

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

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Volume 16, No. 4, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Denver Forum, Denver, IA, April 26, 2023



2023 Volunteers of the Year Louie and Ron Hartman - Upon receiving the award, Louie humbly said, "It's nice to be recognized."

Hartmans are first Volunteers of the Year

A long-deserved Volunteers of the Year award was presented to ambitious Ron and Louie Hartman at the Readlyn Community Club's Annual Meeting Friday, March 24, at Grumpy's.

Louie and Ron's volunteering began in 1980 when they first moved to Readlyn. They noticed that there was no tornado siren in town. With the help of Louie's Homemaker group, they raised enough money to purchase the present-day siren.

Their next accomplishments: With co-chair Larry Sauerbrei, they not only petitioned that Readlyn be granted their own Little League team but were awarded a \$250 Iowa Betterment award for the town. That same year, and for the next fourteen years, Louie and Ron worked with Ed Brown to research the Right-of-Way deed at the courthouse to extend the Waverly to Denver Bike Trail to Readlyn. After the Readlyn City Council adopted plans, the grand opening of the bike trail occurred six years later. They continue to monitor and maintain funds for the trail.

When the Center Inn was recently up for sale, Ron and Louie took action. They invited possible investors to a meeting in their backyard. As a result of this meeting, the Readlyn Betterment,

LLC was formed; this group purchased and now owns the Center Inn, now called Grumpy's.

Regarding the volunteer work for the Readlyn Community Club (RCC), the list is nearly endless. Louie has been director, secretary, vice president, and president. While president, she and Ron stirred enough interest in Get Energized to win \$10,000; this money was used to install solar panels at the Wapsie Valley Junior Senior High. They initiated the Annual Golf Cart Ride and organized and procured the three Poop Bag stations plus maintain them. Over the years, Louie has been chairperson of RCC's annual meeting, garage sales, Christmas Lighting Contest, Grump Days Parade, and Miss Readlyn Contest. In addition, Louie wrote the initial 501 request and did intense work recently to get the proposal accepted. Finally, for the past fourteen years Ron and Louie have helped decorate and take down fall and Christmas decorations, set up and tear down for Grump Days, worked the beer tent for Grump Days, and helped as needed for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Without a doubt, the Hartmans are an amazing addition to Readlyn. They generously have, and continue to donate, many, many hours of their time to make Readlyn a terrific community.

Community members form new Readlyn Community Fund

The Readlyn Community Fund had been an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa since 2005. To provide a stronger connection and greater local impact, the Readlyn Community Fund has transitioned from a CFNEIA affiliate to its own 501(c)3 organization serving the Readlyn area.

The Readlyn Community Fund is now accepting applications for funding for the 2023-24 grant cycle. Applications for funding will

be due May 15, 2023. To obtain more information, including a funding application, email readlyncommfund@gmail.com.

The Readlyn Community Fund Board Members include: Sharon Davis, Jaci Hogan, Jill Krall, David Matthias, Amy Sheppard, Danny Sickles, Jill Schwickerath, and Kyle Shores. To learn more about how you can donate to support the Readlyn Community Fund, contact any board member.

Spring Clean-Up Days May 1 and 2

Readlyn's "Spring Clean-Up Days" will look a little different this year! There will only be TWO clean-up days!!!

On Mon., May 1, pick-up will include all of 4th Street and all residences to the north (highlighted in pink on the map). On Tues., May 2, pick-up will include all residences to the south of 4th Street (highlighted in yellow on the map).



All items must be at the curb no later than 8:00 am on the day of pick-up! Again this year, items must have a paid sticker on them

prior to pick-up.

This is your chance to get rid of items not taken by regular garbage pick-up. Please have your items at your curb separate from your regular garbage.

No tree stumps, junk car parts, yard waste, animal waste, batteries, concrete, building materials, hazardous materials, paint, oil, solvents, insecticides, or pesticides will be picked up.

We will be charging for pick-up of the following items:

- Car Tire\$5.00
- Major Piece of Furniture\$10.00
- Truck Tire Call for prices
- Mattress\$10.00
- Tractor TireCall for prices
- Box Spring\$10.00
- Appliance w/ Freon (Refrigerator, Dehumidifier, etc.) ...\$15.00
- Carpet\$20/cu. yd
- Bathroom Fixtures\$10.00
- All other Appliances\$12.00
- TV\$15.00
- Grills & Garage Door Openers

-\$10.00
 - Computers\$15.00
 - Swing Sets & Trampolines\$20.00
 - Vacuum cleaner\$10.00
 - Lawn mowers (no riding mower)\$12.00
 - Power washers\$12.00
- Other items will be picked up free of charge. Fees for the above items must be paid **in advance** at City Hall. You will be given a paid sticker & receipt.

**No items longer than 10 feet in length will be picked up.

**Larger items must be taken apart (such as swing sets, trampolines, etc).

** Pick-up of all items is subject to the discretion of the City of Readlyn.

**No recyclable materials.

Call City Hall at 279-3411 if you have any questions, if there is a charge for an item.

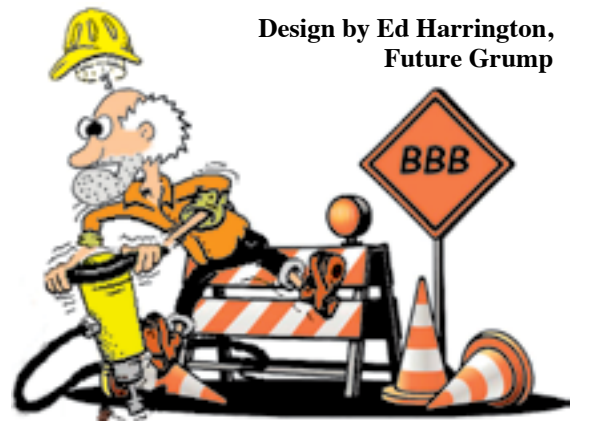
** Payment for items will begin on April 25.

Build Back Better is Grump Days' theme

Partnering with Grumpy's, the Readlyn Community Club is aiming toward a more family-oriented Grump Days' celebration. The park "beer tent" will only be used for programs, card playing, and enjoying vendors' fine food. Grumpy's Event Center will provide the adult beverages and bands at their premises. Also new this year, Kids in the Park will include a foam cannon, bouncy house, sports combo house, slide, and cotton candy machine. A Treasure Island sand pile for kids five and under sponsored by the Readlyn State Bank is another new event.

As in the past, the annual Grumpster's Best Shot Golf Tournament will launch the beginning of the festivities 8:00 am, Friday, June 16, Tripoli Golf Course; call 319-882-4229 to make reservations. The Cattlemen's Association, Scott and Annette Merchant featuring wood-fired pizza, Brazilian, and the Readlyn State Bank vendors will start serving at 4:00 in the City Park. The Wapsie Valley FFA Pedal Pull for ages 10 and under as well as the ever-popular

balloon man, sponsored by Ron and Judy Leistikow, will begin at 5:00. Crowning, 2023 Grump announcement, and Volunteers of the Year recognition begin at 6:00. 7:00 is a busy time. Youth ball games organized by Kyle Shores begin at the baseball



Design by Ed Harrington, Future Grump

diamond, a pepper tournament in the gazebo, and Corey Farley at

Continued on Page 16

City-Wide Garage Sales May 12-13

There is still time to get your sale advertised in our flyers that will be out on Thursday, May 11 at the Readlyn Library and Kwik Star. If you would like to add your sale, please text Jessica Anderson, 319-504-5903 to be added!

For a current list of sales, see page 11.

We're on a Roll!

Our Truck Will Be Accepting Donations At..

Saturday, May 13th, 2023

1-5pm

at the Readlyn City Park

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 319-234-4426

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Grump's Grumblings

By Larry Davelec, 2022 Grump



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Sydney Matthias

Look what I found - a Hard Times token from Readlyn, Iowa.



These tokens were issued by merchants in payment for goods with the agreement that they would be redeemed in goods to an equivalent value at the merchant's store.

The transaction is therefore one of barter, with the tokens playing a role of convenience, allowing the seller to receive his goods at a rate and time convenient for himself, and the merchant to tie the holder of the token coin to his place of business. It was advertising and money to assure the customer's return patronage. When I get the token framed with the story of William Klempe, you can read more about it at the Readlyn Historical Society. This treasure of our history was a long way from Readlyn. How the token ever got to South Carolina we will never know. If only we could have the stories of all this coin's travels.

Hard Times tokens, often with the varied and charming designs, with the interesting subjects, are very collectible. They were big for politics too. Wow, buying votes way back when. I guess history does repeat itself many times over.

I went to one of the every-year events for Grumps to attend - the Readlyn Community Club annual dinner/meeting. We brought my mother (Verdeen Pavelec, the 2010 Readlyn Grump) back to Readlyn from Willow Winds in Denver. She enjoyed a good meal of fish and watching me introduce the new Grump candidates for 2023. It is good to have three candidates. It is hard to believe it is a year since I was a candidate. I hope the candidates are enjoying their time with the Grump experience as I did. I had my photo taken with Jackie, Ed, and Ron in their new Grump visor hats. There was also time for a photo-op with Miss Readlyn, Sydney Matthias. Sydney has been a princess of loveliness to work with this year. It certainly was nice to see a good group

of people there for the Community Club. Remember, everyone is welcome to come and join the community spirit in Readlyn.

On the same weekend, I attended the Bremer County Nature Alliance, fundraising dinner. I had a very good time. My role here was one of the Bremer County Conservation Board Chairman. I got to visit with all the people and still had a few Grump conversations. Many people won nice prizes with the raffle tickets and the dollar fundraising drawings. The Alliance had a very informative presentation from a conservation officer, author/guest speaker Erika Billerbeck. If you didn't make it this year, you missed out on some interesting anecdotes of life as a conservation officer. Keep this in mind for next year. I hope see you there.

Vicki and I are doing prizes for the Community Club Easter egg hunt. We have our neighbors (Duane and Brandy Willcox) going to opt in for us to get those prizes delivered to the Easter egg hunters. Thank you, Duane and Brandy! This Easter we will be spending time in Madison, Wisconsin, celebrating Easter with our oldest son, Derek, his wife, Kristin, and the grand babies. Hopefully everyone was able to spend Easter with their families and love ones. Don't forget the reason why we celebrate Easter. He died for our sins. He is risen. He has risen indeed.

I am really looking forward to when we warm up and I can find some peaceful fishing on the river. Nothing like feeling that little tug on the line. We had plenty of fish for fish fries this winter. You know, they say for every hour you spend fishing you add two hours to your life. I intend to live a long time. "If all politicians fished, instead of spoke publicly, we would be at peace with the world." ~ Will Rogers

The Big Old Grump.



Left to right, 2022-23 Grump Larry Pavelec and Grump candidates Jackie Clemen, Ed Traeger and Ron Hartman. Photo contributed

Hello! I have been super busy this month around the community. I attended the Community Club's annual meeting and helped hand out prizes. The week after I had photo ops with the Easter Bunny at the Easter egg hunt. I always enjoyed attending the egg hunt when I was young-

er.

I decided to not participate in a spring sport, but I am counting down the days until softball starts! Unfortunately it will be my last time in a Wapsie Valley uniform, but I plan on making the best of it!

Sydney

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Readlyn Community Club meets

The Readlyn Community Club met April 1, 2023. Present: Tiffany McCumber, Ed and Michelle Harrington, Bonnie Wittenburg, Louie and Ron Hartman, Brandy Wilcox, Hailey Broten, Marlys and Roger Deterding, Ruth and David Wittenburg, Don Meier, and Pat Wehr

The meeting was called to order by president Michelle.

The secretary's report was emailed earlier. Louie moved and Ron seconded to accept the minutes as emailed; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: The *Chronicle* has a lot of new sponsors, so LaVerne Leistikow's new system of advertising is working well. Bonnie moved to approve the treasurer's report, Tiffany seconded, passed unanimously. We are always accepting new members; just write a \$30 check to Readlyn Community Club and mail it to Readlyn Community Club, P.O. Box 34, Readlyn, IA 50668.

Old Business: Don Meier, veteran and member of the Denver Legion, will take over the Freedom Rock account. Hailey moved and Ed seconded to approve the change; passed unanimously. Ruth suggested possibly reinstating the dedication of the Freedom Rock on Flag Day, June 14. The Easter Egg Hunt was organized by Brandy and Duane Wilcox; 62 donated 788 baskets. The Annual Meeting was well attended. Thank you Ron and Dee Liddle for donating four \$25 Fareway gift certificates and Readlyn Telephone Company for the eight gifts; these door prizes were greatly appreciated. Miss Readlyn Sydney Matthias and Grump candidates, Jackie Clemen, Ron Hartman, and Ed Traeger, were introduced. This year's Volunteers of the Year are Louie and Ron Hartman; congratulations. Grumpy's, fine meal was delicious. Michele moved we donate \$4,000 to the baseball diamond improvements, seconded by Hailey, passed unanimously. Hailey and Tiffany volunteered to organize this year's UTV ride.

New Business: Many ideas were presented regarding attracting younger members. Pat will email the minutes to the *Chronicle* and write articles for the Volunteers of the Year, Easter Egg Hunt, and Grump Days. Flashing Thunder will do a 15-minute fireworks show Friday night of Grump Days; Michele will sign the contract. Tiffany moved and Ed seconded to go with JP Company for Grump Days' inflatables which will include a foam cannon, bouncy house, slide, sports com-

bo house, and cotton candy machine for \$2600; passed unanimously. Ed's company offers a company-matched donation which offers \$250 quarterly. The next Grump Days' meeting will be Thursday, April 20, 6:30, at Bonnie's house.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Wehr, Secretary

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



Delores Meier

Delores Meier celebrates her 95th birthday

It wasn't an April Fools joke when Delores Meier celebrated her 95th birthday on April 1. She was joined by family to help celebrate from Bettendorf, Cedar Falls, Des Moines, Eldridge, Greene, Readlyn, Tripoli, Ventura, and Waverly, all in Iowa, and one family from Papillion, Nebraska. Her actual birthday was Thursday, April 6.

On Thursday, after visiting family, she was presented all kinds of beautiful flowers.

If you see Delores at any time, wish her a very Happy Birthday. You can probably find her playing cards, walking around the condo, or just give her a call - she enjoys that as well.

I want to thank the helpful neighbors and person who helped me when I fell and broke my hip on our driveway on February 6. I spent one week in Sartori Hospital, then seven weeks in Tripoli Nursing and Rehab. I received exceptionally good care from everyone.
-Paul Tiedt, Readlyn

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In the spotlight at RSB

Thank You Nancy

Thank You Cindy

The Readlyn Savings Bank staff & board of directors wish a fond farewell to long-time bank employees, Nancy Kleitsch and Cindy Sauerbri. Thank you for your kind, friendly, and professional service to the bank, the community and your customers over the years. All the best. You will be dearly missed.



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Readlyn's Easter Egg Hunt featured two special guests. Not only did Miss Readlyn, Sydney Matthias, attend, but the Easter Bunny herself joined us.



A great crowd turned out on this beautiful morning for our Easter Egg Hunt organized by Brandy and Duane Wilcox and sponsored by the Readlyn Community Club. A huge thank you to the 62 businesses and people who provided 788 baskets for this event.



Among those enjoying the Easter Egg Hunt were, left to right, Brook Robinson, Hoyt Robinson, Jake Schutte, Korrin O'Brian and Layla Broten.

Readlyn Community Library Kimberly Hollon
 Beth Kingdon
 Lorrie Oldenburger

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The dogs loved it, too!

Readlyn Veterinary Associates PC provided fun for local dogs on April 8 with their own Easter Egg Hunt! Below are some photos from that event.



Donations

In Memory of Jeff Kuhrt
Judy Henn

In Memory of Gene Fuelling
Roger and Connie Buhr

In Memory of Bill Bravener
Barb Meyer

In Memory of Gerry Frisch
Wayne and Susan Buss

In Memory of Jeanette Hesse
Bonnie and Alan Erickson

In Memory of Lavonne
Shirley Kuker

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- Printing/
- Notary Public/Basic
- Graphic Design



Downstairs at Downton

@Readlyn Community Library
Thursday, May 11th @6:00pm

What was life really like below stairs at place like Downton Abbey? Could the chauffeur really marry the daughter of an Earl? Would a maid help move a dead body to protect her mistress' reputation? What about all that free time?

Kathy Wilson presents 'Downstairs at Downton', an exploration of the popular tv series 'Downton Abbey' and how it compares to history.

Afternoon tea, coffee, and cookies will be provided!

Friends, we have recently received a grant that allowed us to work with a library consultant in an effort to make the most of the space we have in our library. Though we have found discounted shelving to make this a possibility, we still need to raise funds to pay for the installation and for some of the updates our consultant has suggested. Our goal is to make space for more materials and increase the services we can provide for you and your families. Thank you so much for all your continued support and we hope that you can help us to bring our plans to fruition! Bake for us if you can; come and buy baked goods if you can't (...or both!)



The Bremer County Health Department holds foot clinics at the Readlyn Library on

Visit Our Webpage @ <https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us/> to view our calendar or chat with a librarian!

Hours:

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

Spring Bake Sale and Social Gathering
 @ the Readlyn Community Library
 Saturday, April 29th @ 9am - coffee, tea & samples provided!

We had such a great time at last year's Cookie Walk, we've decided to host another bake sale to help the library raise some much-needed funds and to give us a reason to come together and visit with one another. Bread, pies, cookies, cupcakes - whatever you enjoy baking the most!

If you're able to donate baked goods to our bake sale, please contact the library to register!

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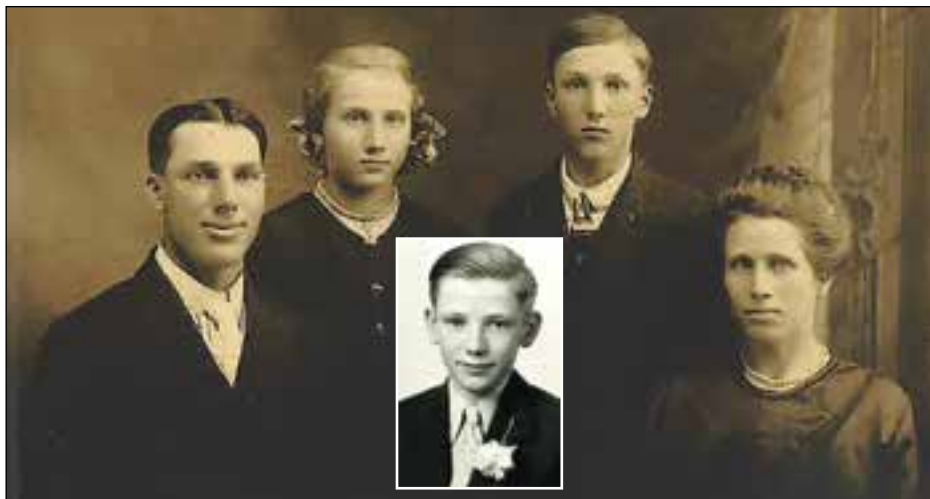


Compiled by Bob Thran

Editor's Note: Read the *Chronicle*, including "Readlyn, Long Ago," online at: <https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us>

Readlyn, Long Ago

More on the life of 'Patent Bill' Schumacher



Left to right: William, Esther, Elmer and Bertha Schumacher. Inset photo: Earl



Schumacher Machine Shop as it was in 1936, the year it was built.

[Editor's Note: William Schumacher was born May 4, 1889 in a farm home located 4 miles west of Readlyn. Will was an inventor and entrepreneur from his early years, acquiring the nickname "Patent Bill." We learned about Patent Bill's early years last month in the *Readlyn Chronicle*. And, now, the rest of the story ...]

After Will's parents moved to Denver in 1908, he and his wife, Bertha, stayed on their farm 4 miles west of Readlyn, near the Chicago Great Western tracks. The second year they were married, Will got a Rambler, the first farmer in Bremer County to own an automobile. The Rambler cost \$2,400. Will's father loaned him some of the money to purchase the automobile. Will sold rides in his automobile to repay his loan.

The farming operation expanded. Will got a thoroughbred calf and bull. He started making tile and tiled his farm a little

each year. He also made tile for other farmers.

He made a threshing machine for use in the neighboring threshing ring. He had a corn shredder.

He invented a simple, convenient barn door latch which he sold at county fairs. He made buttermilk honey that he sold at county fairs. In 1912, he devised a homemade manure loader when the standard method was pitchfork and muscle. In 1918 he was farming with his own homemade tractor by converting a Model T Ford.

In 1920, a fire on the farm destroyed the barn and other buildings. Within two years of the fire, William designed and built a new building, 100' by 68', constructed and divided to replace all the buildings he lost, including the cow barn, hog house, grain bins and silo. Commenting on the barn, a Grundy county farmer, after visiting the Schumacher place, said, "This fel-

low seems to have everything pretty much arranged, does it mechanically. He presses a button and feeds his stock, presses another button and starts his threshing outfit, scatters manure at the rate of twenty miles or more an hour. So far as I can see, he does everything with machinery, except eat."

Will developed a strain of oats he advertised as Schumacher's Oats—gets more bushels per acre—supply limited—phone Denver 5308, or write WM. SCHUMACHER, READLYN, IOWA. Will sold his oats by mail order and at county fairs.

In 1922, a newspaper article entitled, "Bremer County has Second Luther Burbank," told of the 25 visitors who came to his farm to see his "marvelous" oats. The article reads, "Mr. Schumacher entertained twenty-five visitors, eighteen of whom were from states other than Iowa. They came from the grain growing districts of Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan." The article continues, "For sixteen years past, he has been working and experimenting quietly and with infinite patience, and the results he attained are truly marvelous. In 1920, the yield from one variety was 95 bushels to the acre." One variety, a hull-less oat, was a cross between regular oats and Red Turkey wheat.

William and Bertha had three children, Elmer (1910), Esther (1912) and Earl (1929).

The entire family worked on the farm in the summer. In the winter, Will sold threshing machines, shredders and water systems. He also repaired autos and farm machinery in his spare time. On the farm, he installed the only wind-powered electrical generator in the area, furnishing energy for home and shop use. When his daughter, Esther, married a farmer, Everett Hildebrandt, in 1934, the family moved to Denver. Their daughter and son-in-law stayed on the farm. Their son, Elmer, married Ida Schneider in 1935. For a time, they all lived at 128 North Holmes Street. Will and Bertha built a house next door and moved there in 1936. Sons Elmer and Earl worked with them in the machine shop they built in 1936. The men sold and repaired machinery. Bertha was the bookkeeper for the business.

In 1937, Will received a request from Fred Wolf to build an elevator for his hatchery. This marks a great change in his life and the elevator business. Bill and

Bertha traveled all over the United States installing elevators with Bertha working by his side. Elmer and Earl worked in the shop.

Bill retired in 1958, after he had built a thriving elevator business he could pass on to his sons and grandsons. A trip to Europe in 1954 inspired Bill and Bertha to build a Swiss-style chalet house along the creek in Denver. The house, constructed around an elevator, was built in 1958, the year of their golden wedding anniversary. The top floor, with a view of Denver and the creek, was Will's workshop. Here he spent hours "fiddling" with electronic circuits and thinking up new ideas for elevators.

Although retired, Bill's mind continued to be challenged by various problems. He devised an ingenious and effective wood-splitting machine. His mind was also open to human needs. He saw the need for a nursing home to meet the needs of a community like Denver. He and Bertha began to interpret this need to others in the community. His efforts bore fruit in 1965, at a meeting with 41 interested citizens, where the decision was reached to build the Denver Sunset Home.

Bill and Bertha played a role in community and church. Will bought and installed the first public address system in St. Peter Lutheran Church. In his retirement, he made the Denver Sunset Home his primary interest.

Bill did the yard work around the Home. He also provided the maintenance and repair of the heating and mechanical systems until the last year of his life.

William died on February 6, 1977, at the age of 87. Bertha, born Aug. 11, 1889, died on Dec. 2, 1983, at the age of 94.

According to Schumacher Elevator Co. owner Marv Schumacher, his grandfather, who we have referred to as "Patent Bill" Schumacher, never applied for a patent on any of his many innovations. Also surprising, Marv said that Schumacher Elevator owns no patents. Marv explained to me thusly: In applying for a patent the applicant must detail the entire process. Copycats can use this information and, by changing only one minor detail, can legally adapt the process to their own use.

Many thanks to Helen Schumacher for the assistance given to me in writing the articles concerning the generations of the interesting Schumacher family.



Patent Bill was one of the first farmers in the Readlyn area to own a vehicle, a Rambler (above). Ever inventive, he converted a Model T to a tractor (shown below).



News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Students, staff and their families enjoyed Breakfast with Books during Literacy Week.



Guest author Marybeth Boelts visit during Literacy Week.



6th grade DARE graduates are shown with their DARE role models.

Pavelec is guest speaker

Our Bremer County Conservation Board hosted the Iowa County Conservation System's District 2 meeting on March 29.

It started with a tour of Kay Park Recreation in Janesville, showing off the products available for the county parks. Then it was off to Eagle Lodge at Ingawanis Woodland (Bremer County wildlife area) for updates and business meeting. After lunch, Andy Hockenson (Bremer County Conservation Board Director) introduced Larry Pavelec (Bremer County Conservation Board Chairman) as the guest speaker.

Pavelec's theme was getting our kids involved in the outdoors is a fun part of our county parks' programs. He addressed the group on how the county youth program could provide recreational and educational opportunities in the outdoors for find-

ing Iowa gold by panning. He described locations where to look for gold in Iowa and how, through the years, he has demonstrated the use of a gold pan as a recreational activity for Iowa's youth.

When Larry was growing up in the Readlyn area, outside nature activities was the norm. There were no computers in Larry's life until he was in college and then the computers were as big as a house - no punching keys on a laptop. At Wartburg he ran punch cards through a card reader the size of a desk. Now an American child spends about 4 to 7 minutes a day playing outside and over 7 hours a day in front of a screen.

There is gold to be found in Iowa, but Iowa's real treasure is keeping the kids involved in nature and the outdoors, which is an important job of the Iowa County Conservation System.



A trip to Helping Hands Clothing Closet was part of the service project field trip.



Left to right: Calvin Steere, Butler County; Matt Crayne, Chickasaw County; Dusti Doty, Worth County; Heaven Walker, Worth County; Nick Franzen, Bremer County; Jim Hanson, Worth County; Kendall Stumme, Kossuth County; Madison Beenken, Kossuth County; Annette Wittrock, Butler County; Adam Sears, Bremer County; Jason Lackone, Hancock County; Angie Auel, Bremer County; Brett Backhaus, Worth County; Ryan Sindelar, Howard County; Craig Fenci, Howard County; Skyler Foley, Howard County; Larry Pavelec, Bremer County; Justin Van Driel, Chickasaw County; Calos Civerello, Heather Gamm, Bremer County; Chad Humpal, Chickasaw County; Chad Price, Butler County; Jeff Korsmo, Howard County; Cale Edwards, Hancock County; Michael Weideman, Bremer County; Connor Bailey, Hancock County, and photographer Andy Hockenson, Bremer County.

Deadline for May 31 Readlyn Chronicle is Thursday, May 18 at 5 PM
Send news to: ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

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Obituary

Eugene Louis Matthias

Eugene Louis Matthias, 87, of Denver, Iowa, passed away Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Denver Sunset Home.



Eugene was a devoted husband to his wife, Jan, great dad to his four children and beloved grandfather. Eugene farmed outside Readlyn, Iowa, on the family farm that was homesteaded in 1853 by his great-grandfather, Wilhelm Matthias. He retired from farming in 2020. Eugene also made sure he had time for hunting, fishing and trapping with many good friends. He took memorable outdoor trips to Alaska, Canada and national parks out west. Eugene enjoyed growing watermelons, making caramel candy, and being there for his children's and grandchildren's 4-H and sporting events. Eugene was a director at the Readlyn Savings Bank for 32 years. He served as Maxfield Township Trustee for 20 years. He faithfully served the congregation at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger in a number of roles, including school board member, financial secretary, trustee, and deacon.

Eugene was born on October 30, 1935, in Waverly, Iowa, the son of Lorenz and Regina (Mickan) Matthias. He was baptized in his parent's home and was confirmed on April 10, 1949, at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger. He attended Immanuel Lutheran Parochial School and

then attended Denver High School, graduating in 1953. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Wartburg College in 1957. He served his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and then served in Fort Gordon, Georgia. Eugene served a little over five years in the Army Reserves. He was united in marriage to Janice Malquist on August 27, 1961, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hector, Minnesota.

Eugene is survived by his wife, Jan Matthias of Denver; a daughter, Laurie (Scott) King of Malibu, California; a son, Michael (Michelle) Matthias of Readlyn, Iowa, and their children, Max and McCoy; a daughter, Gina (Brent) Kuker of West Union, Iowa, and their children, Jocelyn, Braxton and Brayden; a daughter, Mindy Muzzarelli of Lantana, Texas, and her children, Ryder and Annabelle; two sisters-in-law, Elaine Matthias of Tucson, Arizona, and Marcie (Dana) Allen of LeSueur, Minnesota. He is predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Wendell (Elaine) Matthias and Warren Matthias.

Visitation was Monday, April 17, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver. A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger with Pastor Jon Ellingworth officiating. There was also an hour of visitation on Tuesday prior to the service at the church. Burial was held at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Denver Sunset Home or Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver assisted the family.

Wapsie Valley Class of 1961 reunion

Wapsie Valley Class of 1961 reunion is planned for June 10 at the Readlyn Park Gazebo at noon. Bring your lunch or something to share.

Pass the word along! If you know some-

one or a relative of one of these students, please let them know. Any questions or comments, call Kurt Lehmkuhl at 612-269-5939.

Thank you!

Pepper Tournament held April 1

The last pepper tournament of the season was held April 1 at Grumpy's. The winners and their scores were:

1st - Doris Hagenow and Therese Schumacher - 238

2nd - Roger and Connie Buhr - 172

3rd - Barb Meyer and Grace Kuethe - 162

4th - Joan Matthias and Judy Henn - 133

Thanks for playing and hope to see you in October!

Shirley Kuker and Judy Henn

**Deadline for the May 31, 2023
Readlyn Chronicle is
Thurs., May 18 at 5 PM Send news to:
readlynchronicle@gmail.com**



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Parkview

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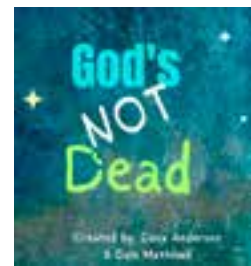
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SPRING MUSICAL

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Wednesday, May 3rd

6:30pm

Klinger Gym

Preschool students will take the stage at 6:30pm followed by the kindergarten through sixth grade students.

Ice cream sundaes fellowship afterwards sponsored by the CLS PTO.

CLS Mission Statement- "Providing a Christian environment for a quality education while inspiring students to go forth living Christ-centered lives as witnesses of the one true faith in God's Kingdom."



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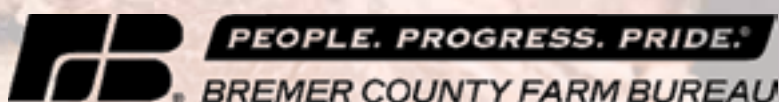
To celebrate **National Beef Month** in May, **BREMER COUNTY FARM BUREAU** is giving away one beef package valued at **\$100** each week.

To learn more about the beef industry, the value of beef in your diet, and to register for the give-a-way contest, scan the QR code at right to answer trivia questions.



You must provide a name, phone number, and email address to be eligible.

No membership is required.



Immanuel Lutheran: Community faith, community project

After years of playing basketball and other sports outdoors (see the March 2023 article in the *Readlyn Chronicle* for more information) and regular feedback from students, the Immanuel congregation voted to tackle a large upgrade to our school and church facility in 1999. Ground-breaking on the project was held in June. The project included adding a computer

classroom, a full gymnasium, commons area with a full kitchen, restrooms and storeroom. Building Committee members were Norbert Schmidt, Melvin Diercks, Ken Hesse, Ed Steinbronn, Bruce Huebner, Jeff Schutte, led by Rick Huebner as chair. Meyer Construction from Sumner, IA was hired for the project.

One of the joys of this project was

the involvement of volunteers from the Readlyn area community. Many volunteer hours were given to defray the cost of the project not only from Immanuel members but also from members of St. Paul's, Readlyn and other community members.

Bleachers for the gym were removed from UNI's West Gym and refinished by volunteers in Ron and Shirley Schweer's shop before installation in the gym. The gym floor was also installed by volunteers from Immanuel and St. Paul. Gym floor lines were painted by Dan Blaylock. The

project was a great addition when finished! Many church dinners, tournaments and games and performances have been held in the new gym since its completion. In addition, it's a great place for physical education classes and recess during inclement weather.

Immanuel's congregation paid for this project in five years. And, the CLS-PTO have held basketball tournaments and dodgeball tournaments with proceeds directed to Immanuel to help fund the ongoing utility costs of the new addition.



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Pastor Block led the groundbreaking service and the Building Committee took the first shovels of soil to break ground.



Photos depict building progress including refinishing bleachers.

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The Contest ~ Harvest 2022

On Thursday, February 23, 2023 at Grumpy's Readlyn Event Center, the awards banquet was held for the 32nd Annual Readlyn Savings Bank & American Savings Bank Bremer County Master Corn & Soybean Growers' Yield Contest: a.k.a. "The Contest." Years ago, there were a number of such county yield contests but today "The Contest" is the only one of its kind in Bremer County – and perhaps the entire state of Iowa.

Sponsored by Readlyn Savings Bank, The Contest is a friendly competition between area farmers. The Contest Banquet provides Bremer County area farmers an evening of camaraderie and celebration of the previous year's harvest: Harvest 2022. The Banquet, held annually before spring, was graciously hosted by Grumpy's bar staff with Frederika Locker providing a superb prime rib buffet dinner and dessert.

Traditionally, to help kick things off, the first award of the night is always the Vernon L. Tonne Spirit of the Contest Award. The Award annually honors the long-time, enthusiastic and good-natured participation of the Master Grower who exemplifies The Spirit of the Contest. "The Vernon" this year went to Brian Pottebaum. Pottebaum and his PRime Ag Services business partner, Steve Rathe have been participating for many years. The Spirit Award recognizes Pottebaum's enthusiasm for The Contest as well as his passion for farming and dedication to his clients' success.

Following dinner, the bank heard from agronomist Levi Bergmann with Farmers' Coop in Readlyn. Bergmann visited with approximately 50 banquet attendees regarding trends in the fertilizer and applications markets. Bergmann recently joined the coop in Readlyn after previously working out of Fredericksburg. The Banquet provided The Contest participants the opportunity to welcome Levi and his wife Tara to the Readlyn community.

To wrap up the evening, Bank officers Doug Sheppard, Andrew Sexton and Ed Traeger presented the Harvest 2022 awards. The Bank was also represented by Dani Sauerbrei, Renee Reeves, and bank director, LaVerne Leistikow.

Harvest 2022 consisted of a total of 25 different farmers conducting 32 yield checks in the 4 Contest Divisions: 10 conventional corn, 9 no-till corn, 4 conventional beans and 9 no-till beans. The Contest's official yield checker, Charlie Albrecht, certifies each yield entry while his wife Wilda accompanies him to take beautiful harvest-time photos. Charlie collects data on such variables as seed company brand and hybrid number, traits, dates of planting and harvesting, row spacing, population, as well as applications of fertilizers, herbicides, and fungicides. But ultimately the determining factor to winning The Contest is bushels per acre.

Highlights from the results include Lois Peters winning top honors in Conventional

Beans with a yield of 85.42 bushels per acre which counts as the 5th best bean yield in the history of The Contest and earning her title of "The Queen of Beans." Not to be outdone, Marty Tegtmeier, the 2019 Vernon winner, was this year's Grand Champ in No-Till Beans posting an incredible yield of 98.94 which counts as the #1 bean yield in the history of The Contest. Meanwhile, both Corn Divisions posted an average yield over 250 bushels per acre for only the 3rd time in Contest history. The high yields combined with the fact that it was one of the most idyllic and beautiful harvest seasons in recent memory definitely make 2022 a Harvest to remember.

In closing, the Bank's representatives congratulated the winners and thanked all the farmers who entered The Contest as well as again thanking everyone who attended and made the evening possible.

Readlyn Savings Bank (including American Savings Bank in Tripoli, a branch of Readlyn Savings Bank) specializes in agricultural lending, as well as commercial, consumer, and real estate loans. The local, independent Bank is dedicated to the communities they serve and is proud to keep the tradition of The Contest going. Anyone interested in more information about The Contest may contact Doug Sheppard at Readlyn Savings Bank at 319-279-3321 or Andrew Sexton at American Savings Bank at 319-882-4279.

The Top-3 yields and average yield in each Division of The Contest for Harvest 2022:

No-Till Beans

Farmer	Seed	Hybrid	Yield
Marty Tegtmeier	Pioneer	23A15X	98.94
Jeremy Ebaugh	Channel		90.96
Curt Brandt	Channel	2320	89.16
Contest Avg.	9	farmers	84.32

Conventional Beans

Farmer	Seed	Hybrid	Yield
Lois Peters	Pioneer	23A15X	85.42
S&M Farms	NK	S23-G5X	85.30
Hesse Brothers	Croplan		84.47
Contest Avg.	4	farmers	84.17

No-Till Corn

Farmer	Seed	Hybrid	Yield
Spring Center Farm	Pioneer	1185AM	281.64
Jason Moellers	Stine	NK 709-20	261.31
John Moellers	Stine	442	258.20
Contest Avg.	9	farmers	252.33

Conventional Corn

Farmer	Seed	Hybrid	Yield
Eric Smith	Wyffels	5510	290.49
Dustin Smith	Pioneer	0953	288.68
Mike Reiter	Pioneer	1185	286.16
Contest Avg.	10	farmers	258.53



Levi Bergmann with Farmers Co-op in Readlyn was the featured speaker at the 32nd Annual Readlyn Savings Bank/American Savings Bank Bremer County Master Corn & Soybean Growers' Yield Contest: aka "The Contest."



Readlyn Savings Bank's Doug Sheppard presents the No-Till Bean Champs (L-R): Marty Tegtmeier, Jeremy Ebaugh, and Curt Brandt.



RSB's Andrew Sexton & Doug Sheppard present the Conventional Corn Champs Awards accepted by friends of the winners who were not present: Eric Smith, Dustin Smith, and Mike Reiter.



RSB's Andrew Sexton presents the Harvest 2022 Vernon L. Tonne Spirit of the Contest Award to Brian Pottebaum with Prime Ag Services.



RSB's Andrew Sexton presents the No-Till Corn Champs (L-R, above): John Moellers, Jason Moellers, and Dean Buhr.



RSB's Doug Sheppard presents the Conventional Bean Champs (L-R, at left): RSB's Andrew Sexton accepts for Hesse Brothers, Lois "Bean Queen" Peters, and Mitchell Boevers.



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Jennifer Jaschen, Attorney at Law

4817 University Avenue, Suite D
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
jaschenlaw@outlook.com
319-553-3400

Obituaries

Janette "Fuzz" L. Hesse

Janette "Fuzz" L. Hesse, 72, of Readlyn, Iowa, and formerly of Plainfield, passed away on April 6, 2023, at UnityPoint Hospital, Allen Memorial in Waterloo.



Janette Hesse

Janette was born on February 25, 1951, in Nabers, Nebraska, the daughter of Lester and Fern (Bowlough) Fernau. Janette grew up in Nebraska until her family moved when she was nine

to the Plainfield area. She graduated from Plainfield High School in 1969. Janette was united in marriage to Doyle Woodman on June 9, 1969, at the First Baptist Church in Plainfield. Doyle passed away on April 9, 2000. Janette was united in marriage to Craig Hesse on August 14, 2004, at the First Baptist Church in Plainfield.

Janette worked with the Nashua-Plainfield schools for 22 years, where she started as a teachers aid. She later became head secretary with the school and retired in 2010. Janette enjoyed being outside and could be found planting flowers and working in her gardens. She took great pride in taking care of the house and the yard. She also helped Craig with the farming when needed. She was an avid Hawkeye fan. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Janette is survived by her husband, Craig Hesse of Readlyn; two sons, Tim (Jenny) Woodman of Plainfield and Wes (Christo Liesto) Woodman of Readlyn; five grandchildren, Zach, Kaylynrae, Ellie, Bradie, and Grace; three sisters, Joann Norwood, Sandy Nieman and Janice Dietz.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, Doyle Woodman, a brother, Ted, and two sisters, Debbie and Tammie.

There was a visitation on April 11 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls where there was one hour of visitation prior to the service. Burial of her cremains will be held at a later date in Sunnyside Cemetery in Charles City. Memorials may be directed to the family and online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

Lavonne Oltrogge

Lavonne Oltrogge, 80, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Friday, March 31, 2023, at North Crest Specialty Care, Waterloo, Iowa.



Lavonne Oltrogge

Lavonne was born on September 7, 1942, in Waverly, Iowa, the daughter of Ewald and Eyla (Geffert) Kueker. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Artesian. She graduated from Waverly High

School in 1960. Following high school, she became employed at Lutheran Mutual, Waverly. On June 30, 1963, she was united in marriage to Delbert Oltrogge at St. Paul's Lutheran, Artesian. She continued to work at Lutheran Mutual until 1971 at which time she became actively involved with Delbert on the family farm. In 1978 she became the church secretary at Zion Lutheran Church, Readlyn. She was the secretary for 43 years, retiring in 2021.

She enjoyed cooking and baking and especially loved spending time with family and friends. She loved attending many of the grandchildren's activities.

Lavonne is survived by her husband Delbert of Readlyn, Iowa; two daughters, Lori (Nick) Wiley of Denver, Iowa; Janette (Derek) Young of Wallingford, Iowa and a son, Brian (Erin) Oltrogge of Readlyn, Iowa; six grandchildren, Kayla Wiley, Jennifer Wiley, Dylan Young, Dalton Young, Donovan Young and Brenden Oltrogge; a brother Eldon (Jan) Kueker of Waverly; and brothers-in-law, Veryl Buchholz of Tripoli, Gene Hyman and Philip Oltrogge (Sherry Gable) both of Waterloo; sisters-in-law, Susan (Gaylen) Rundle, Oelwein and Jane (John) Cocuzzi, San Angelo, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Donald (Barbara) Kueker, a sister, Marlene Buchholz and two brothers in infancy. She was also preceded in death by her brother and sisters-in-law, Daphne (Donald) Lundt, Ilene Blume, Doris Hyman, Iris (Jack) Wilhelm and Karen Oltrogge.

Services were at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 6, Zion Lutheran Church, Readlyn with burial in the church cemetery. Visitation was held at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn on Wednesday, April 5 from 3-7 PM and for one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials may be directed to Zion Lutheran Church, UnityPoint Hospice or Readlyn EMS building fund. Condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com. Kaiser Corson Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Allen "Ace" Leo Wilharm

Allen "Ace" Wilharm, 86, of Sumner, died Thursday, April 6, 2023, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 AM, Wednesday, April 12, 2023, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sumner with Rev. Tanner Post officiating. Interment followed at Lutheran Cemetery of Sumner Township, rural Sumner. Visitation was held from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Tuesday, April



Allen Wilharm

11 at Becker & Son Funeral Home in Sumner and for one hour preceding services at the Church on Wednesday. Becker & Son Funeral Home in Sumner assisted Allen's family. Online condolences may be left at www.beckermilnesrettig.com.

Allen Leo, son of Leonard and Ella (Kirchoff) Wilharm was born September 1, 1936. He was baptized and confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Sumner. On June 20, 1959, he was united in marriage with Joan Bruch at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sumner. To this union three daughters were born, Connie, Julie, and Bonnie. Allen worked at John Deere Tractor Works in Waterloo for thirty-four years, retiring in 1992. He was a longtime faithful member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sumner, where he served as trustee for many years. Allen enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing Schafkopf, and helping with farmwork in the spring and fall, running the big John Deere equipment. He had many things he enjoyed, but his greatest joy came from time spent with family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Allen is survived by his wife, Joan of Sumner; three daughters, Connie (Dan) Heinemann of Sumner, Julie (Todd) Drewis of Tripoli, and Bonnie (Steve) Elliott of Crofton, Maryland; five grandchildren, Josh Hennings, Jacy (Laura) Heinemann, Kahri Wernimont, Chris (Emily) Elliott, and Kelsey (Toivo) Tamm; two step-grandchildren, Andrew (Jenny) Drewis and Austin (Lindsay) Drewis; three great-grandchildren, Gage and Fletcher Heinemann, and Willow Tamm; five step-great-grandchildren, Bentley, Kinsley, and Knoxley Drewis, and Ava and Riggs Drewis; brother, Larry (Carol) Wilharm of Sumner; two sisters-in-law, Bernice Wilharm of Sumner and Gerry Wilharm of Oelwein; brother-in-law, Jerome (Norma) Leach of Fredericksburg; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandson-in-law, Aaron Wernimont; four sisters, Erma (Gerald) Hoth, LaVonne (LaVern) Thurm, Darlene Meyer, and Vera Leach; and three brothers, Marvin and Donald Wilharm and one brother in infancy.

Steven Carl Lundberg

Steven Carl Lundberg, 60, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at UnityPoint-Allen Memorial in Waterloo after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.



Steven Lundberg

Steve was born October 22, 1962, in Boone, Iowa, the son of Alvin and Alene (Zimmerman) Lundberg. He graduated from Hudson High School in 1982, where he participated in football, wrestling

and FFA. He attended Iowa Central Community College and later received his CDL Training Certificate from Hawkeye Tech in Waterloo. He was united in marriage to Denise Sweet on June 21, 1986, in Manson, Iowa. After their marriage, the couple lived in the Waterloo where Steve worked for Prairie Construction and Anderson Trucking.

In 1992, the couple moved to the Readlyn area and Steve started working for Wittenburg Truckline. He became well known in the area while working for the Farmers Coop in Readlyn, which became his second family. Known as Big Steve or Lundy, the area farmers would request Steve for their transports, and he was always willing to visit.

Steve's greatest joy was being a father and spending time with his family. He was a huge fan of NASCAR and his favorite driver was Jeff Gordon. He also enjoyed fishing and hunting.

Steve is survived by his wife, Denise Lundberg of Readlyn; a son, Connor Lee (fiancée, Caitlyn Sires) Lundberg of Cedar Falls; a daughter, Charlotte Sunmoon (Davon Higgins) Lundberg of Evansdale; a sister, Becky (Greg) Nook of Parkville, Missouri; a brother, Kirk (Pennie) Lundberg of Hudson; a brother, Jim (Dené) Lundberg of Floyd; a sister, Jane (Paul) Clowser of Waukee; a brother-in-law, Dallas (Patty) Sweet of Gilbert, Arizona; a sister-in-law, Twila Sweet of Marion; his nieces and nephews, Jared (Debbie) Nook, Carissa (Bernardo) Delao, Caroline Lundberg, Alison (Andrew) DeBoer, C.J. (Tori) Harcus, Amanda (Marcus) Wherle, Natasha Lundberg, Bryce Lundberg, Caleb (Lauren) Lundberg, Ross Clowser, Anna Clowser, Dustin Sweet, and Danielle Sweet, along with several great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his father and mother-in-law, Dennis and Irene Sweet; a great nephew, Blake Lundberg and a great niece, Naya Harcus.

A memorial service was held at 12 noon on Monday, April 3, 2023, at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly with Sedrick McIntosh officiating. There was a memorial visitation from 10 am to 12 pm at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to the family for a later designation. Online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly assisted the family.

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ATTENTION: Coming in June - 2024 Calendar featuring Readlyn pictures - 120 years

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Schneider402 5th Street Place, Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Women's clothes, shoes and home décor

Anderson/Franzen 236 E 5th St., Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Girls' clothes 0-3T, Toys, Women's clothes, home décor and so much more.

Hogan/Mummelthei TruServe - 123 W 1st St, Readlyn Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm
 Clothes, décor, kids toys, furniture - something for everyone!

Boevers/Matthias/Crawford607 Westview Dr., Readlyn Fri: 4-8 pm Sat: 7-1pm
 Lots of home décor, juniors clothing - brand name, women's plus size, men's clothing, kids toys, clothes, books, etc.

Harrington326 Main Street, Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Misc. items

Kuker 602 Westview Drive, Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Large Glass bowls and containers, TV, space heater, outside tools like rakes, weed eater, etc.

Wittenburg/Becker.312 Lobeck Ave, Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Lots of small kids clothes, adult clothes size small and medium, TV stand, 2 almost new kitchen chairs and so much more.

Ritzman242 W Clark Street, Readlyn
 Fri: 2-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Hightop Kitchen Table w/ 2 seats, white wicker cabinet with 4 drawers, white cabinet with 5 shelves, desk, hutch, office desk, smart TV Stand, 32 inch Samsung TV, Set It and Forget It Rotisserie Oven, Baby swing and bouncer, Luggage (2 pieces), Lawn hose reel cabinet, lots of decor - inside and outside, women's name brand clothes, lots of misc.

Brocka 600 Parkview Drive, Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Infant girls through 2T, toys, all holidays décor, men's and women's and teen clothing, camp stove, eureka tent, camp lantern, pressure washer, kitchen items and so much more.

VanNatta/Albers ...445 Goodell Ave, Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Baby girls and boys newborn-3T clothes, girls shoes newborn-size 10, woman's shoes, woman's and men's brand name clothes, house decorations, movies. KamilleMarieCollection will be here too!

Boevers/Schutte606 Parkview Drive, Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Toys, home décor, kids clothes and so much more

Leistikow2761 220th St, Tripoli - one mile north of HWY 3 by Readlyn
 Fri: 4-8pm Sat: 7-1pm - Lots of boys newborn-3T clothing, cribs, high chairs, lots of baby items, baby and kids toys, NEW kitchen cupboards, new hand made pot holders with towels and table runners, men's clothing size m-2x, women's clothing size L-2x, holiday items, and tons of misc for everyone.

Neegaard 217 Willmont Ave, Readlyn
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By: Eric Johnston

"Turkey Hunting"

ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com

Hello readers! It's currently spring turkey season in Iowa and I thought, to keep that excitement fired up and pass along a few tips, I would take you through a successful turkey season of the past.

The alarm startled me out of a sound sleep; as I sat up I thought, "Here comes another day of work." I had been putting in so many hours at work I had forgotten what day it was. It took me a second to realize I had a day off and it was opening day of Iowa's second season turkey! I was instantly wide awake as the thought popped in my head. I had everything ready to go the night before and it didn't take long to get on the road! I barely had time for a few sips of hot coffee and I was at the entrance to the little lane to access where I would be hunting.

As I eased down the lane in the darkness, an owl flew down out of a tree right in front of the hood of my truck. Any sleepiness that was left had now exited the building! As I neared the timber, I shut off the headlights to not "shine" the timber and spook any roosted turkeys. I quietly exited the truck, slid on my turkey hunting vest, grabbed a few shells and quietly loaded my shotgun.

Being short on time this season, I elected to gun hunt for turkeys this year and forgo the bowhunting until deer season. As I left the truck, the woods were dead calm; with every step I felt as though I was spooking everything in the timber. I had been watching a flock of turkeys all winter in this area through trail cams and from a distance with binoculars. This is the second spring I had been turkey hunting these properties, so I had a very good idea where the birds roosted each night and where they wanted to go when they flew down. I wanted to get close to their roost and, with every painful step, I hoped I wasn't spooking them.

As I rounded a corner of a thick hedge to begin the final 100 yards of my walk into the river bottom, an owl let out a loud series of hoots, and a big ol' tom instantly responded with a thundering gobble! He was roosted exactly where I thought they would be. "Game on," I thought to myself as I slowly and carefully made my way to where I wanted to position myself. This month, I'm going to take you through probably one of the more successful and short Iowa turkey seasons I can remember.

Alright, back to the story. I carefully worked my way in the dark through the thick underbrush to where the timber opened up in the river bottom. As I stepped down into the low ground, I was home free and knew I wouldn't spook the birds as the ground was now mostly sand and I could move quietly. I eased to within 75 yards of where the birds were gobbling. As I sat down against a tree, more turkeys started gobbling. I could hear six different toms up in the trees. The timber began to wake up, with the turkeys gobbling, birds chirping, and rooster pheasants crowing in the distance.

As the woods started to get lighter, I knew the toms would soon fly down. I let out three soft yelps with my mouth call and all six toms gobbled back at the same time, truly music to my ears! I decided to not call anymore as they knew where the "hen turkey" was at. Soon after I began to hear the sounds of wingtips brushing against tree limbs and the turkeys were on the ground. I had no idea the show I

was about to take in.

One by one, I started to spot each bird on the ground. Usually patience is something I struggle with, but, this particular morning, I kept telling myself, "Take it all in and you'll get a chance." The toms were on the ground for a few minutes and about 75 yards in front of me when the hens started to hit the ground. Soon I was literally surrounded by turkeys, they were dropping in everywhere and, to my count, I had 26 hens and six toms all around with some jakes mixed in. All six toms were now full strut about 60 yards out and all together. It was like a painting with the sun backlighting their fans from the east. They kept strutting as the hens moved around and scratched in the leaves. Eventually, the hens started to make their way to the west as I had seen them do many times on my trail cameras. The toms were soon to follow.

The hens all passed by me at 35 - 40 yards and my heart was racing, it was all I could do to stay still. Typically, I don't get too nervous anymore around turkeys, but this hunt had me worked into a frazzle! As the toms started to take the same path the hens did, I readied myself for the shot. As the lead tom stepped into an open lane, I clicked off the safety, let out a couple loud clucks to get him to poke his head up, aimed, and fired! The big tom turned and ran away....

"What happened?" I thought. I could not believe it, I had missed... with a shotgun at 40 yards. I was stunned, I didn't know what to think for a moment, I had this beautiful show and I ruined the moment. I sat there for awhile and reflected on my shot.

I came to the conclusion that I was so worked up with excitement in that moment, I didn't settle the gun before I pulled the trigger. As I walked back to the truck, I started to feel better as I realized I had a wonderful show in the timber and now I would get to go again in second season! I gave the timber a rest for a day, as I had spooked all those birds.

My next hunt would be Sunday morning. My plan was to get right back near the same roosting area and get just a bit closer to change the shot from 40 yards to hopefully around 20 yards. Sunday morning came a bit

warmer with a small chance of rain so I knew I needed to make it happen before the rain arrived. I was up around 4 am and made my way to the timber. I had a slight breeze so my walk in was a little easier as the wind helped conceal my noise. I carefully made my way through the darkness using a small light here and there to avoid tree limbs and sticks on the ground. It had warmed up enough since Friday that I had broke a sweat by the time I neared the area I wanted to set up. As I sat down and readied my calls, a tom gobbled loud. Only problem was, I now felt too close to the roosting area. He was a mere 30 yards from where I was sitting!

Getting too close can be a big problem. While on the roost, a turkey's constantly scanning the ground with their best defense, their eyes. I now had to remain completely still until he flew down. As the glow to the east started to become more light, I could see turkeys all around me in the trees. Three of them were gobblers and the rest, hens and jakes. When one would gobble, all three would gobble! It was a thunderous rock concert in the timber; when all three gobbled it was so loud

being that close, I could almost feel it in the ground. My heart was pounding and the tension was high as I waited for them to fly off roost to the ground. All three toms were right in front of me in plain view. I kept thinking to myself, take your time on the shot.

As the timber woke up, the turkeys began stretching their wings and moving around on the tree limbs. The first tom that gobbled started to bob and lean out and down he came - he hit the ground about 40 yards to my left. I let out just a couple soft yelps hoping to not spook the birds still on roost and he gobbled along with the two toms still in the tree. He went into full strut and started to come right at me. I could hear him spit drumming as he neared. I clicked off the safety as he crossed the 30-yard mark. He was still full strut, so I let out some loud putts on my mouth call. He went out of strut and poked his head up. I settled the bead of my shotgun and fired. He was done right where he

stood.

The other birds still in the trees were flying everywhere away, spooked. As I walked up to the tom, I just slowed down and took the moment in. I tagged him and set up my phone for pictures. As I slowly walked back to the truck, the rain started to fall. I had gotten it done before the rain and was back at the house by 7:00 am.

I now had the two-week wait for 4th season to arrive. In Iowa, a hunter is allowed two turkey tags and my next tag was 4th season. As the day neared for 4th season, my wife,

Aubrey, and I did a lot of driving the gravel roads to watch the turkeys from a distance to see how their patterns and movements were changing as the spring rolled on. Aubrey doesn't hunt, but she loves to help in the scouting process. The night before the next hunt, we spotted some toms in the same area as my previous hunts so I knew they were still using the same routine and the plan was set to once again be in there early and get near their roost.

The alarm went off much earlier now that May neared. Although tired, I was fired up to get back in the timber. Much like before, I eased down the lane with the truck, carefully not shining the timber with my headlights. This morning was much warmer than 2nd season and I felt very mobile with the fewer layers I needed to wear. The plan was the same and the timber was once again so calm the old cliché, "You could hear a pin drop" is needed to describe it. I slowly made my way carefully, every step deliberate and thought out in hopes of not being too loud and spooking everything. I made my way to a nice tree that gave me great cover and was fairly close to where I thought they were roosted. This morning however, was different.

The day before was very windy out of the northwest and, when the first gobble came in the predawn darkness, the tom was roosted across the river. As I sat there, I hoped when the other birds gobbled one would be on my side of the river. Soon after five different toms were gobbling and all on the other side. The windy day before had repositioned where they roosted.

I started to think this hunt might be a bust. In my experience it has been very difficult over the years to call a tom across water once he's on the ground. I had thought about moving closer to the river, but decided to be patient and listen to where they went after they flew down. The gobbling was once again thunderous through the river bottom. I let out a couple soft yelps with my mouth call and all the toms immediately responded with gobbles. I began to have hope I might have a chance to get one to fly from roost to my side of the river.

My hopes were dashed as I could tell from the change in tone of their gobbles they were now on the ground. I let out a series of fairly loud calls and one of the toms quickly responded. I kept my eyes locked towards the river that was around 75 yards away from my position. I soon saw the flutter of wing tips, the tom had flown across to my side! I readied my gun towards his path and took in the show.

The big tom came up the river bank and went into full strut, the glow from the east of the not yet risen sun backlit his fan to make what looked like a painting. He gobbled and looked for the "hen" (me) he had heard. He went out of strut and quickly started coming to me. As he neared the 30-yard mark, I putted on my call and he poked his head up and I fired. He was done quickly and, as I walked up to the tom, I was excited and could not believe it was over that quickly. Legal shooting time was 5:27 am and I was done and bird tagged at 5:48 am. I sat there, snapped a couple pics and took the moment in.

Moments like these don't come nearly often enough. This year was probably by far and away the quickest turkey season I've ever had in 25 years of hunting. I hunted a total of two hours in the three mornings I hunted.

The keys to my success, first and foremost, is good areas to hunt. The turkeys have to live there to be successful. The next biggest thing is scouting; my trail cameras and our family scouting trips from the road had these birds pinpointed. I can't thank the landowners where I hunt enough for not only their generosity in allowing me to hunt their farms, but also for their friendships we've made. I'm sure they get tired of hearing "Thank You." Get out there and make some memories, and, until next time, GET OUTDOORS!!



Jenna Nefzger, Eric's goddaughter, is shown above with her turkey taken April 14, 2023. Eric, below, displays one of the two turkeys he downed that were the focus of this article.



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Readlyn City Council - April 10, 2023

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:45PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00PM for the public hearing followed by the regular meeting. Mayor Pro-Term Barnes in the chair and the following named council members present: Rocco Imbrogno, Joey Jones, Keith Brunscheon, Nicole Barnes. Absent: Jason Franck. Others in attendance: Barney Wiersma, Steve Aiello, Austin Matthias, Ed Hood, Mike Keeran, Lindsey Lambert.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve minutes from the March 13, 2023 council meeting. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

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

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve budget and library reports. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Pro-Term Barnes opened the Public Hearing on the FY23/24 Budget. Notice of time and place has been published in the Waverly Newspaper on March 30, 2023. No written or oral objections were received. After all desiring to be heard, motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Jones to close the public hearing. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to introduce Resolution No. 2023-03 entitled "RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor Pro-Term declared Resolution No. 2023-03 duly adopted.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to set May 8, 2023 at 7:00PM as the time for the public hearing to amend the FY22/23 Budget. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Bremer County Building and Zoning administrator, Lindsey Lambert discussed with the council nonresidential ordinance. Matter will be studied further.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve insurance renewal with EMC Insurance for the year beginning April, 2023 to April 1, 2024. City will be changing to a \$5,000.00 deduction under property. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve liquor license and Sunday sales renewal for MKTC Enterprises, LLC dba Grumpy's. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Jones to approve outdoor service area in the rear of Grumpy's subject to final approval of Bremer County Building and Zoning. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on Spring Clean Up Days for 2023. Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve splitting the city up with the residents on 4th Street and North to be picked up on May 1 and the rest of the town south of 4th Street to be picked up on May 2. All items must be at the curb by 8:00AM on the residences designated day. Items that need a sticker must be paid for prior to pickup. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Council received an update on the Readlyn Main Street Project. Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve partial pay request to Dave Schmitt Construction in the amount of \$10,041.44. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Nicole Barnes, Mayor Pro-Term

ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk

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(319) 275-4301

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Food and Restaurants

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(319) 275-4528

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Mane Event Family Hair Salon
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Salon: 319-279-3060
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Farm Bureau - David C. Matthias
Office: (319) 352-3667
Home: (319) 279-3545

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Ask for Zach Kuhlmann or Matt Wells
www.wellshollowlandscaping.com

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(319) 352-0418

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(319) 279-3363

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2261 Reed Ave.
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Specialty Businesses

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Owner: Darrin Siefken
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Schumacher Elevator Company
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Smiley's Family Dentistry
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319-352-4112

Readlyn Gardeners plan for 2023

The Readlyn Gardeners, Bonnie Erickson, Bonnie Wittenburg, Janet Ladage, Ruth Wittenburg, Marlys Deterding, Millie Crawford, Doris Hagenow and Pat Wehr, met April 14 to enjoy lunch and make plans for 2023. Once the treasurer's report was presented by Marlys Deterding, it was realized that we not only would appreciate new members, but, with no Valentine Ball money, donations would be greatly appreciated. Nine flats of annual flowers need to be bought to sustain the dozen gardens we maintain. In addition, several perennials, fertilizers, weed control products and mulch need to be purchased. Please call or text Bonnie Erickson, 314-703-1609, or email her at bkearts@gmail.com if you can assist us. Your donations are tax-deductible.

Should you care to feel the satisfaction of enhancing Readlyn, we meet most Mondays for about one hour, and meeting time depends on the temperatures. April 24, at 9:30 am, we met for the first time this year at the big garden at the baseball diamond to move a bush and daisies forward, move the ajuga back, and dig out irises. From there we moved to other gardens if our hour wasn't over. Just bring a shovel, pail, gloves, and a weeding tool since there are always weeds to remove. The best part is that you sometimes score

plants and actually learn about flowers and how to keep your own garden looking its best.



On Monday, May 8, we will travel to the Mennonite gardens to purchase nine flats of annuals and other supplies for the Readlyn gardens plus purchase and pay for our own plants with advice from Readlyn Gardeners. We kick back and enjoy lunch once our shopping is done.

Weeds on Fire is happy to continue awarding the honor and a monetary gift for Yard of the Month. Judging for June



The gazebo continues to be a work in progress. Readlyn Gardener Roger Deterding enlists the help of Ron Ingersoll and Steve Wehr (at left) to ensure the sign is properly and permanently installed.

will be completed by May 8. Awards will also be presented for July, August, and September. Readlyn is blessed to have

so many citizens that take pride in their yards. We hope you have an aesthetically pleasing summer.

'Build Back Better' at Grump Days

Continued from Page 1

Grumpy's all occur at this time. But, wait! The evening is not over. Thanks to your generous can donations, Flashing Thunder will provide another spectacular fireworks show across from the ball diamonds. Don't forget your lawn chairs for the fireworks and 6:00 program. You'd better get some rest for Saturday's many events.

At 9:00 am, Saturday, Friday's vendors minus the pizza but with the addition of FFA sandwiches, Zion's walking tacos, and HiTail ice cream will commence. It is also the time for the judged parade line up. Call or text Louie Hartman at 319-239-0533 or email ronlouiehartman@gmail.com to sign up or receive details. At 9:30 parade judges will travel the parade route to decide which entries receive the monetary gift for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place as well as the best decorated golf cart. The parade begins at 10:00; remember to bring a large bag to collect the plethora of treats that will rain down. 11:30 -2:30 kids will be entertained at Kids in the Park, cake walk (cake and cookie donations are gladly accepted), face painting, and Treasure Island sand pile. Nick and Hayley

Tiedt with other volunteers will be supervising games for 7th to 12th graders at the ball diamond from noon to 4 pm. 1:00 will be the Schaskopf tournament in the tent. 2:30 - 4:00 Ron and Judy Leistikow are sponsoring Bingo for All Ages in the gazebo. Most of the vendors plan to stay open for the evening meal. At 7:00 the action moves to Grumpy's where Jarrod Hogan and South 55 open for the Red Dirt Road band.

Sunday, St. Matthew's will be leading the church service at 9:00 am in the tent.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Build Back Better Grump Days.

Readlyn Community Club; Board members: Michelle and Ed Harrington, Louie and Ron Hartman, Hailey Broten, Pat Wehr, Tiffany McCumber, and Bonnie Wittenburg

Please contact any of us if you are able to help in any way. Set up, clean up, and assistance with the many events takes a lot of volunteers. Bonus: Grumpy's is willing to donate some of its bar proceeds to the Readlyn Community Club and provide a beer ticket if we provide volunteers to help with band crowds.

Check next month's *Chronicle* for an easy-to-read schedule and more details.

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	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church 2683 Quail Avenue Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3977 Pastor Philip Giradin Divine Service 10 a.m.</p>
	<p>St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor 2649 230th Street Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758 Sunday services 10:00 AM Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM</p>
	<p>St. Paul's Lutheran Church 120 West 4th Street Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3961 Pastor Philip Giradin Divine Service 8:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Sun., 7 p.m. Mary-Martha Circle 1st Wednesday 7 p.m.</p>
	<p>Zion Lutheran Church 240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor (319) 279-3643 Sunday Services 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:05 - 9:45 a.m. Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:30 p.m.</p>

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