conversation soon turned to hogs and what to anticipate for our time at the ranch. Kaleb told us he had been getting a couple different groups of hogs on his cameras at his feeders. Throughout the ranch, Kaleb runs eight feeders with corn in each. They automatically spread corn on a timer that goes off twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. Our arrival ended up a little too late to get in a hunt on this first night and, with the rainy, cold conditions, none of us seemed to mind that decision.

We spent time around the fire with beverages and Scott cooked us a Texas-sized feast with steaks and all the fixin's. He had an interesting way of “grilling” the steaks. Scott let the fire burn down and put the steaks on a grate over the fire for a bit and then did something that made me about gasp. He pulled the steaks off the grate, stirred the coals a bit and

made them flat and then placed the steaks directly on the coals. In my mind I was thinking “no way,” but it sure seemed Scott



knew exactly what he was doing and what we were treated with were steaks cooked to perfection! The way he had prepared them, the steaks didn't even char on the side against the coals. We ate a certainly

Texas-sized meal and when done, Kaleb showed us videos he had taken over the past fall of his hog and deer hunts. I was very intrigued as I appreciate how hard it is to film hunts and what Kaleb had put together was fantastic footage and, of course, I'm always at full attention when large whitetail deer are the subject.

By this time, we were all wore out and Jeff and I headed for the cabin. As we walked out of Kaleb's house, it began to snow. Jeff and I looked at each other thinking, “I thought we left this behind in Iowa?” The following morning Jeff and I were up early, as we were both ready for adventure. Scott and Kaleb had to work as it was Friday morning and Ben offered to lend them a hand driving a truck so they could finish early and get back. Jeff had been here the year before, so he would be my tour guide. We hopped on Kaleb's golf cart and realized the batteries needed charging. We decided on plan B which was the \$85,000 rented Chevy Tahoe we had in front of us. I didn't mind that option as it had heat and this morning was clear, and a frosty 25 degrees. Jeff said, “Its no big deal, we're just gonna drive it through the pasture.” I started to second guess our decision as we started down the dusty paths through the dry, open, wooded pastures. There was wildlife everywhere, - it seemed around every bend we were scaring up deer. We ended up driving that Tahoe everywhere we could and even a couple times were completely surrounded by cattle. Apparently, a brand new Tahoe looked very interesting to them and they all wanted to get as close as they could surrounding us. I was worried one them was going to head butt the vehicle and Jeff yelled at them out of the window to move. Eventually they did. We then checked out the river that runs through the middle of the ranch. The Guadalupe River runs right through the El Capote Ranch and I would soon find out that would provide us with our afternoon entertainment.

Jeff and I explored for a bit longer and then headed into town to meet up with Ben and Scott to pick up groceries for the rest of the time. A stock-up on groceries and we were headed back to the ranch. Jeff had some pain in his hip bothering him and he had picked up some Advil while we were getting groceries. When he and I were driving back, he peeled open the box and saw on the bottle it was the nighttime formula. He said, “You would think they would state that on the box!” I picked up the box, and said, “It says nighttime right across the front!” We both started laughing and it became a recurring joke throughout the trip for us. A quick stop at Dollar General and we were back in business.

Upon arrival back at the ranch Scott and Ben were preparing fishing poles for the afternoon entertainment. Scott looked at Jeff and me and said, “We're gonna go catch some little ol' catfish.”

What I had envisioned and what was about to happen were definitely two different things. When I think little catfish around here, I'm thinking 12-15 inch channel catfish on the Wapsi River. We made



our way through the pasture and arrived at one of Scott's favorite spots on the river. The bait of the day would be chicken liver on a bottom drifting rig from the bank. We cast out our lines and quickly Ben hooked up with one of what Scott called

a little catfish. Ben had a nice battle going and a solid three-pound channel catfish came to the surface. “That's a good one!” I yelled out. And Scott told

me that was one of the small ones in the river. We snapped some pictures and released it. Soon after, I hooked up with another catfish nearly the same size and, shortly after that, Jeff hooked into one as well. The action was fast-paced and it was quite relaxing sitting along the river in the warm sun as now the temperature on that Friday afternoon was nearing 60 degrees. The Guadalupe River, as it cuts through the ranch, has left very steep banks all along it and when we would hook up with a catfish part of the battle was getting the fish up the sometimes 20-foot tall bank down to the river. The landscape throughout the wooded pasture was as you might picture, brown and dry and often reminded me of those first warm days of the year in the woods in March in Iowa. I found it so odd to hear bugs buzzing and grasshoppers bouncing around ahead of us in the pasture grass in January. We fished for a few hours, moving from deep hole to deep hole. The catfishing and relaxing was a nice change of pace from the fast paced bass tournament scene I'm used to, and took me back in time just hanging out catfishing with buddies.

After catfishing, we met back up with Kaleb at the shop and began to game plan for the evening/night hunt. I brought my archery equipment on this trip in hopes of arrowing a wild hog. Kaleb spoke with me on it and at the ranch most of the hunting is set up for rifle for hogs and deer. There's a box blind with sliding windows to sit in, roughly 90 yards from each tripod feeder. Not ideal for archery. Kaleb instructed me on where to sit in the brush over an area they call the “dump blind.” He relayed to me that they had not been seeing much in the way of daylight movement with the hogs, but that area would most likely be my best chance to catch a group of hogs coming to the feeder in daylight. Jeff was waiting for dark to try out his thermal scope on hogs, so he decided to tag along with me and sit in the box blind and watch from a distance. Scott was headed to his blind to deer hunt and Kaleb had chores to tend to and Ben would watch different parts of the pastures from a distance.

Jeff and I hopped in the Tahoe and headed for the dump blind. We parked a distance away and, when we got out of the vehicle, the horn started honking because I left the key in it. “They'll never hear us coming,” I laughed to Jeff as we made the walk in. Jeff made his way into the blind, told me good luck and I proceeded to the feeder. This particular feeder is situated in a shallow valley with somewhat of a ridge to the south with thick underbrush all along



the slope of it. I carefully, and as quietly as I could, walked down into the brush and found a spot halfway down the slope, roughly 20 yards from the feeder. I cleared some lanes for a clear shot to the feeder, and settled in. It was very calm with lit-

tle wind and bright sunshine. What little wind there was, blowing north to south, immediately had me concerned for the evening's hunt as sitting in this valley the wind was swirling back to the feeder. A hog's greatest sense is their nose and I was worried my cover would be blown. Kaleb had informed me that the feeder would activate and spread corn at 4:45 pm. Right on time, the feeder went off and made me jump a little even though I had expected it. The feeder spread corn on the ground for 6 seconds and stopped. Anticipation was now really high for me as I knew that was the dinner bell in Texas.



I attentively sat catching every bit of movement and watched the various birds, including several cardinals, feed on the newly-fallen corn. After about 20 minutes, a movement of black caught my attention back in the timber. I initially thought it was probably a calf making its way around, but then I saw another moving quickly! It was a group of about 20 hogs! I readied my bow and watched and waited. The lead hog closed the distance to about 50 yards, turned and disappeared. The rest of the group followed. I had been detected by their noses and I knew it immediately. I was a little disappointed, but still kept high hopes as there was still another hour of light left. I intently watched for more movement and soon caught the flicker of a whitetail back in the thick brush. Four does made their way towards the feeder and it was a ball watching them feed. I looked at my phone and did a double take on the

January date as I felt like I was deer hunting on a late October evening. After awhile, the does made their way off and, shortly after, another doe came into the feeder and behind her was a nice eight-point buck. I was as excited to watch them as if I was hunting them! I did not have a deer tag in Texas so I just enjoyed the show. Soon the daylight faded to dusk and the deer moved off and the evening hunt was over.

Jeff and I met back up and excitedly recalled the evening's action. We then made our way back to the shop and met with Ben, Scott and Kaleb. We all retold our evenings stories around the fire, Scott had a slow evening and Ben witnessed the group of hogs I saw, end up feeding in the pasture area below Kaleb's house. Kaleb got excited when Ben gave this news as he felt that same group would end up at the feeder I had been sitting over later this night. We ate supper and planned out the nighttime hunt. Kaleb, Jeff, Scott and I would be the first ones to hunt that night. I had never night hunted hogs before so this was a totally new experience for me. Kaleb checked his cellular trail camera for the dump feeder and confirmed there were hogs there currently. In Texas, wild hogs are an invasive species so regulations are very liberal with the ability to hunt them at night and no closed season. We four jumped on the electric golf cart and away we went toward that feeder. I was in absolute amazement how well Kaleb knew the land as it was so dark I couldn't see my hand in front of my face and he drove that cart with no lights like it was daylight out. The golf cart is electric and very quiet. I had Ben's rifle and his scope at the time was night vision and not thermal. Scott had me start scanning the terrain as we rode and I could see trees and weeds but not much else.

I continued to scan the terrain when Kaleb whispered, “There's hogs right in front of us,” stopping the golf cart. “Can you see them?” “No,” I said. Jeff said he could see them and I began to panic as I felt green as could be at that moment. They were all saying, “How can you not see them?” Scott tried looking through the scope of the gun and said, “No, boys, he can't see them.” Kaleb then had me grab his rifle and, when I looked through the scope, it was like a whole world opened up to me. There were hogs everywhere in front of us! Kaleb's scope had thermal imaging and detected objects with heat, while Ben's did not have that. Kaleb then told me to pick out a hog in the scope and get ready to shoot on the count of three with Jeff settled on one. He relayed this to Jeff as well.

Kaleb began to count, “one, t—” BOOM! Jeff's gun fired and I began to scramble in the scope to find a hog to fire at and got a shot off at one running but missed. Through years of machinery and farming, Jeff's ears are not the best and he couldn't hear the instructions from Kaleb. “I'm sorry, Eric,” Jeff said as we walked towards the hog he dropped. I had no worries and told him how happy I was he got one and I was in the moment taking it all in. I was just as excited as Jeff with this hog and we called it a team effort and snapped a picture together. I was so excited to have my first night hunt under my belt and probably thanked Kaleb and Scott more than they cared to hear. I remember Kaleb saying, “Your time here isn't up yet, we'll try to get on another one!” We took care of the hog and started through the darkness in search of another group.



This is where I'll leave off until next month for part three. In part three are more catfishing, hog hunting, and a trip to the gulf coast in search of redfish. Before I leave this month, I was going to wait until the last part for thanks. But, as I write these stories, I look back on that trip fondly and can't thank Ben enough for introducing me to Scott and both inviting me on this trip and then getting to meet Wendy and, of course, Kaleb, for taking us in and he and Scott for giving us such great hospitality and such a fantastic experience! And also Jeff for being my roommate and hunting partner. We had a lot of fun together on this trip. And, of course, Jess Anderson for planning flights, etc. I can't thank you all enough and I haven't even introduced you all yet to all the characters of this story, so there will be more to thank next month. Until next time, GET OUT-DOORS!!

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