

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

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Volume 16, No. 7, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Denver Forum, Denver, IA, July 26, 2023

August YARD of the MONTH



Bonnie and Eric Erickson relax on their backyard patio that was once the floor of a three-car garage. Since this area affords a place to enjoy the view of their yard, they prepare and consume many meals here.

See their story and more photos on Page 4.



Gardens include eleven different colored irises.

Inside this Issue:

Find out how you can donate to the Readlyn Emergency Services Building. Page 7



See more photos from Readlyn's 2023 Grump Days! Pages 8-9



The attractive pond is maintained by Eric and decorated by Bonnie. They even have a resident toad (at left)!



These massive trees border the north edge of the Erickson's property. The walnut tree in the middle was 10" tall when they bought the property 53 years ago.



Many of you probably recognize Erickson's attractive porch as you enter Readlyn. It's always a big decision which flowers will be chosen for the hanging pots.



Immanuel-Klinger 150th Anniversary Sunday, Aug. 6!

Immanuel Lutheran will celebrate their 150th Anniversary on Sunday, August 6 with Rev. Lawrence Schmidt as guest speaker.

The theme is 'Rejoicing,' and celebration for where we are. The 10 a.m. service will include special music with a catered meal following.

Short video messages from former pastors will be shown and CLS classrooms will be open for confirmation reunions.

Please RSVP to the church secretary at ImmanuelStPaul@gmail.com no later than July 25.

150th Anniversary Poem

Of all the blessings that God has given, there's one that stands alone, it's the Klinger Church in Bremer County, the one we call our own.

Immanuel is the given name that our forefathers did bestow, and it's the simple things that make our congregation glow.

Like the cross you can see for miles around, but no matter how far you roam, it's knowing that when you come back, there's a home away from home.

It's the bell that rings up in the tower proclaiming loud and clear, that our strength is in the Lord above, and that we worship here.

It's the beautiful stained glass windows and doors that open wide, to welcome each and everyone to come with us inside.

And with flowers on the altar, giving praise and glory above, because of a celebration or perhaps in memory of.

Yes, the beauty of our country church is told from far and near, but it's the sheep of our little flock that the Shepherd leadeth here.

Like the baby in its mother's arms, that she holds so gentle and kind, or the stately widow in silent prayer, with her loved one on her mind.

It's the farmer with his family giving thanks for the sun that morn, or maybe for the rain last night that helped him grow his corn.

It's the studious eighth grade confirmands, in their robes of pearly white, each chosen with the honors of being our acolyte.

And as the organist plays our favorite hymns, the people's voices sing, of praise in perfect harmony to the Lord our God and King.

And to complete our worship service, and to answer his Master's call, is the Pastor in the pulpit who's there to lead us all.

But when this world is changing fast, and things seem troublesome, We remember: "O God Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come."

And thank God for all our blessings, but especially for our Savior, and those who attend our Lutheran Church, our own Immanuel - Klinger.

Adopted from "135th Anniversary Poem" by Tom Wolfrum, 1988. St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Defiance, Ohio. Text included from lyricist Isaac Watts. Adaptations and editions made by Gabriel Matthias, March 26, 2023.



Just one of the many bouquets Bonnie creates using flowers from her flower beds.

Thirty varieties of hostas adorn different flower beds.



Bonnie delights in sharing s'mores among other treats with family and neighbors at the fire pit.



The berm on the side of the property.



Grump's Grumblings

By Ron Hartman, 2023 Grump

This is your 2023 Grump. Wow, I thought Grump Days were fantastic. Great candidate program, ball games, topped off with fireworks on Friday. On Saturday the parade was awesome, and we packed the park with lots of things for kids to do, good food choices, card games, and great entertainment at Grumpy's. A round of applause for the Readlyn Community Club. Thank you to all those who pitched in. We can always use more new members and you are welcome anytime. New people=new ideas.

We went on a trip to Hawaii in May to attend our son's Navy retirement ceremony at the Oahu Pearl Harbor/Hickman

Base. The Pearl Harbor Memorial is really touching when you are standing there and reading how everything happened. We also did some tourist things and had beach time, leaving early in the morning before the crowds hit. The 2017 Grump went with me. She didn't enjoy the 8-hour flight AT ALL.

After getting back from Hawaii, we went to Florida for 10 days. Came home and pitched right in with Grump Days on June 15. Now, we are just trying to rest up.

To make this Grump happy, mow your lawn, trim your trees, and smile/wave when someone goes by.

Your 2023 Grump, Ron Hartman



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lily Schwickerath

Hello Readlyn Community,

My name is Lily Schwickerath and I am your 2023 Miss Readlyn. I am proud to call Dean Schwickerath and Jill Schwickerath my parents. I am also fortunate to have grandparents, LaVerne and Judy Leistikow, and great-grandparents, DeLores and former Grump Harold Meier, also call Readlyn home.

I will be a senior at Wapsie Valley High School this coming fall. I am heavily involved in FFA, Waterloo United Swim Team, Choir, Musicals, National Honor Society, and I also volunteer for Vacation Bible School at Zion.

I truly enjoyed the experience of running for Miss Readlyn and wish to thank the Community Club for putting on such a memorable event. I look forward to the opportunity of representing Readlyn at this year's Bremer County Fair Queen Competition.

Last, but certainly not least, I would also like to give a big thank you to my sponsor, Kevin and Deanne Leistikow of L & L Ag Repair, for their support throughout the competition.

I look forward to being your Miss Readlyn this year!



Miss Readlyn Lily Schwickerath is shown with her sponsors, Kevin and Deanne Leistikow, from L & L Ag Repair.

**Deadline for the Aug. 30 Chronicle is
Thurs., Aug. 17 at 5 PM**

Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

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DOWNTOWN READLYN, IA

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UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Friday, July 21 @ 7PM
ADAM WHITEHEAD

Saturday, July 22 @ 7-8:30PM
MADISON KOLBET

Saturday, Aug 12 @ 7PM \$15 COVER
JAY ALLEN & SUNDANCE HEAD
WITH DENNIS WAYNE KRISTINE

Thursday, Aug 17 @ 7PM
JOE STAMM BAND



Charles & Wilda Albrecht
Married Aug. 2, 1963

60th Anniversary

What started with a knock at the door and Wilda saying, "My brother's not home," to a little chit-chat, followed by Charlie responding with, "Hey, how about I take you to a dance tomorrow night?" has led to 60 years of marriage. Their love continues to grow with a steady rhythm. Without missing a beat, they show what they mean to each other. This is something worth celebrating!

An afternoon gathering will be held at Grumpy's Bar and Event Center in Readlyn, IA.

When: Sunday, July 30 from 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Why: So you can see where their journey in their God-blessed life has taken them.

Refreshments of coffee, punch, and cake will be provided. The event will be hosted by their children and spouses: Brad & Mary Ellen (St. Mary's, GA), Barb & Michael (Grundy Center, IA), Colleen & Doug (La Vernia, TX), Laura & John (Raleigh, NC), Adam & Lynae (Madelia, MN), and Amanda & Noel (Burbank, IL). Charlie and Wilda share their love with 6 children, 20 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Please stop by.



Lowell and Debra Kuecker

50th Anniversary

Lowell and Debra (Zander) Kuecker of Readlyn are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday, August 26, 2023. The celebration is at Grumpy's Bar & Grill in Readlyn, Iowa. Social hour is at 7 pm with a dance following at 8 pm.

They were married on September 1, 1973, at Grace Lutheran Church in Tripoli, Iowa.

Lowell is retired from teaching but still substitutes. Debra is also retired. The couple have two children, Jessica (Peter) Grotjohn of Eagen, Minnesota and Zach (Karly) Kuecker of Denver, Iowa. They also have four grandchildren, Riley and Carson Grotjohn, and Saylor and Ames Kuecker.

Their celebration is open to the public. The couple requests no gifts.



Readlyn now has a lending library! Said Shari Anderson, "I have wanted to set one of these up ever since I heard of them many years ago, but, living on an acreage before moving here, it wasn't possible. I appreciate all the positive comments, compliments and encouragement from everyone!" The library and bench are located on the corner of Malone and 4th Street West. Shown above is the library (right) and Joe and Shari Anderson, left.

Grump Days Schafkopf tourney results

The results for the Schafkopf tournament, held during Grump Days, are as follows:
1ST place- Deanne Leistikow \$12.85
2ND place- Keith Brunscheon \$9.10
Tie for 3RD & 4TH place- Danny Brunscheon \$9.00; Austin Matthias \$9.00

Readlyn's Annual Golf Cart Ride

Mark your calendar!! The Annual Esther Wittenburg Memorial Golf Cart Ride will be Saturday, September 16, 1:30 - 4:00 pm with rain date Sunday, September



17. As usual, golf carts only will ride round trip on the bike trail from Readlyn to Killdeer where a port-a-potty,

water, and small treats will be available. Esther's family has kindly donated money to cover the cart rental from Rudy's in Denver.

To reserve a golf cart, please contact Pat Wehr: cell 319-415-2001 or email wehr@rtc279.com by Saturday, September 9. Owners of private golf carts are invited to join us; no reservation necessary.

The day of the ride, please meet at the TruServe parking lot by 1:15 pm. to sign waivers. A good time will be had by all!

Congratulations, Steve!

After a wonderful 35-year career in banking, including 23 years at American Savings Bank, Steve Edeker has announced he is retiring. The Bank invites everyone to join us for refreshments at our Tripoli location on his final day to say thank you & farewell as Steve enters this next, well-earned phase of his life to spend more time with his family on the farm.

Steve Edeker's Retirement Open House
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August **YARD** of the **MONTH**

August Yard of the Month winners are Bonnie and Al (Eric) Erickson, 421 Lobeck. When they moved into their house, there were no trees except for three large trees that are as old as Readlyn. The house has gone through many changes. It started as an apartment building which has housed many different families including Werners, Berryhills, and Thurms.

The yard, too, has gone through many transformations. Viewing their yard, it is easy to see that Bonnie is a talented florist who knows how to plant flowers and plants with different blooming seasons so that her yard is always adorned with a variety of color. Another one of her specialties is knowing when to prune flowers and even

trees. Not only does she hone her skills creating her own amazing flower beds, she is the lady instrumental in designing the gardens throughout town. She is often contacted by garden clubs in other towns who seek her advice. As an added bonus, Bonnie generously shares her skills with any member of the Readlyn Gardeners. Care to join Readlyn's Gardeners to benefit from her expertise? Contact her @ 314-703-1609.

Bonnie states, "It is a privilege to enjoy the beautiful yards in Readlyn as a part of being a Readlyn Gardener." She would like to thank Mayor Dan Weidemeier, owner of Weeds on Fire, for his inspiration in creating the Yard of the Month project.



Erickson's path always includes sweet-smelling alyssum.



Erickson's hybrid variegated fern.



Readlyn Community Library

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Betty Brandt Passick - TBD - sometime in the fall (stay tuned!)

So You Want to Be a Writer - rescheduled for 8/10 @5:30pm

Library Totes

For sale @ the library! Great multi-purpose bag - has attached sleeve for cards or cash. Available in blue, green, red, black and purple!

Only \$8.00!



readlyn community library
2023-2024 book club selections





The Bremer County Health Department holds Foot Clinics on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Call 319.352.0082 to make an appointment


July - The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner
 August - The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman
 September - The Whistling Season by Ivan Doag
 October - The Survivors by Jane Harper
 November - Stars Over Clear Lake by Loretta Ellsworth
 December - Group Christmas Dinner
 January - The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams
 February - The Ninth House by Leigh Bardugo
 March - Under the Whispering Door by T.J. Klune
 April - The Sound of Gravel by Ruth Wariner
 May - Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks
 June - The Bear by Andrew Krivak

If you're interested in joining us for one of our book club discussions, email us at readlynlib@gmail.com to be added to our email list!



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Readlyn, Long Ago

Compiled by Bob Thran

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



Wadena Rock Festival 1970 – My Experience

THURSDAY, June 29, 1970— Don Fauser heard that there would be something big happening in Wadena. Out of curiosity, Don and Dorothy, Gerda and I drove to Wadena Thursday and spent time at the Chaparral Supper Club. We got there at about 8:00 and ordered something to eat and drink. We hung around listening to the many rumors as to what might be happening. We learned that there would be a music program of some kind. Around 10:30 the owner of the supper club received a phone call warning him that a group of Hell's Angels on their motorcycles passed through Oelwein. They were headed for Wadena. INSTANT PANIC! Within 1 minute we were out of there, headed back to Elgin. The owner turned out the lights, locked the door and fled the scene. I saw no Hell's Angel emblems at the rockfest. We were the victims of a cruel joke. Hilarious, now.

FRIDAY, June 30.— The Wadena Rock Fest was underway. People began arriving by the thousands. Pastor Denny Brake, Elgin Lutheran Church called to discuss our attending the rockfest. People in Elgin wanted nothing to do with what was happening in Wadena. We decided to go. We had no fear of repercussions of our attending.

SATURDAY, July 1 — Mrs. Brake dropped off Pastor Brake, Harold Halverson, his brother and me at the gate. We paid \$15 each to enter. We were completely out of our element among the young hippies. We were walking along, in our long pants, carrying our coolers and sleeping bags, when I heard one of the hippies yell. "Hey, you guys, you going fishing?" We obviously stood out in the crowd. We picked out a spot, left our coolers, rolled out our sleeping bags on the grass, then headed to an area closer to the stage. We sat on the grass, and for the next 13 hours, listened to the music.

SUNDAY, July 2—It was prearranged that Mrs. Brake meet pastor Brake at the entrance at 7:00 a.m. He conducted his usual Sunday services and returned about 1:00 p.m. Around 5:00



we were on our way back to Elgin.

MONDAY, July 3 —Leo Lehman and I spent time in the Wadena area. There were a few stragglers. We saw hundreds of garbage bags lying in the area. Those in attendance were requested to clean their area, placing the refuse into the available garbage bags. People complied with the request. Souvenir hunters came later, ripping the bags open, dumping the contents, looking for souvenirs

Observations As A Participant

Thousands of young people had gathered at Wadena. They definitely followed Governor Robert Ray's advice to enjoy themselves. He withdrew all law enforcement. A wise decision. I saw no incidents, no fights, nothing stolen, only young people living in harmony, enjoying themselves. I had never been in a group, before or since where the participants were as kind, courteous and pleasant. We four were readily accepted. No hassling!

Laws were not obeyed. Drugs were openly used. Some of those there were mellowed out from using drugs. Beer and wine were readily available. The alcohol of choice was Ripple, an inexpensive wine favored by young people. Drugs were available to purchase. Homemade signs on cardboard stated the price. The only drugs I recognized from the ten or more dis-

played were LSD and marijuana or pot, now mostly referred to as weed.

I saw no open sex. A few went skinny-dipping in the Volga River. Attractive younger women who were proud of their bodies went into the water nude and also posed for pictures. No older or fat people sought the Volga River in the nude for relief from the 90 plus heat. I did not bring a camera. I feared that people might object violently. I knew that illegal behavior would be present and did want my photos to be used as evidence.

Some of the music was enjoyable, some was hard rock. All were loud. Many acts were well known. Buffie Sainte-Marie, a Canadian Cree Indian, was my favorite. The music could be heard miles away and affected chickens laying eggs and cows giving milk.

Sitting on the grass next to us were two young girls from Monona. I visited with them. Pastor Brake visited with the girls at length. They appeared to be 12 to 14 years old. My thought was: Why would parents allow their children to attend the rockfest all alone? Later, Pastor Brake and I had our lives affected by one of these young girls.

The rockfest was well organized bringing in the groups, many by helicopter from airports in the area. Buffy Sainte-Marie was flown to the Oelwein airport by private plane, then by helicopter to Wadena. The logistics were challenging, coordinating the arrival time of the many groups.

We sat listening to the music. There was a few minute interval whenever acts changed. It was announced that the music would end at 4:00 a.m. At four in the morning a glimmering light could be seen to the east. I was overjoyed that 4:00 a.m had arrived. Needless to say, I was tired. However, the crowd yelled MORE, MORE, and the music continued for a short time. We returned to our sleeping bags. It was daylight. I made a stupid blunder. I unrolled my sleeping bag. It was wet from the heavy dew. I crawled into my sleeping bag. Lying in the wet sleeping bag was uncomfortable. I was unable to sleep and soon got up. No sleep Saturday night. There were thousands of tents pitched. Those young people came prepared.

A doctor and a nurse were available near the stage to treat participants who overdosed. I did

see some who were being treated.

During daylight hours planes were flying overhead constantly, as many as a dozen planes. Chartered flights were arranged for those wanting to see the Wadena Rock Fest from above.

I saw at least 15 Iowa Highway Patrol cars parked next to the Wadena Elementary School. Law enforcement established a post in the schoolhouse used during the rockfest. Later I saw, written on the blackboard by one of the troopers, the message, " When in trouble, call a hippie."

Some Days After

I was informed by Avis Wenger that members of our Lutheran Church did not approve of Pastor Brake having attended the Wadena Rock Fest. He would face harsh criticism at the next church board meeting. I was on the church board and feared I, too, would be rebuked. The evening of the church board came. Paster Brake opened the meeting with a prayer. He immediately said he had a letter he would like to share. The letter was from one of the young girls from Monona who sat next to us at the Wadena Rock Fest.

Summarizing her letter, it said, "Paster Brake, it was great talking with you at the Wadena Rock Fest. I wish more pastors were like you and would go out to places where there is sin and temptation and talk with young people. Sincerely, Miss ?"

After the letter was read by Pastor Brake, we members of the church board sat there stunned—a moment of silence— absolutely no rockfest discussion. After the short pause we calmly proceeded with the business of Elgin Lutheran Church. I found this episode amusing. I laughed—to myself.

My Dad, Oscar Thran, came to visit us in Elgin. He got out of his car and brought up the topic, the Wadena Rock Fest. I told him I was there and found the rockfest an interesting experience and enjoyed the harmony of the entire group. On hearing this, my Dad immediately jumped back into his car, and without saying one word, drove back to Readlyn. He left me standing there.

Looking back, I never, at any time, discussed the rockfest with any of my Elgin friends. No one broached the subject, and neither did I. This article is the first time I have shared my experiences at the Wadena Rock Fest.

Reflecting, the Wadena Rock Fest was indeed a novel and interesting experience. I am glad that I took part. I was 41 years old. Some of the groups played music I really enjoyed. I drank Pepsi and ate my sandwiches. Someone, who brought a crate of oranges to share, threw one my way.

Recently, I learned that some Readlyn citizens attended the rockfest. Knowing who they were, I am certain they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In summation, I wrote only what I saw. Others who were there, I'm sure, viewed the rockfest from a different perspective..

Wadena Rock Fest - Were you there?

The excitement began when the rockfest, which was scheduled for Galena, was blocked by an Illinois court. The promoters had to quickly find a site in Iowa. The 240-acre Schmitt farm near Wadena was purchased.

The organizers had only two days before the rockfest was to open. Iowa authorities also tried to block the rockfest. The court allowed the rockfest to proceed if sanitation and parking conditions were met. One hundred porta-potties were quickly ordered. Land was leased for parking from local farmers. The biggest party ever held in Iowa began. The Wadena Rock Fest was the story of the year in Iowa.

After the rockfest was over, the promoters left, taking anything of value. Taxes were not paid on the farm. The property was sold for back taxes.

Among the thirty groups that appeared at the Wadena Rock Fest were: Guess Who, The Fuse, Illinois Speed Press, Rotary Connection, Chicken Shack, Mason Proffit, Buffie Sainte-Marie, Little Richard, REO Speedwagon, The Flying Burrito Brothers, Everly Brothers, Poco and more.

More information on the Wadena Rock Fest is available on the Internet. The articles contain many pictures. A book entitled, "From Courtrooms to Cornfields," is found in many libraries in the area and can also be purchased from Amazon.



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WE ARE GROWING!
Exciting things are happening at CLS and we need to hire more staff for the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking to fill the three positions listed below.

1. Full-time 3rd-6th elementary teacher (Reading, Language Arts, & Writing)
2. Full-time kindergarten teacher
3. Volunteer Music Teacher (Wednesdays from 12:30-3:00 pm)

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Annual **ICE Cream Social**

Readlyn Historical Society Museum
Sunday, August 20
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Donations are currently being accepted for a new Readlyn Emergency Service Building (RESB), to be constructed at 1st Street and Goodell Ave.

Fundraising begins for new RESB

Have you heard all the buzz? Readlyn Emergency Services is funding for a new Emergency Service Building (RESB). **Who: Readlyn Fire and Readlyn**

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EMS

What: Readlyn Emergency Services Building (RESB)
Where: 1st Street and Goodell Ave.

(Currently Leistikow grain bins)

Why: Space is our number one constraint. Currently we have to buy used or specifically ordered equipment to fit the space that ends up costing more. We are also limited on the number of volunteers we can have join our crew because of the limited space.

Some fliers were handed out during the Grump Days Parade. There was awesome splashing going on at the dunk tank at the city park and a 50/50 raffle donation were just a few ways to help spread the word and raise funds during Grump Days.

Now that Grump Days is over, we still need help with funding.

Be a "Life Saver," "Chief," or "Captain" and we will get your name, business, or memory plaque posted in the new building to forever be remembered. You can also join the donation service and become a Lieutenant, Cadet, or Jr. Cadet.

This is a big project so any amount large or small would be helpful in meeting our goal.

Donation Levels

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

Send your tax-deductible donation today!

Donation to RESB

- There are 3 payment options: Make checks payable to: RESB
- 1) Mail to : RESB PO Box 276, Readlyn, IA 50668
 - 2) Venmo: @ReadlynFire
 - 3) Drop off donations at Readlyn Savings Bank

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Back by popular demand is the ever popular "cake or treat" walk!



Kim Brown, Lydia Imbrogno, and Lynn Ott serve nutritional drinks.



Connect Four is a family affair enjoyed by daughter Morgan Downs, JoDee Downs and granddaughter Rylee Tempel.



Enjoying a few minutes with the Grump statue in the park is Marge Quigley of New Hampton, sister of Bonnie Wittenburg.

GRUMP DAYS 2023!



New competition, spike ball was introduced by Kevin Browning, Grant Pautsch, and Bruce Piehl.

SPIKE BALL Photos by Pat Wehr



High school spike ball tournament winners Garett Shannon and Briggs Boehme.



Elementary spike ball winners Eli Alibegic and Jackson Brunscheon. Jackson said, "Thanks for the fun opportunity."

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LITTLE GRUMPSTERS 2023



Little Grumpster Candidates 2023

Our Little Grumpster Candidates are our young Readlyn kindergartners that will be going into first grade in the fall. We pick the winner by putting the names in a hat and pull a name out. So it is all in the luck of the draw! We would like to thank the Thrivent Action Team for making this year possible!

2023 Little Miss Grumpster Candidates

Avery Adams is the daughter of Danny and Alicia Adams. She is a goofy, fun-loving girl who is always up for an adventure. In the summer Avery loves playing T-ball, playing at the park, swimming, tubing, and riding the jet ski. Her favorite baseball team is the Cubs, but she is an even bigger Iowa Hawkeye fan. She especially loves cheering for Caitlyn Clark and the women's basketball team. Avery looks up to her two older brothers and wants to be able to do everything they do. She finds joy in every situation and can always make her family smile.

Violet Jaschen is the daughter of Jonathan and Jennifer Jaschen. Violet is a sweet girl who brings joy to others. She loves to play school, visit the park, read books, travel, and spend time with family and friends. Her stuffed animal collection is never ending. In the summer you will likely find her swimming, eating ice cream, or playing with her new puppy. When Violet grows up, she plans to be a police officer, teacher, flight attendant, mommy, and clean her house.

Korrin O'Brien is the daughter of Connor and Kenzie O'Brien. Korrin is very outgoing and loves making new friends. She loves to create crafts and read books as well as write her own stories. Korrin loves the colors pink and purple. You can find her in the kitchen making baked goods and helping with her little brother.

Taya Powell is the daughter of Brian and Megan Powell. Taya enjoys being outside riding her bike and rollerblades. She enjoys playing at the park, splash pad and going swimming. Jumping on the trampoline, singing, dancing and doing gymnastics are a few more things she enjoys doing. She really enjoys going on vacations, her favorites are amusement parks and water parks. Taya is also a big helper and likes doing chores with her Papa. Visiting Grammy and Papa is so much fun!!!

2023 Little Mr. Gumpster Candidates

Owen Davis is the son of Jessica Cassell and Tyler Davis. Owen loves to be outside!! Most days you can find him riding his bike or playing golf. He loves to collect shells of all kinds and of course being a boy, he loves collecting rocks as well. Owen is always a goof, constantly making others smile!

Knox Hesse is the son of Kurt and Alicia Hesse. Knox is a 6-year-old and the youngest of four. He is creative, fun, loving, and full of adventure! Knox enjoys cuddling with his mama, playing sports with his dad, fishing and being outdoors with his brother, Korvin, singing and

playing video games with his other brother, Kennett. He also likes to swim and do art with his sister, Eliana. This summer, you can find Knox living his best life, swimming, running wild outside, finding toads on the farm, and doing what he loves most; spending lots of time with his family and cousins.

Theodore Mason is the son of Gregory and Toni Mason. If it has a ball, Theo wants to play with it. If there is work to be done, Theo wants to help with it. If someone is feeling down, Theo has a hug for that. Theo is our energetic goofball that loves trying all things new and insists on making any situation fun. He is sometimes shy, but never shying away from all the good life has to offer. His giggly laugh and heart of gold never fails to brighten up a day!

Westen Michael is the son of Blake and Destiny Michael. Westen is the oldest of four and is the best big brother to his little brother and sisters. He is always willing to help out around the house or with entertaining his siblings. Westen has such an adventurous soul and an imaginative mind. He loves to be outdoors. Fishing with his dad, hunting for bugs, or helping with our wood business. Westen participates in T-ball during the summer and wrestling in the winter. He always tries his best in everything he does and is always determined to succeed when trying new things. Westen gives the best hugs!

Quinn Szurley is the son of Dave and Tracey Szurley. Quinn is a fun, determined boy. He does his best to keep up with his 6 older siblings and helps his 2 younger brothers the best he can. He loves to play outside and is excited to play T-ball for the first time. Camping, hiking, and adventuring with the family is always one of Quinn's favorite things to do. Quinn is such a Quinn-spiration to our family.



Congratulations to the 2023 Little Grumpsters, Owen Davis (left) and Avery Adams.

Layton Wendling gives it his all at the pedal tractor pull. He is the grandson of Bonnie Wittenburg.



Treasure Island sandbox, full of hidden goodies, was sponsored by Readlyn Savings Bank.

Pavelec shows how to pan for gold at Readlyn Library summer program

The Readlyn Library hosted Larry Pavelec, the chair of the Bremer County Conservation Board, for a summer reading program talk. He had a lot of useful tips on how to go about locating Iowa gold.

Pavelec talked to a couple of dozen kids and some adults who were in attendance. His main advice was to always ask permission before looking for gold in Iowa streams and to respect the landowner. It would be best, to stay on your own land. If on public property when you're on Iowa streams, stay between the high water points of a flood. Do not dig into the stream bank.

Gold in Iowa was moved here by giant glacial ice masses. The glaciers came from Canada and Michigan. They could have traveled from as far away as Greenland. These same glaciers that pushed the gold here also ground it up quite fine. The majority of Iowa gold is as fine as pepper. But it is still heavy, yellow gold, and it sticks to the bottom of the pan.

Larry demonstrated how to pan the gold. First, he put some gold-bearing material into a pan. Then he liquefied the material in the gold pan by shaking it. When panning for gold he only needs about a quarter pan of water. This will stratify the material. The heav-

ies such as gold go to the bottom of the pan. The blonde sand will be on top. When you stop the liquefaction, the sand will lock up in the pan. He then swirled the water and the light sand came off first. Then he sluffed off the blonde quartz sand into the panning tub. Then the material is liquefied and stratified again. As always, the gold will go to the bottom of the pan. The specific gravity of gold is 19.3, so you know it's going to be right at the bottom. Your black sand, made up of hematite and magnetite, are anywhere from 3.75 to 5.3 on specific gravity. The black sand material covers the gold. This can be swirled off. Then with a light tapping on the side of the pan, you will bounce the gold over to the clear space at the bottom edge, so that you can see the gold. Remember, if it shines, it is not gold. Yellow gold sticks to the bottom of the pan.

A couple of tips from the session were to look at the start of a sand or gravel bar on the upstream side. Then to find the pay streak, you're looking from inside bend of the river to inside bend. Gold always wants to travel in a straight line. It is very lazy and will always take the shortest route.

The best way to confirm if you have gold in

a spot on a stream is to do test pans. You take a little bit of the material in the pan and work it down to see if you can find some gold. You will do several test pans across the direction of the water flow on the sand or gravel bar. You are test panning to see where the most gold is. The pay streak is only about a foot wide.

At the end of his presentation, the kids did some panning for gold. Larry brought in concentrates from the Wapsipinicon River. Five of the children found some gold. One girl even found two pieces. Larry put the gold into .5-ounce vials for them to take home. If they did not get some gold, he handed out some fool's gold (iron pyrite) to everyone. After most of the participants had left, Larry gave the librarian a teaspoon of the concentrates to pan. Wouldn't you know who found the biggest spec of gold! She probably has caught gold fever now.

This quote from *The Spell of the Yukon* by Robert Service sums it up for Pavelec on why he has gold fever.

*There's gold, and it's haunting and haunting;
It's luring me on as of old;
Yet it isn't the gold that I'm wanting
So much as just finding the gold.*



Who knew there was gold to be found in Iowa? Larry Pavelec, that's who. And he gave these participants pointers on how to find it at the Readlyn Library's summer program.



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News from Community Lutheran School



The Can Crew for Community Lutheran School can drive are on the second livestock trailer load! Good work crew. Thank you all for the empty can donations!



A group of our students proudly walked in the Grump Days Parade with some of our staff!



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By: Eric Johnston

“It’s Not A Passion, It’s An Obsession” Part One

“It’s not a passion, it’s an obsession.” That indeed is one way to describe my infatuation with the outdoors and all it has to offer. But, it’s also the slogan for the company I’m beyond blessed to work for.

I’ve heard the description said of myself before as the busiest man on earth. Now while I’m not by any stretch of the imagination the busiest, I will say time management is crucial in my world. After all, I am a cnc machinist by trade for 50 hours a week, I own No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series L.L.C., I tournament fish, write for two newspapers, coach archery through the winter months, have many sponsor obligations and seminars to give, and, “Aubrey, what am I forgetting?” I couldn’t make any of this work without my beautiful, understanding wife by my side, and, oh, yes, my job with a company I’ve been passionate about nearly my entire life, Mossy Oak brand camo. In this month’s article, I’ll explain why it’s not a passion, it’s an obsession.

Many of you reading this are passionate about the outdoors in one way or another. So many of you are probably familiar with Mossy Oak camouflage. Founded in 1986 by Toxey Haas (remember this name for later), Mossy Oak has become the leader in the camouflage industry. As a young hunter in the ‘90s, I became drawn to Mossy Oak. With many brands on the market to choose from, even early on, it had to be Mossy Oak for me. I loved the patterns, but, even more so, I loved the lifestyle and values they represented.

All through my hunting career, I’ve been loyal to the brand and, in 2016, lifelong friend Michael Gearhart came to me with an opportunity. He relayed to me, with my passion and loyalty to the brand and my experience working with companies in the fishing industry, I should join the Mossy Oak Prostaff as he had a connection with

a regional manager. This was a dream for me and, after an interview and some paperwork, I was part of what I now consider a family. Those that know me, know anything I do is 100% and, with this opportunity, I ran with it, attending as many events and opportunities to help as possible. As time went on, Mossy Oak started to enter the fishing industry with water patterns and rain gear, etc. My manager at the time, Perry Peterson, took notice of my fishing knowledge and, on a snowy day in early 2019, I received a call from him. Perry is always straight to the point and the conversation went something like this ... “Eric, what ya doing?” “Tinkering with the boat in the garage. What’s up?” “We are starting new prostaff teams with fishing — how would you like to be a manager over the Midwest?”

As you might imagine, I was a little stunned for a second. When I snapped out of it, I believe I said in a crackling voice. “Sure, that would be great.” Perry then said “Great, I’ll talk to Tim and get the ball rolling. I’ll talk to ya soon, bye.” Tim was the National Prostaff Manager and someone I looked up to greatly (more on this in a bit). I was ecstatic, as you might imagine, as I would now be fully involved with a company I’d loved my entire life! I relayed to Aub what had just happened and she couldn’t believe it! Then time went by and days turned to weeks, and then even months, not knowing what the decision was on this deal. I had nearly written it off until, one hot July day, I received a phone call from Tim Anderson. “Is this Eric Johnston?” “Yes, I believe I’m talking to Tim right?” “Yes, you are, I’ve been meaning to call you for quite some time and I apologize for the delay. Perry showed me your resume and told me all about you and I’m impressed and I’d like to make this deal official if you’re OK with it?” I was again excited, but also a little confused. You see, apparently I was the only one that knew

at this moment in time, that I grew up in Delhi, Iowa, a mere 6 blocks from where Tim resided and was in the same graduating class at Maquoketa Valley High School as his son, Justin. Tim was a local legend to me as he had always been employed in the outdoor industry, and I often spoke with him as I was his family’s paper boy from 7th grade to my senior year in high school. I didn’t say a word of it as we spoke on logistics and duties of the job and all the responsibilities that go with starting and building a team all across the Midwest. As we hung up, I was still confused but looked at Aub and said I got the job, and I’m certain

it’s purely on merit as Tim didn’t seem to have my name click with him. I do need to explain here it wasn’t as if it was just yesterday Tim saw me. I graduated in 1999 weighing a solid 96 pounds and standing a towering 5’0” tall. This was twenty years later and I had changed quite a bit, LOL.

Two weeks later the phone rang and it was Tim “Eric?” “Yes, Tim.” “Question, how in the world do I know you? I found you on Facebook and you’re friends with most of my family.” I laughed a bit, “Tim, I wasn’t gonna say it before because I wanted no strings to the job offer, but I’m Eric Johnston, your paper boy through the ‘90s and I graduated with Justin.” “OH MY GOSH, I cant believe it! I didn’t catch that, you look so different and what a fine paper boy you were!” We both laughed a bit and formally caught up on life and my title as Mossy Oak Fishing Prostaff Regional Manager Midwest was born!

I now run a 36-member, and growing, team of guys and gals across Iowa, Okla-



ERIC JOHNSTON
Fishing, IA MN WI SD ND NE MO IL

homa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky. Now you probably ask, “Eric, what does that mean?” I am blessed to recruit outdoor-minded folks, especially on the fishing side, to help promote our brand by social media, store promotions, sports shows, banquets, fishing tournaments, the list goes on. I speak with my team and send them to events they have locally and also help them in setting up events to promote the brand in their respective areas. Also, I answer any questions they may have along the way.

It’s a job I love and I have met so many great people while in this role. I love talking hunting and fishing, and, in this role, I get to do that a lot. This is simply part one of my Mossy Oak story covering my background. In part two, I will take you through all the way up to my first time at headquarters and the fantastic adventure it was. See you right back here next time for part two!

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Obituary

Kerry Lynn Wegner passed away after a 2 year battle with cancer at North Kansas City Hospital on July 5, 2023.

He was born November 21, 1961 to Ralph and Bernice Wegner. He lived at and enjoyed working on the family farm near Fairbank. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. Kerry graduated from Wapsie Valley High School with the Class of 1980. He met and married Renee Perez Hanson and had 5 children.

Kerry took pride and enjoyed his work as an electrician and at problem solving to get large machines to work again. In his spare time, he loved hiking, camping, kayaking and playing disc golf. He loved music and sports and playing his guitar.

Several years ago, Kerry moved to Kansas City, MO, to be near his youngest daughter. He loved to spend time with his family and especially his grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Rick and Rande, and niece, Rachelle. Kerry is greatly missed by brothers, Dennis and Doyle, and his sister, Linda, and children Justin, Joshua, Jamie, Jeremy, Jessica and 16 special grandchildren.

A Celebration of Kerry's Life will be held at the Main Shelter in Fontana Park, Hazelton, on September 23, noon to 3. This is to honor his love of all outdoor activities as is evidenced by his huge collection of hiking equipment.

Pavelec Reunion held June 18

The Ed and Louisa Pavelec's 28th family reunion was held on Sunday, June 18, 2023 at the Readlyn City Park with a noon potluck. Twenty family members attended from Waterloo, Denver, Readlyn, Janesville, New Hartford, Cedar Falls, Williamsburg and Tripoli.

Scott and Robin Williams of Williams-

burg traveled the longest distance to attend. The youngest family member was 7-year-old Roman Pavelec, son of Ed and Bridget Pavelec of Denver. The oldest family member was 88-year-old Verdeen Pavelec of Denver.

Hosts were Verdeen Pavelec and Kathy and Bob Thiele of Waterloo.

Deadline for the August 30 Chronicle is Thurs., Aug. 17 at 5 PM

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Senior Citizens' meetings held

On May 17, 22 members attended the 11:30 Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Bowling Alley in Tripoli.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow. We had our monthly meeting first and then enjoyed a great lunch. Ron Leistikow led us in prayer before our meal.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Joyce Heineman and LuAnn Happel as they both celebrated birthdays in May.

The Treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$230.00. Roger Deterding made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and it was seconded by Judy Leistikow. Motion carried.

The Secretary's minutes were read by Lois Thacher for the month of April 19, 2023. Motion was made by Judy Leistikow and seconded by Roland Schmidt to approve the Secretary's report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: It was discussed at the previous meeting to purchase a flag pole, light and flag to have on Highway 3 by the Readlyn Welcome Sign. Roger Deterding checked into the cost of a 20 foot flagpole, light and installation. Roger found out it would cost from \$600.00 to \$620.00. There was discussion as to attaching the flagpole to the Welcome Sign but that was voted down. The cost to maintain and the cost of new flags were also discussed. It was decided it would be very costly. Marlys Deterding made a motion to table the flagpole project for now and Larry Ladage seconded it. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: We discussed where we would hold our 11:30 Wednesday meetings each month. Marlys Deterding made a motion to continue for now to meet at the Tripoli Bowling Alley each month. Roland Schmidt seconded it. Motion carried.

Wayne Kuethe was in attendance at our meeting and he thanked the group for the sympathy card we had sent him because of the death of his sister, Jane Meier. He very much appreciated it that we thought of him during this time.

Bob Thran was in attendance at our meeting and spoke about the Sweets Marsh article he will have in the *Chronicle* in the future.

We went over the schedule of the Grump Days events on June 16-18. Ron Leistikow is going to provide a wagon for the float with all the Grumps to ride on, the day of the parade on June 17.

The next Senior Citizen meeting will be held June 21st at 11:30 at the Tripoli Bowling Alley.

Don Heineman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Don Billhorn seconded it. Motion carried.

Lois Thacher, Secretary

On June 21, 2023 at 11:30, 10 members attended the 11:30 Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Bowling Alley in Tripoli.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow. The monthly meeting was first and then all that attended enjoyed a great lunch. Ron Leistikow led us in prayer before our meal.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Roger Deterding as his birthday was June 11.

We sang "Happy Anniversary" to two couples: Roger and Marlys Deterding as they celebrated their anniversary on June 25 and Marylou and Don Billhorn celebrated their anniversary on June 27.

It was reported GaryLee Thurm is doing better.

The Secretary's minutes were read by Janet Ladage for the month of May 17, 2023 as Lois Thacher was absent from the meeting. Motion was made by Marlys Deterding and seconded by Larry Ladage to accept the Secretary's report. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was read by Mary Lou Billhorn as Charlie Albrecht was absent from the meeting. The ending balance in the account after expenses last month in May was \$230.00 so \$10.00 will be added from the June meeting with an ending balance of \$240.00. Motion was made by Judy Leistikow and seconded by Roland Schmidt to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: There were good and negative comments on the Grump Days Celebration June 16-18, 2023 but there were more positive than negative. There is a lot of work that goes into the celebration each year for all the volunteers. The fireworks for the Grump Days Celebration were started earlier than 10:00 PM as announced and next year they will be started at the time announced.

Judy Leistikow reported there were 82 calendars sold by the Historical Society during Grump Days. There are still calendars available and for sale at the Readlyn Library and the Readlyn Telephone Office.

It was reported that 12 Grumps rode in the parade on Saturday June 17, 2023 for Grump Days.

NEW BUSINESS: The Readlyn Historical Society will be having their Ice Cream Social in August this year, instead of July because of Main Street being redone.

The next Senior Citizen meeting will be held July 19 at 11:30 at the Tripoli Bowling Alley. Motion was made by Larry Ladage and seconded by Judy Leistikow to keep the meeting for July at the Bowling Alley in Tripoli. Motion carried.

Roland Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Judy Leistikow seconded it. Motion carried.

Janet Ladage, Secretary

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Steve Rathe (319) 269-8083

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smidtcrop@iowatelecom.net

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Attorney at Law
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patdillon@50674law.com

Jennifer Jaschen - Attorneys at Law
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hartmanlouie@gmail.com
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Deadline for the August 30 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., August 17 at 5 PM



Immanuel Lutheran Church
2683 Quail Avenue
Readlyn, IA 50668
(319) 279-3977
Pastor Philip Giradin
Divine Service 10 a.m.



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



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.



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.

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