

Readlyn Community Picnic will follow the Esther Wittenburg Memorial Golf Cart Ride on Sunday, September 15

Esther Wittenburg's Annual Memorial Golf Cart Ride will be Sunday, September 15, 1:30-4:00 p.m. As usual, the Grump and Readlyn Royalty will lead the ride on the bike trail round trip from Readlyn to Killdeer, where a port-a-potty will be available.

Readlyn Community Club is funding the cost of the rental carts from Ru-



dy's in Denver. A free-will offering will be accepted. The Community Picnic by the Splash Pad will follow. It is open to the public.

Interested? To reserve a golf cart, please contact Pat Wehr: cell 319-415-2001 or email wehr@rtc279.com by Saturday, September 7. No reservations are necessary if you have your own golf cart.

All riders, please meet at the TruServe parking lot by 1:15 p.m. so that you can sign a waiver.

The Readlyn Community Picnic will be held after the golf cart ride and is open to all Readlyn residents and friends. Music will be provided by Beeven and the Flying Gorillas.

Readlyn Community Club is furnishing hamburgers, hot dogs, and table service for this potluck; please bring a dish to share. Games available will be kickball, volleyball, corn hole, and Connect Four.



School supplies for Readlyn Elementary and CLS will be collected.

Preferred supplies include: pencils, one subject notebooks, plastic folders, Chlorox wipes, Expo dry erase markers (thin or thick), glue sticks, scissors, bigger plug-in headphones, and little bags of snacks; cheap sweatpants, leggings, and underwear sizes 4T – large are other suggestions.

Brenda Wedeking: September Yard of the Month

Brenda Wedeking is honored to be chosen as September's Yard of the Month. She is very appreciative of being recognized and would like to thank Weeds on Fire for sponsoring this award.

Brenda's new home was built in 2021. She drew out the landscaping plans and has done all of the planting, brick edging, and mulching, in addition to adding rock pathways, totally on her own. She tries to plant perennials such as alliums, coreopsis, and sedum that attract butterflies and bees.

Many of the yard decorations have been gifts from her late husband, Randy, who passed away from ALS in 2018. They all have a special place in her heart. To keep his memory alive, she has generously donated Main Street's colorful flower baskets.

The baskets on Main Street demonstrate her love for Randy. After ordering self-watering planters from New York, she planted small flowers in them in early spring. She kept them in her garage and

cared for them under grow lights until it was warm enough to move them outside. Once the city installed hooks on the poles in late June, they were ready to be revealed. Weeds on Fire has maintained them since then.

The great news is that Brenda has committed to donate flower baskets for future years to continue beautifying Readlyn's Main Street. She even intends to order two more for the City Park. Without a doubt, Brenda is truly deserving of this honor.



Brenda Wedeking, 601 West View Drive, is September's recipient of Weeds on Fire's Yard of the Month award.



This rock was moved from the Wedeking's farm west of Plainfield. Randy picked out the rock and had the Bible verse engraved on it.



The wind spinner was made by Brenda's sister, Vicki's, partner, James. Of course, Brenda had to plant flowers around it.



Brenda donated the fifteen beautiful flower baskets on Main Street in memory of her late husband Randy (inset photo). See more photos of Brenda's yard on page 5.



The gazebo was a Mother's Day gift from Randy, her late husband. The contractor who built Brenda's Readlyn home built the gazebo on their farm and then moved it to Readlyn in two pieces. If you look very closely, you can see Brenda's two dogs, Sophie and Lucy; they love the gazebo in the summer.



The water feature on the back porch adds color and variety.



Grump's Grumblings

By Bonnie Wittenburg, 2024 Grump



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Jaylin May

Yup she is back!
Hello Readlyn — another busy month.
I suppose the most unusual thing that happened was being interviewed by the *Farm Journal*. Ronnie Leistikow and I chatted and pointed out many wonderful things in our town for about 1 & 1/2 hours. We named so many things we feel Readlyn can take pride in. So, if you were wondering, yes, we mentioned Grumpy's, and gave them a tour. We mentioned our beautiful Main Street thanks to the finished construction and the beautiful hanging flower baskets that were nurtured and donated by Brenda Wedeking in memory of her husband who passed.

We mentioned our History Museum and its many memories, Freedom Rock, the splash pad, the Gardeners Club, the Community Club, the schools, the churches, the bike trail. I am sure I left something out, but we literally went down a list. The interviewers and cameraman made their choices.

I made the traditional Grump pie to be sold at the Bremer County Fair auction to raise money for our county fairgrounds. Of course, my husband bid on the pie, and got it. He paid his bill and asked them to try to sell it a second time. I am not positive what the final dollars received totaled, but I am sure it was at least \$1,700.00. I just hope it tasted good. It was fresh peach and raspberry.

My Tripoli graduating class celebrated 50 years. We planned a pontoon ride on the Mississippi. The pontoon was large enough to take all those willing and their spouses. We had a great turnout. The following day, we rode on our class float for Tripoli Days. Your Grump rode with her class, but sported her Grump hat along with her bright green sign.

Sunday, Rod and I joined in on the Historical Society's Cruising Thru History. There was much history that was unknown to me. It was a very warm Sunday and the ice cream social that followed had a nice turnout. Jaylin May, our Miss Readlyn, and Addisyn McElhose, Miss Congeniality, were a team serving up ice cream with grace and personality. Great ladies.

Monday mornings find me enjoying and assisting the Readlyn Gardeners in keeping those gardens beautiful. We work about an hour each week. We were rewarded for our efforts with a barbecue and potluck at a member's beautiful cabin with very gracious hospitality. Thank you, Larry and Deb Sauerbrei.

Soon school begins and summer slides away. I am not in a rush. It has been a wonderful summer filled with some losses, but many blessings.

Till next month, BE KIND!

Hello Readlyn!! I have officially started senior year of high school! I am looking forward to all of the experiences and the best of memories being made. I can't wait to spend it with all of my family, friends, and community around me!!

On August 3, I attended the Tripoli Parade with Miss Readlyn Runner-Up LeeAnn Oltrogge and Miss Congeniality Addisyn McElhose. It was a lot of fun to see everyone in the Tripoli Community and to have people from Readlyn attend as well. Addisyn and I were also at the Historical Society on August 4 serving ice cream. It was a nice hot day for ice cream, so that was very enjoyable. On August 17, the three of us were in the Denver Parade which was also a great time. On August 14, some of the cross country and track members helped paint WVs in people's driveways. It was a good opportunity for us to touch up some of the previous WVs as well as creating some new ones. I hope

people enjoy them as much as we did creating them.

On August 14, my uncle, Jonathan May, performed a magic show at the Readlyn Library. It was amazing to see many people stopped by to watch his show. He's from the Des Moines area, so having him come up to small-town Readlyn to perform, was pretty awesome and I'm grateful that he did that.

Cross country season has officially started and every year we have more and more athletes join the team. It's great to see the numbers grow throughout the years to build our cross country program. The team has many goals that we want to accomplish this season, and we've been putting in a lot of hard work even before the official season started! I can't wait for our first meet on September 3 at Oelwein. It's going to be a great race day!

Continued on Page 3

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Readlyn Community Happenings



Ron & Judy Leistikow-1964-2024

Leistikows note 60th anniversary

Ron and Judy (Gruber) Leistikow will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 6, 2024.

They were married at St. Matthew's Church in Readlyn on Sept. 6, 1964.

They have 6 children: Kimberly (Scott) Corwin of East Greenwich, RI; Kevin (Deanne) Leistikow of Readlyn, IA; Kristi (Marty) Marticoff of Readlyn, IA; Kurt (Jenifer) Leistikow of Cedar Falls, IA; Kerri (Jeff) Ast of Slinger, WI and Kassie (Jake) Adams of North Liberty, IA. They have 22 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and two more great-grandchildren on the way.

Ron & Judy are retired from milking cows and crop farming, but are still very active in the community. Their hobbies include reading, bird watching, gardening, playing cards and traveling. They love entertaining and spending time with family & friends.

Cards can be sent to Ron & Judy Leistikow at 2218 Reed Avenue, Readlyn, Iowa 50668. They will be having a celebration with their family Labor Day weekend at their farm.

Barnes selected for \$4,000 scholarship



Reagan Barnes

The Boyd Midwest Family Private Foundation is pleased to announce that Reagan Barnes has been selected as a \$4,000 scholarship recipient for the 2024-2025 school year. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years.

This scholarship is awarded by the Boyd Midwest Family Private Foundation, founded in 2019 by Ron and Victoria Boyd of Chariton, Iowa, and Midwest Family Mutual Insurance Company (MFM), headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Reagan applied through TruServe Insurance Group located in Readlyn, Iowa, and she plans to study Marketing Management at Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo, Iowa.



It was a perfect day for ice cream! Helping out were, left to right, Miss Readlyn, Jaylin May; 2024 Grump Bonnie Wittenburg; Miss Congeniality, Addisyn McElhose; and Ellen Thies serving Holly, Andrew, and Hannah Carlson at the Readlyn Historical Society's annual Ice Cream Social. Photo contributed by Pat Wehr

Miss Readlyn Comments

Continued from Page 2

Football cheer has also begun as we had our cheer camp on August 12, 13, and 14. We learned most of the cheers over the summer, but we learned some of the tougher and newer ones at camp. Plus, it felt good to get to know the team more and engage in some activities as well. The first football game is August 30 at Jesup. Hopefully the weather cooperates and it doesn't get too chilly quite yet. Good luck to all of the fall sports teams this coming season!!

In late July I ran as a candidate for the Bremer County Fair Queen. Although I didn't win, it was a very fun time to get to know the other candidates and have such an overall wonderful experience that day. Thank you to the Readlyn Community Club for sponsoring me for that event.

There's a lot to look forward to going into my senior year of high school, and I'm so excited to experience every single piece of it! Can't wait for my last year of high school!!



Hi! My name is Dustin Gaede. I was born and raised here in Bremer County just outside of Tripoli and I currently live in Tripoli.

I graduated from Sumner-Fredericksburg and then went on to Iowa State University where I majored in Agricultural Business and minored in Financial Planning and Counseling.

In my free time you can find me out working on our family farm. I farm alongside my dad and younger brother. My brother and I are also the 7th generation to farm here in Bremer County. When I am not working or farming, I enjoy fishing, golfing, watching and attending sporting events, traveling with my girlfriend, Leah, along with spending quality time with friends and family. You can also find me volunteering at various organizations around the area.

For the last several years I've been in a few different communities outside of Bremer County; I've been a lender at a smaller institution and a very large institution, so I am excited to have joined the RSB team here back home in Bremer County.

Feel free to stop in today and say hi to discuss all your financial goals and lending options!

Contact Dustin today!

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Kim Hollon, Librarian

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Summer Wrap-Up!



Libraries always remind me there are good things in this world.

Lauren Ward

It's been a busy few months at the Readlyn Library, with Summer Reading Programming and the usual business of the season. We're happy to share we had over 340 attendees at our Summer Reading Programs this year, and ended the summer with a Magic Show and Pizza Party. We've also been able to update our computers and network, added a LEGO table and board games, and increased the size of our Large Print section. It's always nice to add items and services our patrons have asked for.

We're hiring for two part-time jobs as we make some staffing changes, so if you're thinking of applying, please have applications turned in by September 1! Please call the library or email us with any questions concerning the open positions.

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Help Wanted: Part-time Library Assistant

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

Requirements:

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

Preferred Qualifications:

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



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

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

Responsibilities:

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

Requirements:

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

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



September Yard of the Month (continued from page 1)

Wapsie Valley School Board Special Meeting August 5, 2024

Wapsie Valley CSD
Special School Board Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Wolfe called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 PM A. Directors: Aiello, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe - Auel (excused) B. Administration: Chris Hoover, & Board Secretary: Kim Arndt

2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

3. Discussion was held on the decision to sell Rural 3 building. A counter offer of \$35,000 was received from Erwin & Laura Gingerich. Decision was made to accept the offer which includes the Buyers incurring the cost of removing the electric and having the septic inspected.

4. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the Proposal to Sell Rural #3 Building Resolution (\$35,000) as presented. Motion carried 3-1 - Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe - Aye - Aiello-Nay

5. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Sauerbrei to set the Notice of Public Hearing on Proposal to sell Rural School #3 Building as presented. Roll call - All Ayes

6. Other Business - The August 19, 2024 board meeting will be moved to August 20, 2024

7. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to adjourn at 6:08 PM Motion carried 4-0. Respectfully submitted,

Kim Arndt

**Deadline for the
Sept. 25 Chronicle
is Thurs., Sept. 12
at 5 PM**



Beautiful flowers adorn Brenda Wedeking's home.



James also made the bottle tree. It adds color amongst the different variety of flowers.



The plant pole was another treasured gift from Randy.



Photos left to right: The hydrangeas were in full bloom! The bird bath keeps the flying friends happy. Brenda Wedeking's yard is a delight, with plants, metal birds, glass, and much more.

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Readlyn Community Club meets; many future events discussed

Readlyn Community Club Meeting Aug. 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Grumpy's

Present: Michelle and Ed Harrington, Louie and Ron Hartman, Bonnie Wittenburg, John Galyean, Kristie Boies, Tiffany Matthias, Hailey Broten, Jim Collins, Heather Robinson, Dustin Palmer, Laverne Leistikow, Marge Quigley, Roger and Marlys Deterding, and Pat Wehr

Michele called the meeting to order at 6:03.

Secretary's report was emailed to the Board and members late today. Louie read the minutes. Moved by Hailey and seconded by Ron to accept the minutes. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report was presented. Moved by Tiffany and seconded by Ed to accept the treasurer's report; passed unanimously.

Old Business

□ Roger Deterding discussed recycling cans and volunteers.

o Too much trash and dirty cans are being placed in the can recycling. Possible solutions:

□ Reminder in the paper and Readlyn Talk that if the cans aren't clean and ONLY cans are placed into the bin, we won't be able to have fireworks.

□ Add a sign to the collection site.
o Some volunteers think we are spending too much on fireworks.

o More volunteers would be appreciated. All call is this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. to help sort cans. (About ten people showed up and cans and bottles were sorted in 15 minutes.)

o Ron will talk to the recycling company to see about alternative collection ideas.

o B and B Redemption, 1690 Midway Avenue in Tripoli will take individual donations. People might be able to bring their own cans directly to Tripoli. We can ask Tripoli to set up an account for Readlyn Community Club. Ron

o Ed made the motion that we table the issue to search alternatives and report back. Jim seconded. Passed unanimously

New Business

□ Golf Cart ride, September 15, 1:30

to 4:00.

o Rudy's will rent carts for \$25

o Pat will put an article in the paper.

o Jim moved that if Virgil doesn't step forward with his usual donation that the RCC will pay for the golf carts. Seconded by Bonnie; passed unanimously.

o A goodwill donation will be collected if we pay for the golf carts.

□ Picnic in the Park, Sept 15, 4:00.

o Supplies donated by RCC: meat, buns, Sam's condiments, grills, paper plates and utensils. We have sturdy tubs to store excess utensils.

o Michelle and Ed will talk to Nick Kuker about hamburger donation.
o Potluck this year.

o Grills: Tiffany, Kristie, and Jim

o Kristie will ask Kwik Star for a donation of 100 regular hamburger buns and 50 wheat and 50 regular hot dog bun donations.

o Louie and Hailey will take care of the food.

o School supply drive for CLS and Readlyn Elementary

□ Pencils, one subject notebooks, plastic folders, Chlorox wipes, Expo dry erase markers (thin or thick), glue sticks, scissors, bigger plug-in headphones, and little bags of snacks are the recommended donations.

□ Cheap sweatpants, leggings, and underwear sizes 4T – medium are other possibilities

o Games

□ Connect 4

□ corn hole games

□ volleyball

□ Dustin will be in charge of kickball
o Music – Michelle will ask Nick Toby since Mitch will be in the field.

□ UTV ride

o October 26

o Tiffany and Hailey in charge.

□ Grump Days' idea: Triathlon for \$30.
o Sign up a month before.

o Start at the park, walk through a wading pool, a few pedals on a stationary bike.
o You get an expensive shirt and glass to create a bloody Mary.

□ Christmas Light Judges – same as previous years

□ Hailey suggested we advertise monthly in the paper concerning membership. Pat

Ed moved the meeting be adjourned; Ron and Tiffany seconded, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Wehr, secretary

Tabled for our next meeting Sept. 10.

□ Main Street fall decorating (Look for possible decorations.

□ Christmas with Santa Nov. 30

o Ask the fire department if we can use their space again.

o Hygiene drive or food shelf drive.

o Ham drawing.

o Are we doing a parade again?

□ Suggestions from 2023:

o Parade- Get the names of the participants for the announcer.

o Possible face painting

o Have the choir sing during the lighting of the tree.

o Ask Kay Moyer about additional music.

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RTC Communications

News from Community Lutheran School

31st annual Westendorf Family Reunion held

The 31st annual Leo and Mildred Westendorf Reunion was held Sunday, July 21, 2024 at the home of Brad and Misty Block in Cedar Falls, IA. Attendees enjoyed donuts and coffee at 10:30 a.m. A mini church service was held at 11:15 led by Steven Pavelec. He played guitar and sang and gave the message. At noon, a potluck dinner was enjoyed.

Forty-eight members were present from Cedar Falls; Oelwein; Traer; St. Louis Park, MN; New Hartford; Readlyn; Denver; Waverly; Montello, WI; Racine, WI; Marietta, GA; Waterloo; Seymour, MO; Minneapolis, MN; and Sumner. The oldest family member was 89-year-old Verdeen Pavelec of Denver. The youngest family member was two-year-old Lily Dierks, daughter of Sonny and Olivia Dierks, of Minneapolis, MN. Traveling the longest distance were Jon and Ritza Happel of Marietta, GA.

Many members played Bean Bag Toss, and the winners were Anderson Block and David Becker, both of Cedar Falls. On Saturday, July 20, eight family members enjoyed breakfast at Hy-Vee in Waverly, and golfed at Prairie Links Golf Course. The winners were William McCurdy of Waverly and Misty Block, both of Cedar Falls.

At 11:20 a.m., the 16 ladies attended lunch at Frederick's in Waverly. Hosts were Wayne and Beverly Block of Oelwein and family.

Submitted by Verdeen Pavelec

Read the Chronicle online at:
<https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us>



WELCOME BACK TO COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL!



Mr. Lowell Kuecker

We are blessed to announce Mr. Lowell Kuecker will serve this year as our seventh and eighth grade teacher. Mr. Kuecker previously served as our long term sub last school year. He has forty-two years of teaching experience in Algona, Denver, and Arizona. He has been subbing in area schools since 2017. Mr. Kuecker has earned many teaching and coaching awards including Teacher of the Year twice and MS Football Coach of the Year! He enjoys woodworking, reading, biking, and spectator sports. Welcome Mr. Kuecker!



WELCOME BACK TO COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL!



Mrs. Beth Foster

We are blessed to announce Mrs. Beth Foster will return this year as our science teacher for the first through eighth grades. She previously served as our music teacher and seventh and eighth grade teacher. Beth has sixteen years of teaching experience. Beth lives North of Waverly with her husband Kevin where they farm cattle, sheep, and crops. She enjoys reading, gardening, and animals. Welcome Mrs. Foster!

Send news to:
readlynchronicle@gmail.com

Wapsie Valley School Board Meeting July 24, 2024

Wapsie Valley CSD Special School Board Meeting Minutes July 24, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Wolfe called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 PM A. Directors: Auel, Aiello, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe B. Administration: Chris Hoover, & Principal Forsyth (6:13-6:20 PM) C. Board Secretary: Kim Arndt
2. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0

3. Discussion was held on the decision to sell Rural 3 building to Erwin & Laura Gingerich or have it moved off their land. Wapsie Valley CSD received an offer of \$20,000 from the Gingerichs. Decision was made to counter offer approximately \$56,000 to cover the cost of materials to construct the building and add bathrooms.
4. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to table the resolution to set a public hearing date for the sale of Rural #3. Motion carried 5-0
5. Setting public hearing date died to lack of motion.
6. Mr. Hoover will discuss the best options

to accommodate people that park in the handicap spots with Mr. Bergman. Can add spots if needed.

7. Other Business-Kaufman would like to see Don Bosco taken off the wrestling schedule if we have meets scheduled with them for the upcoming school year.

8. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to adjourn at 7:22 PM Motion carried 5-0. Respectfully submitted

Kim Arndt



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RESB inches closer to reality!

What a great turnout to our RESB free-will donation meal. Bremer County Pork Promoters grilled up 240 tenderloins, 120 hot dogs, and 20 pork burgers. We had great support from Kwik Star, Panera Bread, Waverly Hy-Vee, Waverly Fareway, Sam's Club, and Lou Fortsch's Family. We could not have done it without their help!

In total we raised over \$8,600 that will go in to be matched up to \$25k from Readlyn Savings Bank! Thank you, Readlyn and surrounding communities for your continued support.

In addition to our meal fundraiser, thank you to this month's donors: Barbara Meyer, Galen Nuss, Eric & Aubrey Johnston,

Dalton & Brooke Meyer, In Memory of Bill Kaye, Charlie Hesse, Vernon & Mary Ann Clefisch, Laverne & Judy Leistikow, In Memory of Mary Lou Hennings, Farmers Cooperative Company, CoBANK, Allen & Evelyn Harms, and Todd & Jessi Block.

Site work continues with old concrete removal and crushing. It doesn't look very exciting right now.

As we work on brainstorming another fundraising event, the bushel donation will still be an option at the Readlyn Co-Op.

While we still have a ways to go, we are getting closer with your help and we truly thank you for this.



Progress continues on RESB site

Paul Smith, contract manager of Smith Excavating of Sumner, was contracted to remove all of the concrete footings at the new location of the Readlyn Emergency Services building. They had to break it into smaller parcels and, this week, brought their concrete crusher to the site to grind it into 3" minus crushed rock. An estimated 900 tons of concrete footings and floors were reduced to usable fill. They estimate it will take 3 days to accomplish this task.

Smith Excavating began crushing concrete in 2012 and the business has boomed since then. Recycled concrete makes great bases for many uses and eliminates burying concrete.



It is awesome to have a business as close to Readlyn that area projects can use. This isn't the first time they have been in Readlyn — they also moved the Freedom Rock to its current location in 2018.

Thank you to Sam, Paul and Mark Smith.



Donation to RESB

There are 3 payment options: Make checks payable to: RESB

- 1) Mail to : RESB PO Box 276, Readlyn, IA 50668
- 2) Venmo: @ReadlynFire
- 3) Drop off donations at Readlyn Savings Bank

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



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RESB THANKS YOU FOR YOUR DONATION




News from Wapsie Valley Schools

NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Wapsie Valley 2024-25 School Year Kick-Off

We are excited to be starting a new school year at Wapsie Valley! Last year was an extremely successful year with activities and academics and we look to continue to improve in the 24-25 school year.

LETRS

Last year, Fairbank and Readlyn Elementaries completed year 1 of an initiative called LETRS. LETRS stands for Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. LETRS is a professional learning course for instructors of reading, spelling, and related language skills. It provides educators with in-depth knowledge and tools that they can use with any reading program.

The second year of LETRS training focuses on language comprehension. It covers the strands of Scarborough's Reading Rope model, including vocabulary, language and reading, comprehension, and writing. This program helps all of our teachers to better understand the issues children encounter with reading and how to help them through those issues.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Another research-based initiative that all staff have been doing for several years at Wapsie Valley is called Professional Learning Communities, or PLC. A professional learning community is an organizational structure by design that meets regularly, shares expertise, and works collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students. The

school's curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices are monitored through the PLC design to ensure teacher effectiveness and most importantly student learning.

Leader in Me (LIM)

Finally, Leader in Me is an evidence-based, social emotional learning process that helps schools proactively design a culture that reflects their vision of their ideal school. It also empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.

JH/HS Facility Improvements

The Wapsie Valley Board of Directors approved borrowing against future proceeds of SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education- AKA one cent sales tax) monies to make facility improvements at the Junior High/High School building. These improvements will include continuing with the HVAC system and updating the track and football field. Please understand that these updates, and where the money comes from, do NOT affect property tax rates.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to another great year at WV! Thank you for your support and Go Warriors!

Sincerely,
Chris Hoover

Wapsie Valley Superintendent

Friday, August 30, 2024 - Preschool Students' First Day

Monday, September 2, 2024 - No School - Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 - No School - PD for Teachers

We will feature the new Wapsie Valley teachers in the September 25 Readlyn Chronicle!

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Free, reduced price meals available

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, has finalized its policy for free and reduced price meals for students unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program and the Afterschool Care Snack Program.

State and Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

to receive free meals. If a family has foster students living with them and does not receive notification and wishes to apply for such meals, instructions for making application for such students are contained on the application form. A foster student may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other students. Including students in foster care as household members may help other students in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (Effective 7-1-2024)

Household Size	Free Meals					Reduced Price Meals				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	19,578	1,632	816	753	377	27,801	2,322	1,161	1,072	536
2	26,572	2,215	1,108	1,022	511	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	33,566	2,798	1,399	1,291	646	47,787	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	40,560	3,380	1,690	1,560	780	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	47,554	3,963	1,982	1,829	915	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	54,548	4,546	2,273	2,098	1,049	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	61,542	5,129	2,565	2,367	1,184	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	68,536	5,712	2,856	2,636	1,318	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
For each additional family member add	6,984	583	292	288	135	9,953	830	415	383	192

Households may be eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits one of four ways

1. Households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for reduced price meals or free meals, if they complete an application for free and reduced price school meals/milk. Households may complete one application listing all children and return it to your student's school. When completing an application, only the last four digits of the social security number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member is needed.

2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households, students receiving benefits under the Family Investment Program (FIP) and students in a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Most students from SNAP and FIP households will be qualified for free meals automatically. These households will receive a letter from their student's schools notifying them of their benefits. Households that receive a letter from the school need to do nothing more for their student(s) to receive free or reduced price meals. No further application is necessary. If any students were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free or reduced price meal benefits extended to them. If you feel you would qualify for free meal benefits and received notification qualifying for reduced price benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals. Households must contact the school if they choose to decline meal benefits.

3. Some SNAP and FIP households will receive a letter from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Parents must take this letter to the student's school to receive free meals.

4. SNAP or FIP households receiving benefits that do not receive a letter from Iowa HHS must complete an application with the abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions, for their students to receive free meals. When the application lists an assistance program's case number for any household member, eligibility for free benefits is extended to all students in a household.

Eligibility from the previous year will continue within the same school for up to 30 operating days into the new school year. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their students are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the students must pay full price for school meals and the school will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility. An application cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to complete an application. Households notified of their student's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the free meal benefits.

Foster children are eligible for free meal benefits. Some foster students will be qualified for free meals automatically through the state direct certification process. Their host family will receive notification of these benefits. Families that receive this notification from the school need to do nothing more for their foster students

price meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster student from receiving benefits. Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals based on a completed application.

When known by the school, households will be notified of any child eligible for free meals if the children are enrolled in the Head Start/Even Start program or are considered homeless, migrant or runaway. If any children are not listed on the notice of eligibility, contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits. If households are dissatisfied with the application approval done by the officials, they may make a formal appeal either orally or in writing to the school's designated hearing official. The policy statement on file at the school contains an outline of the hearing procedure. School officials may verify the information in the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable state and federal criminal statutes. Households should contact their local school for additional information.

There will be no discrimination against individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the school meal programs.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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What's Cooking?

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

Classic Sweet Pickle Relish (very good!)

Submitted by Judy Leistikow

- 6 C finely chopped cucumber
- 3 C finely chopped green or red sweet peppers (about 3 medium peppers). I like to use both green and red for the color.
- 3 C finely chopped onions (about 6 medium)
- 1/4 C pickling salt
- 3 C sugar
- 2 C cider vinegar
- 1 T mustard seeds
- 2 tsp. celery seed
- 1/2 tsp. ground turmeric

In extra large bowl, combine cucumbers, sweet peppers and onion. Sprinkle with salt; add enough cold water to cover. Let stand at room temperature for 2 hours. Transfer vegetables to colander, rinse and drain well.

In an 8 quart saucepan, combine sugar, vinegar, mustard and celery seeds, and turmeric; bring to boil. Add vegetables; return to boil. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Ladle hot relish into hot sterilized canning jars, leaving 1/2 inch of headspace. Adjust lids, screw bands tight. Process in boiling water canner for 10 minutes. Remove jars from canner and cool.

Makes 3 pints.
*I use a food processor to chop the vegetables.



Bonnie Erickson is surrounded by her minions. Readlyn Gardeners take time to relax at a potluck hosted by Larry and Deb Sauerbrei. Front row, left to right, Gene Thurm, Roger Deterding, Janet Ladage, Bonnie Erickson, Ruth Happel, Pat Wehr, Ruth Wittenburg; back row: Marlys Deterding, Deb Sauerbrei, Bonnie Wittenburg, Doris Hagenow, and Millie Crawford; MIA, Connie Sauerbrei and Brylee Robinson.



Ruth Happel warmly welcomes new member Brylee Robinson to the Readlyn Gardeners group.



Readlyn Gardeners felt a great sense of accomplishment after filling the truck with weeds and bush trimmings. Photos courtesy Pat Wehr

Once again, Readlyn Gardeners have had a busy and productive year. As shown in the second photo above, we welcome volunteers of all ages. We meet Monday mornings for generally an hour. Contact Bonnie Erickson, 314 (yes, a 4) 703-1609. **We also appreciate donations.**



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“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

I can't believe it is already almost Labor Day!

Fall is my favorite time of year – I hate to see summer go, but there is nothing quite like football and sweatshirts and harvest sunsets! If we blink it will soon be time to combine the crops, dress up for Halloween, and wrap up for cooler temperatures. Be sure to soak in these last few weeks of warm temperatures!

The rest of the world has been all over the place since I've last written. An assassination attempt, a Presidential Nominee dropout, CrowdStrike updates putting us all on pause. Just a few days go by and some of the largest historical headlines are quickly pushed out of the way with something even more shocking and unpredictable.

Large swings in sentiment can often spark emotional decision making amongst investors. Our job as advisors is sometimes largely reliant on our understanding of human behavior mixed with a little bit of data and math. I might field a call from a client in the morning asking me if we should go to cash because the world is going to burn – then answer a separate call from a different client in the afternoon saying “take more cash and invest it, I think it's going up from here”.



This is why, when we build plans, we purposely stress test them against major life and world events. We want you to feel confident in financial decision making no matter what the temperature of the world is.

Having a custom visual forecast helps our clients make educated decisions and they appreciate the ability to consolidate their assets into one simple log-in with toggles for decision making scenarios.

The screenshot shows a web interface with a sidebar on the left titled 'Product Capabilities' containing items like 'Means Carlo Analysis', 'Account Aggregation', 'Client Portal', 'Decision Center', and 'Plan Summary'. The main content area displays a dashboard for 'Frank & Joanna Miller' with various charts and data points.

- *Should you pay for that new car in cash? Or should you stay invested and take out a loan instead?*
- *Should you try to time the market or stay invested in the highs and the lows?*
- *Should you start to draw Social Security at 62 or wait until full benefits age?*

Remember, no matter which news channel you watch or which podcast you listen to, nobody knows what the heck is going to happen tomorrow. That is why we find that financial literacy is the heart that beats behind what we do. We have to understand each client's unique situation and bring value above what they can do on their own. We prefer to lead our client meetings with financial planning so when life changes or the world changes, we can use math, data, and client sentiment to navigate the best path forward.

You've worked your butt off for what you have and you should feel confident in your plan so you can enjoy the things you want to do without feeling like you have to react to every headline. Let us help!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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“Life of a Gamekeeper in 2024”

By: Eric Johnston
Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

It’s nearly September - this year has flown by! As many of my readers know, I am torn up with being a “Gamekeeper.” “Eric, what is a Gamekeeper???”

Gamekeeper has been coined by my employer, Mossy Oak, as anyone who is a steward of the land in planting trees, creating habitat, planting food plots, wood duck nesting boxes, to planting pollinators for bees, the list goes on in the description of a gamekeeper. To sum it all up, it’s taking care of the land and wildlife, with managed harvest, and passing it on to the next generation better than I found it. This month, I’ll take you through the up and down year of taking care of the land in 2024.

I’ll start this story in mid-January 2024. The hunting seasons had closed and that’s when Delana, the landowners and I start our supplemental feeding program. What that means is we place three feeders throughout the property with a mixture of corn, oats, and deer pellets. We run these from mid-January to late-March depending on the severity of the winter. This is legal to do in Iowa as long as they are only feeding during the off-season. Between the three feeders, we go through about 300 pounds of feed a week to two weeks, again, depending on how cold it gets. If it’s super cold, we naturally go through more. These feeders feed everything from deer, to turkey, pheasant, rabbits, squirrels, songbirds, and even raccoons and possums. Everything benefits and Delana

and I enjoy filling the feeders each week together.

This year we had a very mild winter and didn’t go through a lot of feed relatively speaking. We did, however, have a couple decent snowstorms which led to me shoveling my way in and even one time getting stuck and Delana calling “Uncle Nick Kuker” to come pull us out. Feeding went extremely well this year and I was feeling good about the season ahead for the wildlife and their survival rate.

As the calendar went to March, I worked hard on habitat in the land. I got some hinge cutting done to create bedding areas and browse for deer and nesting opportunities for wild turkey. Along with that I opened up some areas that are too thick for even the deer to move freely by clearing trails through the brush and even carving out small bedding areas in the high-stem-count thickets. I pulled out the cut brush into open areas and piled it up to create rabbit and pheasant habitat.

Habitat work kept moving forward through April as Delana, Charlie, Wilda, Laverne and I planted a total of 325 trees throughout the farms with a mix of white oak, swamp oak, wild plum, hazelnut, and dogwoods. It was a lot of work but, with all of us working together, it was fun and went quickly. Then we worked into May which would normally be spring food plot planting.

About mid-May the first flood of the year came and wiped out any plans of spring planting of food like sorghum and soybeans or corn. My perennial clover

was underwater by a foot for over a week. I cringed as I made my way in to survey the damage. To my surprise, the clover held up well and, with a mowing and light overseed, the clover bounced back well. The flood actually helped our fresh tree plantings along with a healthy watering.

I worked into June cleaning everything up from the flood and starting plans for fall seeded food plots and even had the trails cleaned up. I was feeling pretty good about things when flood number two of 2024 came late-June and this one hung on for a long time through the 4th of July. I’m sure my wife, Aubrey, was ready to strangle me as I impatiently waited to get back into the land. The flood hung on for two weeks and I couldn’t fish or work at the land which makes for an unpleasant version of me.

As the water receded, this flood did some real damage to things. Charlie’s three acre bean plot was even wiped out which usually doesn’t happen as it’s a good distance away from the river. While the flood did so much damage, it didn’t stop me from pushing forward. My favorite activity is working in the land and being a gamekeeper. I rolled up my sleeves and we dove in head first.

Charlie and I devised a plan to plant a 60-day sorghum and some turnips in his three acre plot and, on July 12, Laverne helped us by tilling up the plot and Charlie, Wilda, and I seeded the three acres broadcasting sorghum and winter bulb turnips with our Rangers and pull-behind spreaders. A healthy dose of Urea went down for fertilizer and I’m happy to report in mid-August that plot is thriving and will supply a lot of food to the wildlife.

As the woods began to dry up and I could work my smaller plots further in, I began work there in late July. The clover plots took a bigger hit this time, but after two mowings, an application of herbicide and some more overseeding, the clover plots are shaping up! The last week-end of July it was finally dry enough to



disc up my main plots and I seeded them with Mossy Oak BioLogic Radish, Winter Bulbs, and Final Forage. These are all blends of brassicas - wildlife will eat the green tops through to the first frost and, as the tops go away, they dig up the bulbs and utilize that for food. After a couple timely rains after seeding late July, all of those seedings are in great shape and thriving!! I get so much satisfaction out of watching the wildlife utilize everything we’ve done through habitat and food.

A couple species I’m quite concerned about this season are turkey and pheasant. The floods were very timely to wipe out nesting for both in 2024. I’m all but certain the wild turkey nests were wiped out in the May flood as they nest in the woods and, with the timing, the nests would have been full at the time of the flood. I haven’t seen any turkey poults this season which is disappointing, but as I’ve said before, Mother Nature is undefeated and it just didn’t work out for the hen turkeys this year.

The pheasants are more of a success story. Their first nests were certainly wiped out in the May flood and I was very concerned on their nests in the July flood. BUT!!! I’m happy to report I know of three separate flocks of young pheasants in the last week!

The satisfaction of being a gamekeeper is never-ending and though sometimes I’m sure I look and sound crazy for how hard I work for the wildlife, it’s most certainly a labor of love and I truly love all of the struggles and success! As we roll into September, I’m finishing up tree stand work and the last of access trail mowing and then we head right into Delana’s youth season starting mid-September! We are entering the exciting time of year!!! Follow along with all these projects and all our hunts by looking up The EDJ WHITETAILED on YouTube! And until next time.....GET OUTDOORS!!



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History, cars and ice cream made for a great day in Readlyn

The Readlyn Historical Society hosted the Cruising Thru History event and the Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 4.

The Cruising Thru History event was attended by 24 people with an interest in learning more about Readlyn's history. Speakers included Keith Fettkether, Larry Pavelec, Ron Leistikow and Charlie Albrecht.

Readlyn was a hub for local townspeople and farmers to get their goods delivered via the train as well as exchanging goods and services. At one time, there was a hotel, multiple grocery and retail

stores plus five farm implement dealers in town. The hotel was necessary as travel via horse and buggy necessitated an overnight stay in order to accomplish errands and other business needs. There were three stops throughout town to describe where businesses, the hotel and hospital were located as well as providing background information.

The fourth and last stop was the Freedom Rock located near the ball diamonds. The process of how Readlyn won the coveted spot for Bremer County was shared. The objective is for each of Iowa's 99 counties to have a freedom rock.

A dedication of the Rommel Family Bible was done by Bud Rommel's daughters, Mary Jo and Connie. The Bible is 124 years old and it was quite a feat with ancestry and genealogical sites and other research sources and individuals involved to contact the Rommel family to return the Bible to them. The entire story is in written form with the Bible display at the museum. A glass case to preserve the Bible was built by John Harold, who is also a pastor, with wood from Bud Rommel's woodworking inventory. Thank you to the Rommel Family for entrusting us with this old and rare treasure!

After a very informative 'cruise' of Readlyn's history and the dedication of

the Rommel Family Bible, Readlyn's 2024 royalty, including Bonnie Wittenburg-Grump, Jaylin May-Miss Readlyn and Addisyn McElhose-Miss Congeniality, served ice cream to 125 people — a very nice treat on a hot day.

Thank you to all for your support of the museum as it is the keeper of items unique to Readlyn. The Readlyn Historical Society's next meeting is Monday, September 30 at 1 p.m. Please consider sharing your time and talent with this organization.



Above is Readlyn's Main Street circa early 1900s. Below was Readlyn Main Street today and Cruise participants.



Connie & Mary Jo, representing the Rommel Family.



(L to R) Bonnie Wittenburg, Addisyn McElhose and Jaylin May served ice cream sundaes.

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