

Introducing the 2024 Readlyn 'Old Grump,' Bonnie Wittenburg

Due to illness and other circumstances for Grump candidates, the process of picking the 2024 Grump has changed this year.



Bonnie Wittenburg

The RCC proudly announces Bonnie Wittenburg will serve the role of 2024 "Old Grump." The crowning ceremony will be held Friday, June 14 of Grump Days with Bonnie being introduced along with Miss Readlyn candidates, Little Mr. and Miss Grumpsters.

Bonnie Wittenburg 2024 Grump Profile

My name is Bonnie Wittenburg.

I was born in Sumner in June 1956. I became the first daughter of Clayborne and Annetta (Scott) Quigley. I was the seventh child joining six older brothers. Later was added my only sister and two

more brothers.

I learned how to cook and can produce at a very young age. Along with that, I developed a love of baking. I graduated from Tripoli High School 50 years ago. Having spent much of my life in a caregiver role, I continue with this. I worked at the Tripoli Nursing Home for many years. I decided to try my hand at being a foster parent. I did that for several years, gaining a life-long family. I also worked at the County doing Home Health and assisting in the group homes.

I met Rod Wittenburg at a Halloween party, and we began dating. We married in 2012. This gifted me two more sons and

families. To date, we have 10 grandchildren and four great-grandsons. I retired a couple of years ago. For a short time, I was the "Pie Lady" for Grumpy's. I have been filling my time with family and friends. Many of the friends I have made by joining the Community Club and Readlyn Gardeners. We are members of Zion Church.

When first coming to Readlyn, it was easy to see what a warm community it was and how much they cared for and took pride in this town. Because I feel this is a great place to call my home, I could not refuse the honor of being asked to be the Grump. Thank you.

Readlyn Community Club needs YOU!

Hello, Readlyn Community,

We need your help. Readlyn Community Club membership numbers are down.

We ask \$30 a year for each adult mem-

ber. This money is used for all activities that the club does for our children and adults in our community.

Many of you have helped in many ways and have stepped up when asked. Thank you. We want to be able to continue to offer a community that is working as one and continue improving our town. We are asking for your cooperation to financially support us.

We promise there will not be pressure to work at activities or decorate. We ask but do not push. Without financial support of memberships, we cannot accomplish our goals.

Currently we are looking at purchasing disability playground equipment and new basketball hoops for the City Park. We want to continue making this community something we can be proud of and a welcoming place to raise children. So, we ask \$30 per adult; that money will be used for activities in our community.

It's not too late to become a member since the membership year begins in April.

Membership donations can be dropped off at the library or mailed to: Readlyn Community Club, P.O. Box 34, Readlyn, Iowa 50668. Or, you can pay via Venmo. Simply open the camera option on your phone, focus on the Venmo icon below, and you will be taken to the membership site.

We need your help and support. Thank you.



venmo



The Bergmann twins can't believe the Easter bunny arrived on a fire truck. They were a little young to appreciate the sunglasses and fruit snacks provided by the Readlyn Community Club.



Did someone say, "Go?"



Thank you (left to right) announcer Zach Boevers, Chairwoman Jessica Anderson, and Lily Swickerath for making the Easter Egg Hunt a success.



Some of the Easter bunny's helpers (left to right) Lindsey Brady, Louie Hartman, Glenda Kleitsch. And Addison and Hailey Broten claim their strategy.



Pastor and Angelina Rabary's family, Chris Essig, Lalaina Rabary, and Eva Grace Essig, had a blast with the Easter Bunny.



Mom helps her daughter claim one of the 866 eggs donated by generous community businesses and residents. Each egg will be turned in for an Easter basket.

Community Club annual dinner held

On Friday, April 5, nearly 60 Readlyn Community Club (RCC) members gathered for the annual dinner at Grumpy's. Thank you, Mike, for donating the use of your facility for the evening.

Due to many unusual circumstances, a new format for choosing the 2024-25 Grump was announced. We are happy to proclaim that Bonnie Wittenburg proudly accepted the title after saying many very kind words regarding our community.

Bingo followed dinner with John and Wendy Galyean calling the numbers. Thanks to donations from Readlyn Telephone Company, Mane Event, Weeds on Fire, balance massage therapy, NNPB (No Nonsense Prairie Bass), Matthias Fabrication, Readlyn Outdoors, Security Mutual, Wittenburg Truckline, Kwik Star, TruServe, and RCC, there were many winners. The grand prize blackout winner of \$100 was Mary Lou Billhorn. She generously split her winnings and donated it back to the RCC.

As always, members supported others; this time they donated books to Helping Hands and playground equipment to Readlyn Elementary. It proved to be an enjoyable evening.

See photos on page 6.



Grump's Grumblings

By Ron Hartman, 2023 Grump

We had two weeks with no doctor appointments, so we did a road trip to visit family and friends down south. The first stop was Kansas City to visit Bob and Dawn Phelps. If you don't know them, Bob lived with us for a few years until he graduated from WV in 1983.

Our next stop was Pocahontas, Arkansas to visit my sister, Carol Kerns. We stayed a couple of days getting caught up and talking about old times. From there, we headed to Orange Beach, Alabama. We stayed with friends we met on a previous camping adventure. They built their house 25 years ago on Bear Point on the intercoastal waterway. Back then it was just gravel roads and septic tanks. Holy smoke, now they are surrounded by huge homes. You could say he made a really good choice to build there. These friends have been to Readlyn and really enjoyed our small town. They will be back this summer and will be thrilled that they got a mention in the paper.

Next, we were off to Merritt Island, Cape Canaveral, Cocoa Beach to visit Bob & Dawn's son, Austin, and his wife, Eva. Austin took us to SpaceX owned by Elon Musk where we got to experience a Falcon 9 launch up close and personal. It was so powerful, our clothes shook. The capsule was loaded with supplies for the space station and will bring people back. Nine minutes after the launch, the booster returned and landed with a sonic boom. The booster gets used over and over.

After all of that fun in the sun, we had to head for Iowa. We drove from Cocoa Beach to Atlanta on the first day. From my trucking experience, I knew traffic would

be bad and we would have to leave early in the morning. Louie agreed and was up at 3:00 am. We got through Atlanta and Chattanooga in record time with no stops.

The second day brought us to St. Louis for the night, and then home to Iowa on Sunday, March 24. So after 3,600 miles, we got caught speeding on a Cedar Rapids camera (\$100.00 fine) and hit the snow and ice at the Jesup exit on 380. All in all, we had a very successful road trip.

On Monday, Roger Deterding called me to ask if I wanted to have fun loading cans on Wednesday. Then his granddaughter, Hailey, called to ask if we could get enough goodies for 40 Easter baskets for the hunt for the kids so we got to visit six Dollar Generals. Sorry Roger, I forgot about the cans, but we were trying to make Hailey happy. That makes Scott's life easier. Man, that was fun.

The Easter egg hunt was a great success. Thank you everyone for all your support. Thank you to the late Burton Thies and his wife, Ellen, for getting the whole Easter Egg Hunt started. It takes a lot of work and time but it's also a lot of FUN. There were 860 eggs and prizes sponsored by Readlyn residents and businesses.

This brings us to the annual membership drive and dinner on Friday, April 5. Our timing wasn't the best, competing with the Fire Department's annual meeting and the Hawkeye women's basketball game. Our numbers were down, but we must thank those who stayed to help clean up after the dinner and bingo. I believe we were all home and in our comfy places to watch the Hawks win that night. They had quite a season.

Ron Hartman, 2023 Grump



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lily Schwickerath

Hello Readlyn Community!

The month of April has been quite a crazy whirlwind - from helping State FFA Convention practice on April 6, to going to State Officer interviews to become a state officer on April 10-11. Then, on April 12-14, was the musical where I had the opportunity to play Morticia in "The Addams Family," which was such a blast!

Also on April 12, I found out that I am on the 2024 Prom Royalty Court. I will find out the results at the Grand March on April 20.

Another event that took place is State FFA Convention. This was to take place on April 14-16, with April 16 when I was to find out if I got the opportunity to serve the state as a State Officer.

As the month of April comes to an end, I will be graduating on May 12. After graduation I plan to attend Morningside University, to major in Agricultural Education. I am so beyond excited to start a new chapter in my life!

Thank you,
Lily

Spring leaf burning allowed

The City of Readlyn will permit burning of leaves from April 1 to June 1, 2024, subject to any burn ban regulations.

The City does not allow burning of building materials or other house-

hold wastes.

Reminder: Burning is not allowed on paved streets or sidewalks.

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

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Cedar Bend Park Cabin Project - Larry Pavelec, Conservation Board Chair, receives \$1,000 donation from Readlyn Savings Bank employee Doug Sheppard toward the Cedar Bend Cabin Construction project. Upon completion, the Cabin will be available to the public to rent and enjoy its modern amenities. The full-service cabin will overlook the Cedar River at Cedar Bend Park and will be located separate from the main campground and close to hiking trails. It will sleep 6 and feature heat, A/C, full kitchen and bathroom and a picturesque view of the Cedar River. Contributions to the project can be mailed to BCC Board, PO Box 412, Tripoli, IA 50676.

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Readlyn Community Happenings

Readlyn Senior Citizens meet

March 20, 2024, 16 members attended the 11:30 a.m. Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Bowling Alley in Tripoli, IA.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow. Ron Leistikow led us in prayer before we ate after our meeting.

A birthday celebrated for the month of March was Don Billhorn. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to Don. There were no anniversaries for the month of March.

We all welcomed our new member Doris Hagenow at the meeting and lunch.

Treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht. The balance in the account after expenses was \$102.00.

Secretary's report was read by Janet Ladage for the meeting of February 21, 2024. Marlys Deterding made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and the secretary's report. Wilda Albrecht seconded it. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Lois Thacher sent to Bob Thran's family a card and had signed every member's name from the Senior Citizens Group. She stated in the card that \$50.00 was sent to the Readlyn Historical Society and \$50.00 was sent to the *Readlyn Chronicle* in memory of Bob Thran

from the Readlyn Senior Citizens Group. Bob's funeral will be April 12, 2024 at 11:00 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church, Nashua, Iowa. He will be missed by many.

Readlyn's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 30 at 10:00 a.m. The age groups are 0-9 years of age. The eggs are sponsored in groups of 4. Contact Jess Anderson if you want to sponsor some eggs for the hunt.

New Business:

April 5 is the Community Club Annual Meeting. Details will be in the *Chronicle* and in a letter that everyone received.

Janet Ladage brought up a suggestion to have Senior Citizens' meeting and lunch at the AllyCatz GrubHouse in Denver, Iowa. Everyone stated that they were satisfied with having the meeting and lunch at the Panther Lanes in Tripoli until further notice. Marlys Deterding made a motion to keep meetings at the Panther Lanes. Millie Crawford seconded it. Motion carried.

The Next Senior Citizens meeting will be April 17 at 11:30 at the Panther Lanes. Judy Leistikow made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Marlys Deterding seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

Janet Ladage, Acting Secretary

Pepper Tournament returns in October

The last pepper tournament of the season was held at Grumpy's on Saturday, April 6 with 8 players participating. The winners and their scores were:

- 1st: Roger & Connie Buhr - 213
- 2nd: Sean & Lorna Van Natta - 189

3rd: Joan Matthias & Judy Henn - 138
4th: Barb Meyer & Shirley Kuker - 126
Thanks for playing. Hope to see you in October.

*Shirley Kuker and
Judy Henn*

Readlyn Community Club makes arrangements for August picnic in the park

RCC Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2024, Readlyn Library

Present: Michelle and Ed Harrington, Louie Hartman, Bonnie Wittenburg, Kristie Boeis, Dustin Palmer, Kira Stover, Marlys and Roger Deterding, and Pat Wehr.

The meeting was called to order by Michelle at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's report was mailed to members April 8, 2024, and read. Moved by Ed and seconded by Bonnie to accept the report; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was submitted. Dustin moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Kristi seconded; passed unanimously.

Old Business

Easter Egg Hunt

• Eggs are back to the shed; thank you to whomever returned them.

• Pat sent many pictures to the *Chronicle*.

• Marge Quigley donated eight totes.

Annual meeting post discussion:

• Pat sent a write-up and pictures to the *Chronicle*.

• Thank you notes were distributed to thank the many bingo donors.

• We need to remember the firemen always have a steak fry the first Friday of each month.

• Annual meeting next year will be a picnic in the park.

• We need to encourage membership.

New Business

Safety deposit box: Safety deposit box key replacement is now possibly \$350.

Picnic in the park

• Sunday, August 18; 3:00 p.m. social and dinner at 4 p.m.

• Bring a dish to pass.

• We'll provide hot dogs and hamburgers

• Once again, we'll collect school supplies.

Moved by Ed and seconded by Bonnie to adjourn the meeting; passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Monday, May 6, library, 6:00; Grump meeting at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Wehr, secretary



Agents:

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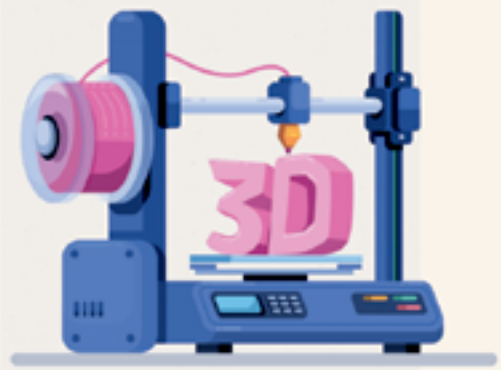
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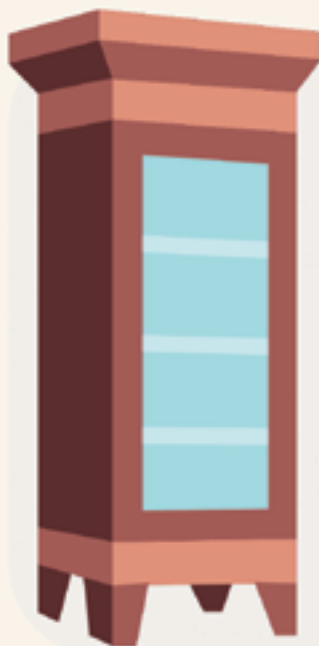
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Sat - 9am - 12pm
Sun - Closed

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announce the final date on
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Our display case has no tenants
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season! If you have an
interesting display that you'd
like to share with the
community, let us know!
Historical, regional, hobbies -
we're open to all sorts of
displays! Drop us a line at
readlynlib@gmail.com

Save the Date



Our Summer Reading Program will kick
off in the first week of June. Stay tuned
for more information - we have some
great performers booked this year!



Readlyn, Long Ago

Rest in Peace, Bob Thran

About four years ago, in 2020, our good friend and writer, Robert (Bob) Thran started writing about the history of Readlyn and surrounding towns. So, we have about 44 issues over that time. We can't tell you how many people have told us how much they loved his articles. We all did!

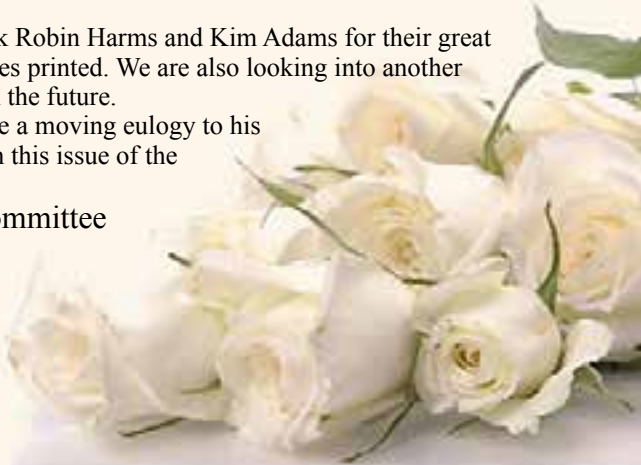
Sadly, Bob passed away on February 15, 2024. He had written another four articles about ready for print. We'll see if that will work for his son, Tony.

Thanks to Bob, we have quite a bit of priceless history of our area. We are grateful for all of his much-loved history he left for all of us, and we will certainly miss his articles.

We also want to thank Robin Harms and Kim Adams for their great work getting these articles printed. We are also looking into another possible writer or two in the future.

Bob's son, Eric, wrote a moving eulogy to his father that can be read in this issue of the *Chronicle*.

The *Chronicle* Committee
Charlie Albrecht
LaVerne Leistikow
Ron Leistikow



Editor's Note: Read the *Chronicle* online at: <https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us>

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Ice cream sundae fellowship following the musical sponsored by the CLS PTO.



Readlyn Community Club members (above) enjoyed an evening out at the RCC annual meeting and dinner, followed by bingo, at Grumpy's on April 5.



A tote full of playground equipment (left) was collected for Readlyn Elementary.



Wyatt Broten (at left) proudly displays his prize while John Galyean, in the background, begins a new game of bingo at the Readlyn Community Club annual meeting.

Deadline for the May 29
Readlyn Chronicle is
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Obituaries

Jerry Wayne Finder

Jerry Wayne Finder, 77, of Readlyn, formerly of Tripoli, passed away on Monday, April 8, 2024 at home surrounded by loved ones. Jerry was born on March 12, 1947 in Oelwein, the son of Delbert and Lillian (Bathke) Finder. He was a 1965 graduate of Wapsie Valley High School.



Jerry Finder

Jerry married Connie French on November 18, 1966 in Frederika. He started working for his father as an auto mechanic at Del's Auto Repair while still attending school and continued to work there until retiring in 2020 due to his wife's ill health.

There are many things Jerry found enjoyable, especially being outdoors. This included racing, fishing, hunting, metal detecting, and, most importantly, walking with his many dogs. In recent years, he also enjoyed taking camping trips to North Dakota.

All of those hobbies were made better when they included having his children or grandchildren and his dogs by his side. When Jerry wasn't outdoors, you would find his work and dedication at the shop. If you stopped by Del's, Jerry always had a story to tell and enjoyed showing his numerous artifacts he had collected. Jerry had a great love for his dogs, ketchup (Connie had to carry a bottle in her purse), but most of all his family.

Jerry is survived by his daughter, Tereasa Lenius; son, Pat (Shannon) Finder; grandchildren, Amber (Jake) Gray, Nicole (Aaron Wailand) Lenius, Alexis (Dan) Whealy, Neal (Molly) Finder, Nick Finder, and Aric Finder; great-grandchildren, Eden Magsamen, Norah Balek, Joseph Finder, and Anna Finder; brother, Jack (Kathy) Finder; and sister, Sally (Pat) Finder-Weepie.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his wife, Connie, who passed away in 2020.

Per Jerry's request, his body has been cremated. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial to a cause supporting the outdoors or your local animal shelter.

Visitation was held at Grumpy's Event Center in Readlyn on Thursday, April 18 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Marlene Martha Kuker

Marlene Martha Kuker, 85, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at the Hillcrest Home in Sumner.

Marlene was born on December 7, 1938, in Waverly, Iowa, the daughter



Marlene Kuker

of Ernest and Alieta (Knief) Richmann. She was baptized on December 25, 1938, and confirmed on May 11, 1952, both at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger. She attended Immanuel Lutheran

Parochial School and graduated from Readlyn High School in 1956. After high school, she worked as a key puncher at Rath Packing in Waterloo. Marlene was united in marriage to Lavern R. Kuker on June 22, 1958, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger. Marlene had an in-home daycare for many years and later worked at Bartels Lutheran Home in Waverly.

Marlene was a longtime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn, where she served on several of the women's groups. She was a member of the Red Hat Group and always enjoyed her friend group, the Flaky Five. She will be remembered for her caring ways towards family, friends and neighbors. Sending cards to family and friends was a passion and Marlene was a humble servant to many.

Marlene is survived by four sons, Marc (Julie) Kuker of Readlyn, Dave (Cindy) Kuker of Des Moines, Jeff (Susan) Kuker of Des Moines, Brent (Gina) Kuker of West Union; a daughter, Kim (Jeremy) Brown of Readlyn; her grandchildren, Ryan (Ashley) Kuker, Kelli (Cray Weirich) Kuker, Alison (Alexander) Stockseth, Emilie (Tanner Zirbel) Kuker, Regen Kuker, Jocelyn Kuker, Braxton Kuker, Brayden Kuker, Peyton Brown, Brendon Brown and Keegon Brown; her great-grandchildren, Cayden Kuker, Ryder Kuker, Tyson Kuker, Arlo Stockseth and Audrey Stockseth; her sister, Glennys Wedemeier; and two sisters-in-law, Karen Kuker and Pauline Lobeck.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lavern Kuker in 1997; her father and mother-in-law, Gus and Hilda Kuker; and three brothers-in-law, Robert Wedemeier, Lloyd Kuker and LaVerne Lobeck.

A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano officiating. Burial of cremains will be held in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. Visitation was held on Friday, April 5, 2024, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Readlyn and also for one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church. The service was livestreamed on the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home YouTube page. Online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com. Marlene's family requests in lieu of flowers please consider donating to one of these organizations: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Community Lutheran School, Readlyn Community Club, His Hands Food Pantry-Oran, Wapsie Valley Education Foundation or to Cedar Valley Hospice.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family - 319-279-3551.

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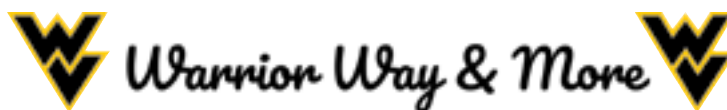
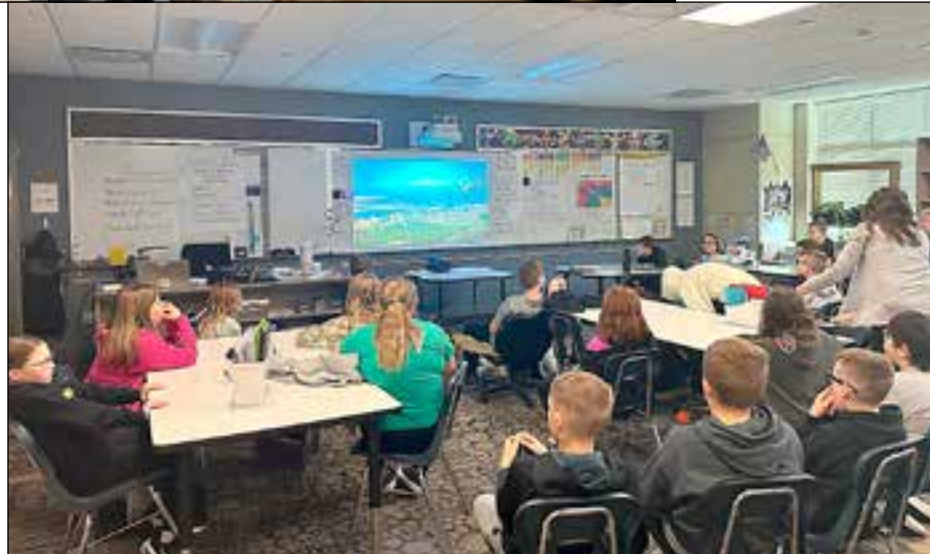
News from Wapsie Valley Schools



On April 8, we were able to view the solar eclipse. Thank you to POET Bioprocessing in Fairbank for supplying all students and staff with solar eclipse glasses. Then students proceeded to their classrooms to continue learning about the Solar Eclipse and what they had just viewed.



Our paraprofessionals were treated to breakfast for all of their hard work.



Leader Night in the Valley

Please join us on **May 2nd** in the Readlyn Elementary Gym to **CELEBRATE** our students' success and leadership!

4:30-6:00
 FREEWILL DONATION Meal
 Hot Dogs | Chips | Cookies

AEA Bill, School Funding, Teacher Pay

Yesterday, the Senate concurred with the House Amendment on HF 2612 AEA Reform, School Funding/SSA, and Teacher Pay.

There is still a little process to be completed. The bill will be signed by the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and sent to Governor Reynolds for her signature.

The AEA provisions are complicated and will be implemented with various effective dates. If you want to know more immediately, you can check out the fiscal note written by Legislative Services Agency staff found here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1448318.pdf>.

More explanation will be necessary to completely understand everything. Stay tuned for more information.

SSA was included and is an increase of 2.5% of the state cost per pupil. This is an increase of \$191 per pupil, bringing the state cost per pupil up to \$7,826. The 2.5% also applies to categorical funds, supplementary weightings, AEA per pupil amounts and Education Savings Accounts.

Regarding teacher pay, the Department of Management will determine up to 10 tiers and set Teacher Salary Supplement

amounts to meet the new minimum teacher pay beginning July 1, 2024 (\$47,500 for beginning teachers up to 12 years and \$60,000 for teachers with 12 years or more experience teaching). DOM will make an additional calculation next year for the minimums effective July 1, 2025 (\$50,000 for beginning teachers up to 12 years and \$62,000 for teachers with 12 years or more experience).

If you have questions about this new legislation please let me know and I will try to answer your questions the best I can.

School Property Taxes

All Wapsie Valley School District property owners should have received their tax statement in the mail. The two important parts on the statement are the current tax rate and the proposed tax rate. Please understand that the district has published a worse case scenario due to the fact that the Iowa Legislature did not have SSA (State Supplemental Aid) set, as required by law, by the time we were required to publish our proposed budget. Therefore, you can expect the proposed tax rate to be lower than what is on your statement due to the above reason.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Take care and Go Warriors!

Superintendent Chris Hoover

David R. Wheeler
 8234 E. Marquis Rd., Fairbank, IA
 (319) 230-1029



Readlyn Elementary wrapped up our service learning project and donated several items to the Helping Hands Clothing Closet! Not only did we collect donations but our 6th graders volunteered to help sort and organize. Thank you to everyone for your donations!



Thank you to the Readlyn Community Club for your recess equipment donation to Readlyn Elementary! We appreciate it!



Here is a picture of Mrs. Shedenhelm's 3rd grade classroom. They are presenting their Boomtown projects.



On April 8, our kindergarten-6th grade Readlyn Elementary students had the privilege of viewing Act 1 of the musical, "The Addams Family." Our Jr./Sr. High students are so talented!

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What's Cooking?

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

Calico Beans

Submitted by: Michelle Harrington

This recipe is our family favorite for events and camping.

Ingredients:

- 2 lb. of hamburger
- ½ lb. of bacon
- 1 small onion diced
- 2-28 oz. cans Bush's baked beans in brown sugar
- 1 can of light red kidney beans
- 1 can of dark red kidney beans
- 2 cans of butter beans
- 1 can of lima beans
- 1 can of black beans
- 1 ½ cups of ketchup
- 2 tbs. of vinegar
- 1 tbs. of mustard
- 1 cup of brown sugar

Brown and drain hamburger, onion and bacon.

Drain all the beans.

Combine all ingredients, cook in a slow cooker on high for 4 hours or on low for 6 hours.

Bake at 350 degree oven for 1 hour.

Deadline for the May 29

Readlyn Chronicle is

Thurs., May 16 at 5 PM

Send news to

ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

Wapsie Valley School Board - April 3, 2024

Wapsie Valley CSD Property Tax Statement - Public Hearing Minutes April 3, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Wolfe called the Public Hearing on the 24-25 Property Tax Statement to order at 6:33 PM.

Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye Motion carried 4-0 Auel (excused)

A. Directors: Aiello, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, Wolfe, & Auel (excused)

B. Secretary Arndt, Supt. Hoover (excused)

C. Others: Rustie Kane, Jerry Van Daele, John Even, Mary Lee Even, Keith Lansing, Verna Lansing, Deanna Ambrecht, & Lynne Bellile

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

3. Secretary Arndt stated the property tax statement was published at the highest property tax rate due to supplemental state aid not being set by the legislature at the time of the public hearing notice. Different scenarios with lower property tax rates will be presented at the April 15, 2024 Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting. President Wolfe read opening statements regarding public hearing requirements and property tax statement.

4. Community members would like the board to take in consideration of setting the property tax rate low and stay within the set budget for the upcoming year and years to come. No written comment on the property tax statement was presented.

5. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 7:18 PM Roll call- Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye Motion carried 4-0

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Donations to RESB continue to grow; poker run is this Saturday

Thank you to the donors this month who contributed generous donations towards the future emergency services building in our community. These donations will go a long way in helping fund the construction of a brand new facility to house the fire department and ambulance services all under one roof. Having these critical emergency response teams centralized in one building with state-of-the-art equipment and resources will greatly improve response times and coordination during crisis situations. The new emergency services building has been desperately needed for years to replace the outdated, cramped facilities currently being used. These donors' selfless contribution gets us much closer to our goal needed to break ground on this essential new infrastructure project that will ultimately save lives. The positive impact this new facility will have on public safety for generations to come cannot be overstated. We are incredibly grateful for this donor's vision and generosity. This kind of investment in the future of our community represents the best of humanity. Thank you again to this month's donors:

Charles Mueller, Judy Henn, Darrol Kohagen, Jim & Tamara Wolf, Chris & Sharon Davis, Kyle & Brittney Kirchhoff, Randall & Brenda Hagenow, balance Massage Therapy Jim & Sheila Rosengarten, R & J Farms, Charles & Wilda Albrecht, Larry & Vicki Pavelec, Restored, Mike & Arlene Tiedt, Roger Buhr, Gary & Betty

Matthias, Rick & Lois Thacher, Brenda Wedeking, Kaiser-Corson Funeral Homes, Don & Joyce Heineman, John Kroencke, Jeff & Laurie Brunscheon, Grace Kuethe, James & Carolyn Happel, Lauri Phelan, Don & Mary Lou Billhorn, Randall Abbas, RA Machine, Joe & Sharon Anderson, Tru-Serve Insurance Group, LLC, Myron Lockard, Tom & Karen Kuhlmann, Kevin Westendorf, In Memory of Robert Meyer served 1971-1991 by Barbara Meyer, Gary Buhr Memorial, Cody & Ashlea Jones, Zion Ruth Circle - Readlyn, Rex & Barb Blaylock, Jill Boeckmann, Jodee Feldman & Fred Bast, Jonathan & Jennifer Jaschen, Karen Platte, Brent Platte, Loreen Money Penny, David Carner, Randal Leisinger, Butler-Bremer Communications, Sandy Matthias, Don & Joyce Heineman, Mary Chapin, Dennis & Lynn Kuker, In Honor of Rick Kane, and In Memory of Kathy Albrecht.

There is still time to sign up and be a part of the RESB Poker Ride. You can preregister or register the morning of. Great prizes await!

There will also be a silent auction that you can bid on after the ride. The items will be at Grumpy's and final bidding will take place at 6 p.m. You can get a preview of these during registration at the fire station from 8-10 a.m. Be sure to check out just some of the items you could bid on to win. Iowa Cubs tickets, 36 in black stone with

LP tank, hotel stay with dining credit, Gallagher Bluedorn tickets, assorted gift cards, meals, tools, Cardinals tickets, custom made fire quilt, autographed sports memorabilia, and so much more!

We are still in the window for matching donations up to \$100,000 from the help of RTC Communications. As of April 4, we have raised \$51,099 to be matched. You still have time to double the impact of your donation. Get donations in by June 1 and RTC will match your donation dollar for dollar.

To donate to Readlyn Emergency Services Building, fill out the coupon below.

We are also still accepting donations in the form of bushels through the Readlyn Co-Op.

- Legacy* \$25,000 & up
- Life Saver* \$10,000-\$24,999
- Chief* \$5,000-\$9,999
- Captain* \$1,000-\$4,999
- Lieutenant \$500-\$999
- Cadet \$100-\$499
- Jr. Cadet \$1-\$99

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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

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Wapsie Valley School Board Meeting *March 18, 2024*

Wapsie Valley CSD Public Hearing March 18, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Vice President Sauerbrei called the Public Hearing on the 24-25 School Calendar to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll call-Auel-Aye, Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Sauerbrei-Aye-Wolfe (excused) Motion carried 4-0

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Kaufman, & Sauerbrei, Wolfe (excused)

B. Superintendent Hoover, Secretary Arndt & Principals Forsyth & Myers - Murphy (excused)

C. Others: Jennifer & Vaughn Gross, Kip Ladage, Logan Rochette, Kennedy Kane, Natalie Gray, Danica Aiello, and virtual attendees

2. Hoover presented the 24-25 School Calendar

3. No public comment on the 24-25 School Calendar

4. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 6:32 PM - Roll Call Auel-Aye, Aiello-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Sauerbrei-Aye Motion carried 4-0

Regular School Board Meeting

1. Vice President Sauerbrei called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:37 PM.

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Kaufman, & Sauerbrei-Wolfe (excused)

B. Superintendent Hoover, Secretary Arndt & Principals Forsyth & Myers-Murphy (excused)

C. Others: Jennifer & Vaughn Gross, Kip Ladage, Logan Rochette, Kennedy, Natalie, & Danica Aiello, and virtual attendees

2. Communication & Consideration of additional items for the Agenda: Amended agenda to strike Spotlight on Education and add approval of 24-25 School Calendar under New Business E.

3. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the amended agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

4. Public Comment: Kip Ladage from Bremer County Emergency Management Department discussed the use of WV JH/HS building to host a tabletop exercise. Board members agreed to have the exercise take place at WV JH/HS building. Kip thanked the staff, students, administration at WV. WV leads the pack in school safety.

5. The Prom Committee presented information on having a king/queen royalty for prom. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve queen/king royalty for Prom as presented. Motion carried 4-0

6. Spotlight in Education

7. Consent Items: Moved by Aiello, Sec-

onded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Brent Sauerbrei with informational open enrollments IN for 23-24 school year: Megan Bantz request to open enroll her 10th grade son to WV after a move to Denver-OUT - Patrick Lansing request to general transfer his 11th grade son to Don Bosco effective immediately, Melissa Sander request to open enroll her 10th grade son to CAM CSD school district effective immediately, Heather Holt request to open enroll her 10th grade daughter to Oelwein (O2) effective immediately, & Alexieva Speer request to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to Dunkerton effective the 24-25 school year. Motion carried 4-0

8. Communication & Reports: Board: None.

Superintendent: Mr. Hoover's report included Preliminary PK/TK/K numbers for 24-25 school year, HS Library school mural, facilities work, Bound ticketing, Hoover's 23-24 goals, legislative updates, & our son will be getting married March 30, 2024.

District: Report includes professional development updates

PK-12 Principals: Report includes student led conferences, professional development, PTO family fun night, clothing night, elementary students attending the Addams Family musical, NICL academic conference, professional development, blood drive, spring activities, POPS concert, & FFA district contests.

9. Personnel Actions- Resignations: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the resignation of Abigail Fyfe 7-12 Vocal Music Teacher, Crystal Shedenhelm-Readlyn Elementary Teacher-Certified Early Retirement package, Vivian Wenger-Rural Paraprofes-

sional-Classified Early Retirement package-all effective at the end of the school year and thank them for their service to Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 4-0

Contracts: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve contracts for Clint Munk-.5 Co-Head Golf Coach-Base 1/Year 0-\$1,504, & Emily Ross-Spanish Teacher BA/3-\$40,863 (Contract) + \$5,070 = \$45,933 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

10. New Business-Arndt presented the FY25 preliminary budget, FY25 budget guarantee and FY24 budget amendment. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to publish the proposed budget with a tax rate of 14.97272 & set the public hearing date for the FY25 budget, FY24 budget amendment for April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve WV/CLS 24-25 PK Agreement as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve 24-25 AEA Purchasing Agreement as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve 22-23 audit as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the 24-25 School Calendar as presented. Motion carried 4-0

II. Board Talking Points- Vaughn Gross inquired about Career & Technical Student Organization Sponsors getting paid a salary from Schedule B. Also, Jesup is talking with the state to see if it is possible to share with WV for CTSO-Family Consumer Science school based enterprise.

12. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 7:37PM. Motion carried 4-0

**Deadline for the May 29 Chronicle is
Thurs., May 16 at 5 PM**
Send news items to:
readlynchronicle@gmail.com



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“Turkey Season Success”
The “Snowbird”

By Eric Johnston
ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

As I sit down this month to write my column, cabin fever has set in and I'm dreaming of warm spring mornings of fish being caught and turkeys gobbling and going through their springtime ritual. But, as I've seen over the years, early turkey season can be in not so ideal and comfortable conditions. This month, I break down the story of the “snowbird” and the strategy to harvest the tom on a cold, snowy morning.

The 4:00 a.m. wake-up call was not a very inviting sound as I lay there in bed listening to the wind howl outside the window. I thought to myself, “It's too windy and cold for the turkeys this morning, stay in bed.” It sounded like a good idea for a minute or so. But the Iowa turkey season is only a certain number of precious mornings and you gotta go. I got up and was quickly snapped out of it by my Dad's and Uncle Marv's early morning jokes about staying in bed. We had some coffee and loaded up the truck and were on our way.

My Dad and I had hunted the entire day before with no success in the thirty mile per hour wind. If you could get one to gobble, it was too hard to tell which direction they were, let alone have them hear our calls. We were having a late spring this particular year and winter just seemed to not let go, even by mid-April.

As we headed to the timber, it started to mist and looked like fog. This morning's hunt would be me hunting with my Uncle Marv, and my dad and cousin, Colton, hunting another section of the timber. “Great,” I said as we rolled along. “Now it will be wet and the turkeys won't even gobble for us.” Oftentimes in the rain, turkeys go silent and it makes hunting even tougher because you can't hear their gobbles to reveal their location. Marv, as always, got my head straight quickly, saying “Stop whining, we need to be out there!” Truer words had never been spoken.

By the time we arrived at the location to drop off Dad and Colton, the mist had turned into a steady rain. They got their gear ready and headed out into the dark. Marv and I then headed to where we would set up.

Our setup that morning was a textbook area to shoot an early season gobbler - a small field in a valley surrounded by tall roosting trees along the hillsides. The birds were roosting along the hill and flying down to the field in the morning to strut and seek out hens. This was also a great spot that particular morning to be out of the wind.

We made our way across the field edge to where we would set up. Marv had scouted these birds and knew about where they would be roosting. This morning, I would be trying to get a turkey with my new PSE bow. I was excited as I'd yet to shoot a gobbler with my bow. I had tried for a couple years prior, but had not had any success with closing the deal.

We worked our way quietly to within 100 yards or so of where the birds would be roosted. I set up my Mossy Oak Ameri-step blind and Marv put out a hen and Jake decoy in good visibility to where the birds were roosted. Once we settled in the blind, I opened the windows facing the field and we sat in the dark waiting for daylight. As I sat there listening to the rain drip on the roof of the blind, I thought, “Dad and Colton have to be getting soaked.” They were not in the comfort of a blind like we were and I had only hoped they were under a canopy of a good tree to help them a little bit.

As daylight started to show, it got very quiet, the rain was no longer dripping and it looked foggy. Marv looked at me and said “It's snowing. You could have a rare

chance at getting a bird in the snow.” I couldn't believe it - it was April 16 and it was snowing hard. As it got lighter, our decoys were useless as they now were completely covered in snow and we had yet to hear a gobble.

We waited a long time and finally came a gobble that made us both jump off our seats from being startled. “He's right where I thought he was,” said Marv. He then gave him a couple soft clicks on his



Lynch fool-proof call. I silently thought to myself, “I wonder just how many birds that old call has called in?” To be honest, I couldn't even begin to guess, but I know that number was very substantial! He gave two soft yelps and the big Tom flew

down from the roost and into the field. He came running on a string right to our setup! I couldn't believe how quickly he was coming.

“Get ready!” Marv said and I readied the PSE and got prepared for a shot. The Tom came right into our snow-covered decoys, and I drew my bow. I settled my pin and let the arrow fly. I watched in amazement as my arrow flew ten yards over top of him.

“What happened? It's a fifteen yard shot!” Marv said. I wondered the same thing, I had practiced that shot a thousand times in the back yard. We both sat there in disbelief as the big Tom ran back across the field clucking the whole way.

“Game over,” I said to Marv. I barely got the words out as another Tom gobbled fifty yards away on the timber edge. Apparently, the other gobbler's clucking had fired this bird up. Marv let out a few yelps and this new bird came running. He



stopped right in our decoys and went to full strut.

“Don't miss this time,” Marv said as I went to full draw. I settled my pin and the arrow found its mark this time. The bird ran 15 yards and fell over! High fives and a half bear hug to celebrate!

“We got him, your first turkey bow kill and in the snow even!” Marv hooped. “And you wanted to stay home today?” I was so excited I had to sit and gather my thoughts for a moment.

“Now, what happened on that first shot?” Marv said. Upon examination, in my haste of setting up the blind I did not get the window all the way down and when I took the shot my arrow skipped off the window fabric. As we recovered the bird we celebrated with more high fives. “Dad and Colton,” I yelled. “They're still out in this snow,” I exclaimed.

We quickly gathered up the gear and got moving. They were already at the road when we rolled up with the truck, soaking wet, but happy I had taken a bird with my bow. We headed back to Marv's house and celebrated better once everyone had dried out and warmed up.

With early season turkeys, a lot of the ways we went about this hunt you can use in your tactics. Oftentimes, toms will still be grouped up and roosting fairly close to one another. Pay attention to your entrance routes in the dark as, without the spring foliage growing yet, you will be very visible to birds on the roost.

Don't try to get much closer than 100 yards or so. And soft easy calls is all that's needed early as the birds haven't been pressured too hard yet and it's natural for hens to not be super-aggressive yet.

Most importantly, you need to be out there to take a bird! Don't let foul weather deter you from hunting. Oftentimes, early season weather is not ideal, but the birds are still doing their thing.

I've had a lot of memorable turkey hunts with Uncle Marv, but this one was probably the most memorable. Get out there early in the season this spring with friends and family and make memories - that's what it's all about!

Until next time, Get Outdoors!!





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Farm Credit grants \$25K to Fairbank Fire rescue trailer; project reaches \$80,000 mark

Oelwein Daily Register Staff
As spring is here and some farmers are starting spring nitrogen applications, the Fairbank Fire and EMS Association and department committee that began fundraising last fall for a Rural Rescue Response (R3) Trailer offered a progress update.

Since last fall, the project has reached the \$80,000 mark, meaning a goal to raise at least \$100,000 dollars by May 2024, is approaching reality. Earlier in March, Fairbank Fire Department learned of its receipt of a

grant award from Farm Credit Services for \$25,000. The R3 Committee sought the grant in December.

"We are thrilled and very thankful for this wonderful donation and investment in rural and farm safety right here in the Fairbank area and surrounding communities," FFD R3 Committee Chair Janice Martins said.

The Fairbank Fire Department also was informed that their rescue trailer, being built in Cresco, is on target to be completed by the end of April.

"This is very exciting news," Martins said, indicating the department can now start ordering all the equipment and tools to make the trailer complete for not only grain bin rescues but all large farm equipment and vehicle rescues and emergencies.

Once the trailer is delivered, the department will start training and preparing crews to respond using this specialized apparatus. The department will then invite neighboring fire departments to train alongside them. The goal is to have a multi department Rural

Rescue Response Team, Martins indicated.

"Familiarizing every member of this team with the trailer, the equipment in it, and its proper use is intended to ensure safety of rescue crew members and any

potential victims of rural emergencies," Martins said.

They still have about \$20,000 to raise. Donations can be sent to Fairbank Fire Dept., 301 Grove St., P.O. Box 28, Fairbank, IA 50629.



Presenting a \$25,000 grant award from the Farm Credit Services, Cedar Falls office for the Fairbank Fire and EMS Rural Rescue Response (R3) trailer campaign are Jared Kane, Lori Kane and Ron Oltrogge, who also serves on Readlyn Fire Department. Members of Fairbank Fire and EMS surround them. Pictured from left are: Front row, Elaine Zimmerman, R3 Committee Chair Janice Martins, Jared and Lori Kane. Back row, Adam Bachman, Drake Mangrich, Ryan Westemeier, Tim Zimmerman, Ted Vorwald, Conner Jones, Justin Ritter, Nick Curley, Oltrogge and Dick Chapman. Janice Martins | FFD Courtesy



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