

Santa, s'mores, fireworks - wow!

The family-fun evening began at 3:30 p.m., November 25, when Santa arrived at the Readlyn Fire Station. Rather than just listening to children's wish lists, Santa chose to extend the visit by riding in the evening parade as well as enjoying the lighting of the Readlyn Christmas Tree and spectacular fireworks.

After visiting with Santa, 150 children were awarded customary gift bags prepared by this year's Grump and former Grumps. Participants were also able to register for a chance to win a ham purchased by the Readlyn Community Club. Also, folks were treated to hot chocolate served by the Rainbow Clovers and Readlyn Royalty Lily Swickerath and Kaliya Lampe.

But wait! There was more ~ the ever-popular s'mores were prepared and served by Readlyn firemen; as a result of the many people attending, both venues ran out of their treats and offer their apologies.

At 6:00 p.m., the colorful evening parade began with Louie Hartman as the emcee. The parade was followed by the lighting of the amazing Readlyn Christmas Tree donated by Laverne and Judy Leistikow. Next, Grump Ron Hartman, assisted by Louie Hartman, drew the following ham winners' names: Aydan Powell, Sean Van Natta, Jeremy Ryherd, Mike Swisher, Mary Lou Billhorn, Denise Ritzman, Kason Van Natta, Janet Ladage, Scott Broten, Autum Ganske, Tracy Szurley, Savina Perez, Robert Helmer, Kyle Spowart, Ron Hartman, and Santa Claus. The festivities culminated with an impressive fireworks display by Flashing Thunder.

Readlyn Community Club would like to thank all of the many residents who donated their time and/or money to provide this entertaining venue; thank you, too, to all who attended Readlyn's Christmas Commencement.



Wow! Readlyn Community Club's November 25 celebration was so successful that Santa took time to text us to say, "While riding in your parade, with the snow and music, it felt like I was in a Hallmark movie." See more photos on page 11.



Lighting up Readlyn for the holidays



First place: Denise and Scott Schock, 123 Highland (above and below)



Second Place: Ben and Jessica Anderson, 236 Fifth Street



Third place: Dave and Lisa Matthias, 511 Malone

First Place

With all of the light displays in Readlyn, Scott and Denise Schrock are extremely pleased and surprised to win this year's Christmas lighting contest. These former winners continue to improve their display annually.

Their passion of blow-ups is evident. The new blow-ups this year reflect their individual loves: Scott's is their part husky and Denise's is coffee. It's impressive how they decorate the front, side, and back of their house.

They thank the Readlyn Community Club for sponsoring this contest.

Second Place

Ben and Jessica Anderson agree that it is important to recognize Michael Bergmann for using his talents, patience, and love of Christmas lights to put up all of their lights. They encourage others to utilize him next year to help bring Christmas to their homes.

Decorating the Anderson home was a must this year since they live in what was once Elton and Shirley Schutte's home. Elton was the master of Christmas lights and always had the house decked out in Santa Clauses and Disney characters. Jessi-

ca remembers going to Grandpa and Grandma's Christmas Wonderland. Now their goal is to have that tradition continue since beloved Grandpa, Elton Schutte, departed this year. The decorations are not to Elton Schutte's standards yet, but they hope to add additional lights and displays each year in honor of Elton.

The Andersons want to express how thankful they are to the Readlyn Community Club for recognizing their efforts this year.

Third Place

The Matthias household wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!

Honorable Mention:

- Holly and Darrin Carlson, 402 6th Street
- Ron and Louie Hartman, 248 Clark
- Kevin and Stacie Price, 247 Clark
- Jerry and Cindy Sauerbrei, 401 5th Street Place
- Kyle and Kelly Shores, 503 Malone
- Rod and Bonnie Wittenburg, 112 Malone
- Scott and Connie Matthias, 223 West 4th Street
- Jim and Tamara Wolff, 346 Briggs
- Jim and Bev Collins, 240 Wolf
- Ron and Nancy Kohagen, 453 2nd Street
- Eric and Aubrey Johnston, 308 Magil Avenue



Grump's Grumblings

By Ron Hartman, 2023 Grump

Decorating the park went well with a lot of volunteers and pretty good weather. Santa Claus was coming to town, so the Grumps filled 150 bags with candy, fruit and peanuts. Remember that number.

Santa's visit was here, so we went to the Fire Station to decorate with quite a few volunteers. Volunteers are always welcome. At 3:30 pm, the kids started to come to see Santa. It was a lot of fun watching parents putting their screaming kids on Santa's lap while laughing and taking pictures. Luckily, it was my job to hand out the candy bags and make the kids smile. The firemen helped and made s'mores. The 4-H club served hot cocoa.

As 5:30 pm and Santa's departure got closer, the bags of goodies were getting low. At 5:29 pm, there were two bags left and two kids came through the door. It worked out just right with Santa delivered to the parade route on time.

It was snowing for the parade, tree lighting, ham drawing and fireworks. It was just a great evening and Flashing Thunder put on one heck of a fireworks show. We

cleaned up the Fire Station and were on to the next events.

The Milks family and Historical Society dedicated the Fire Department bell from years ago back to Readlyn. Yes, the Grump was there. Ron Steele was not.

I had to take a couple of days off after calling my heart doctor due to having trouble breathing. During a nuclear stress test, my heart stopped which caused a whole bunch of commotion. I was in heart surgery two hours later with one artery 99% blocked and one at 75% blocked. There is still one 70% blocked, but my insurance won't pay for it unless it is over 70%.

The 2017 Grump talked me into going to the "W" in Waverly. I might as well do something! The membership fee includes the weightlifting equipment, treadmills, bikes, access to the indoor track, pool, hot tub and free entrance to Wartburg sports events. A trainer will show you how to use everything. It's enjoyable and hopefully I'm on to better health.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Your 2023 Grump



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lily Schwickerath

Hello Readlyn Community!

This month has been filled with so much joy and laughter.

In November, I had the amazing opportunity to help serve cookies, and hot chocolate with a couple of 4-H members. It was such a wonderful feeling seeing all of the young kids happy faces after their visit with Santa!

For the month of December, I am very excited to see family and friends, eat

amazing food, drive around and see different Christmas lights displays around town during the break.

A couple of my favorite things to do during Christmas time is to get the Christmas tree right after Thanksgiving, bake and decorate cookies, build gingerbread houses, and walk around in the snow, if there is any this year.

I can't wait to see what the new year brings for the Readlyn community, and myself.

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa

How many elves are there at the North Pole? How many cookies do you eat in one year? For Christmas I want a bracelet set, wireless headphones and socks.

In school I've been really really good. How are you doing Santa? Are you friends with the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy? Last year I was in the hospital for a long time. I got to go to the Iowa Hospital. I had to wake up in the middle of the night to take medicine. We also need a new house really bad. Our house is falling apart and we have duct tape everywhere. Korvin and I have our birthdays close together. I'm starting to play basketball and I really like it. Which reindeer is your favorite?

Love Eliana

Dear Santa,

I really miss you, when will you come back so you can have some milk? Hope you have fun on your vacation to America. Also, what I want for Christmas this year is new shoes, a new phone, a new Xbox, a new computer, and a new VR headset. Oh, and also I'll ask my mom for some carrots for the reindeer, and I'll try to get a warm glass of milk, and some cookies for you. I

hope you have a great time at the North Pole. How have you been? I'm well, I've tried to be good. Hope you have some good cookies! Also, why do you put up wrapping paper on the door to my living room, just why?

Sincerely CJ,

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? Are you doing very well? Can I have an iPhone 15 Pro?

Can my dad buy me The forest?

Can I have a bigger room before Christmas or on Christmas? Can I have a VR headset for Christmas? Can I have a PS5?

On Christmas Eve, can go to a restaurant in Waverly? I hope my Sister Will be a little better at the new house.

Love Onyx

Dear Santa,

I hope you come back soon. I hope you get here safely. I want a drone. How are you doing? I'm doing really well. I hope you have a great Christmas.

From Holden

Dear Santa,

Can I have a new table cuz I need one because my mom doesn't like the one we have. I want a circle table. I always want to meet you. I always want to be with you and can I have a toy of you? So can I get a new table? I hope you have a great day. I wanted a joke book. I always wanted one. I want a flashlight and I always wanted a Control monster truck. Can I have a VR? Have a great day bye

From, Randy

Hi Mr. Santa,

Santa can I please have a VR and a PS5? How are you doing and how are your reindeers doing? I would like to surprise my mom with a puppy. I would like gift cards to use to buy games for my PS5 and 13 Vbucks. It sure looks like a hard job but your job is really cool I think how

are you doing with it. It is good. Santa, my mom is doing really good and I really love her. I am doing really well. I would like something for my new stepdad please and Santa if you know what he likes. Will you please get it for him?

Thank you, Adam



SEND NEWS to the Chronicle at:

ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

The deadline for the January 31 Chronicle is Thursday, January 18 at 5 p.m.

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Readlyn Community Happenings

CPR BLS classes offered in Readlyn

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) BLS (basic life support) classes will be now offered every other month at the fire station in Readlyn. Dates and times will be announced on Facebook and in the *Chronicle*.

Classes will be approximately 4 hours and cost for class is \$60 per student.

First scheduled class will be: January 20 - 8 a.m. at the fire station Please arrive 10 minutes prior to sign in as class will start at 8 a.m.

RSVP by calling or texting 319-939-4699. You may also call with any questions.

Denver/Readlyn blood drive is Jan. 5

The next Denver/Readlyn Community Blood Drive is planned for Friday, Jan. 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The blood drive will be held at the Denver Community Center, 100 Washington St.

Text LifeServe at 999.777, call 800-287-4903 or visit lifeserve.info/schedule to sign up.

Donate blood between Dec. 26 and Jan. 6, 2024 and receive double points.

November Milestones

Seventeen registered donors donated at the Denver/Readlyn Blood Drive on Nov. 3.

Of that number, 16 were eligible to donate, two were first-time donors, and 17 units were collected. Up to 51 lives were saved or sustained.

Milestones were noted by:

- Barbara Buhr - 9 gallons
- Charleen Bolte - 10 gallons
- Donna Petersen - 3 gallons
- Casey Widdel - 1 gallon



Readlyn Community Club (RCC) board members Louie Hartman and Tiffany McCumber present Sheila Rosengarten with a bouquet from Love and Lace on behalf of RCC to celebrate the opening of balance, her massage therapy business at 136 Main Street Readlyn. Text 319-290-3392 to make a weekday late afternoon or Saturday morning appointment.

Next Pepper tournament is Jan. 6

The pepper tournament was held at Grumpy's on December 2. Sixteen players participated. The winners and their scores were:

- 1st: Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 209
- 2nd: Roger and Connie Buhr - 195
- 3rd: Sean and Lorna Van Natta - 194
- 4th: Doris Hagenow and Therese Schumacher - 175

The next pepper tournament will be January 6 at 1:00 p.m. at Grumpy's.

Entry fee is \$3.00. Bring a partner and join in the fun!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Shirley Kuker and Judy Henn




Best wishes to you and your loved ones for peace, joy, health and abundance in the new year!

Thank you for making time for us in 2023. We really appreciate your business and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that sent a card for my 90th birthday. It was so much fun to hear from people I haven't seen in years and all the personal notes brought back a lot of good memories.

Harold Wehling



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Grumps meet to prepare bags

The Readlyn Grumps met November 20 at the library to prepare 150 bags of goodies for Santa's visit at the fire station.

A short meeting followed with the election of Ron Leistikow, president; Larry Sauerbrei, vice president; Louie Hartman, secretary. Thank you to Charlie Albrecht for his time serving as vice president of the Readlyn Grumps.

Recruiting of candidates for the 2024

Grump was discussed. A Christmas dinner was planned at Grumpy's on December 14.

Pictured above are: front row, left to right: Roger and Marlys Deterding, Louie Hartman, Ron Kohagen; back row: Ron Leistikow, Charlie Albrecht, Larry Sauerbrei, Larry Pavelec, Don Billhorn, Lavern Brase, Ron Hartman; Not pictured: GaryLee Thurm, Verdeen Pavelec, Roland Schmidt.

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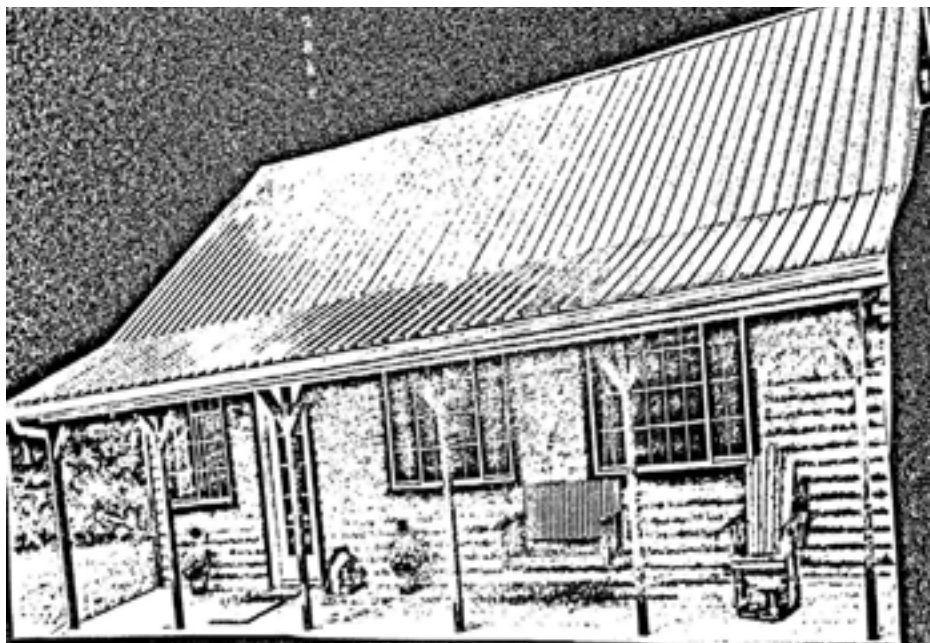
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Cabin exterior rendering

Bremer Co. Conservation making plans to build a cabin at Cedar Bend Park

Bremer County Conservation has some exciting news. We have been hard at work upgrading our parks to keep them enjoyable for all users. Playscapes have been installed, campgrounds have been improved, and other features were upgraded. BCC is always looking for ways to enhance the experience for visitors to our parks. This is your chance to be part of that vision.

Now we would like to take another step and build a cabin at Cedar Bend Park. This cabin could be used for weekend getaways, family events, or other uses. We have been working on a design that incorporates 2 bedrooms, a bath, kitchen, a great-room, and porch overlooking the Cedar River. This cabin will be available for rent during the camping season.

We are asking for your support. A gift of \$1,000-\$2,500 would go a long way in helping us bring this idea to life. Our timeframe is to take down the existing shelter that is past its useful condition, and then start construction immediately on the new cabin. We are currently applying for community grants and would appreciate any support that you can give.

If you have any questions or would like to meet with us to discuss the project, please contact:

Mike Stevens, (319) 429-4893, mss.

mike55@gmail.com or

Larry Pavelec, (319) 939-4968, larpavic@rtc279.com

For more information about Bremer County Conservation, visit: County Parks in Bremer County, Iowa (mycountyparks.com).

Mission: "Bremer County Conservation Board has the mission "to provide both citizens of and visitors to Bremer County with quality recreation opportunities, interpretation and education of the environment, and history of Bremer County, and longer term maintenance and protection of the county's natural resources."



View of the Cedar River

Bremer County Corn Growers meet to discuss county priorities

JOHNSTON, Iowa – The Iowa Corn Growers Association® (ICGA) Bremer County group met November 15 at the Sumner Family Restaurant to discuss their future county promotions and local events. Those in attendance included Iowa Corn District 3 Field Manager, Nolan Lyness, as well as county board members Ron Leistikow, Dean Buhr, Mark Mueller, Mark Lenius, Cody Meister and Jeff Reynolds.

During the meeting, it was decided to provide three of their own Bremer County Corn Grower scholarships for \$500, in addition to the Iowa Corn Growers Association and National Corn Growers scholarships, which are eligible for ICGA student member, or students whose parents are members of ICGA. In addition, the county board approved sponsoring six Iowa Corn student memberships per FFA Chapter at the schools in their district, which includes Waverly, Wapsie Valley, Sumner-Fredricksburg, Denver-Tripoli and Nashua Plainfield.

Cody Meister was selected as the Pre-

mier County Achievement Program (PCAP) representative for the county and will be eligible to attend Commodity Classic in San Antonio in 2024. Counties that show strong local grassroots efforts are rewarded through PCAP to show the value local corn organizations have on the industry. Also discussed was the local Bremer County nitrate testing research that Iowa Corn sponsored, which was conducted by Ron Lenth at Bremer County Extension.

The Bremer County Corn Growers are always seeking new members. If you are a corn farmer within the county or a supporter of corn farmers, we encourage you to sign-up to get more involved at Iowacorn.org/join.

The Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA) is a 7,000-member strong grassroots-driven organization, headquartered in Johnston, Iowa, serving members across the state, and lobbying on agricultural issues on behalf of its farmer members to create opportunities for long-term Iowa corn grower profitability. For more information, visit Iowacorn.org.

Iowa's First in the Nation Caucus is scheduled for January 15

On Monday, January 15 (MLK Day), citizens will have the opportunity to voice their opinion about issues concerning the State of Iowa and the Nation at Iowa's First in the Nation Caucus. In Readlyn, the Republican Caucus will be held at Readlyn Elementary, and will include residents of the City of Readlyn, Franklin Township and Maxfield Township.

So, what is a caucus? Caucus is a party-led meeting at the precinct level i.e. a small group, allowing voters to learn about state, local, and national candidates, to vote on planks that will be adopted by the state and national parties as their platform, and to become more involved in the party organizations. Planks are like resolutions or legislative goals. For example: We, the so-named party, believe the United States, local, and state government should have a balanced budget and live within their means.

Both Democrat and Republican caucuses will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 15. Caucus attendees need to check in at the site to be allowed entry. The caucus will be called to order and a chairperson and secretary will be elected for the evening. The group will vote for delegates to the County Convention, which is a larger gathering, to debate and refine their platform. Each caucus goer will have the chance to sign nomination papers for various local, state, and federal candidates. The grassroots legislative process will begin by gathering resolutions/planks and discussing them. These planks will be forwarded on to the County Conventions for their considerations.

A difference this year is that only the Republican caucuses will be conducting a straw poll to measure the presidential strength for the candidates on caucus night. The results of the secret ballot will be reported to the precinct chairperson, whose committee will tally the votes.

The state Democrat party will conduct their straw poll through the U.S. mail. The Democrat Party will start mailing out ballots on January 12, but you must request a ballot by February 19. To request a Democrat ballot visit: <https://iowademocrats.org/2024-caucus-2/>.

The Democrat Party will announce their results on March 5. This is a vote of confidence that the straw poll winner from each party will be the strongest candidate to go against the other for the Presidential election held in November.

Caucus goers may not pick the eventual winner, but Iowa is first to winnow the field so other states can pick the strongest remaining candidate.

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND THE CAUCUSES? The caucus is a grassroots process allowing your voice to be heard about what candidates you would like to see elected, and give input to the resolutions you want your political party and its voters to work towards. The caucuses are a great way to learn more about our political system for young and old.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE? Anyone who will be 18 year of age or older on the General Election, which is November 5, 2024 (i.e. born on or before 11/5/2006). You must be a registered Democrat or Republican and may register or change your registration at the caucus site. To register you need proof of identity and proof of residency; bring your government ID with your current address or bring an additional source, such as a utility bill, with your new address. **Note:** Iowa law prohibits participating in more than one political party's caucus.

Remember, the caucuses are run by local volunteers, some doing it for the first time. Come early to register and spend the time discussing issues with your neighbors.

Entries welcomed for 2nd Annual Wapsie Writing Contest

Fairbank, Iowa native and award-winning author Betty Brandt Passick announces the Second Annual Wapsie Writing Contest. Submissions must be in MS Word format and will be accepted after January 1, 2024. The deadline for entry is March 15.

The objective of the contest is to encourage children, in particular, and adults to write more and improve their skills. Adults (19 and older), youth (12-18 years), and children (11 years and younger) are invited to write about a subject matter of their choosing. Genres are non-fiction, fiction, or poetry. The length must be 100 to 1,500 words, and participants are limited to one entry. Send submissions by email to bbpassick@comcast.net.

"What most people don't realize is that I began writing – as a poet," said Passick. "I was a young girl when I took the initiative to correspond with noted poet, Lillian Dirksen, whose works I found published in the *Sumner Gazette*. My maternal grandmother lived in Sumner and subscribed to the paper. I wrote to Lillian to ask for her feedback on my poems. To my surprise, she took the time to respond and offered a few kindly-worded sugges-

tions. Little did she know how much she encouraged me to continue to hone my writing skills. I've now published four books, two historical crime novels -- both winners of an Indie Book Award -- and two significant memoirs. A third novel will be available in early 2024. My short stories and poems have appeared in newspapers, magazines, and books throughout the Midwest."

Winning a writing contest comes with perks, as Marcus Washington from Waterloo found out. He won the 2023 Wapsie Writing Contest in the adult category for his short story, "Some truths are better left to dreams." The story has been published in the fall edition of *WINK: Writers IN the Know* magazine.

Maria Streif from Maynard won the 2023 writing contest in the youth category for her poem "Snowflakes."

Arianna Minikus from Waterloo won in the children's category for her short story "My Amazing Trip!"

The contest judges are authors, writers, or have taught writing in a variety of genres. The hope is to receive double the number of contest entries from the previous year.

Deadline for the Jan. 31 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., Jan. 18 at 5 PM



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Thank You!



We'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who donated baked goods for our Cookie Walk this year. Everything was so delicious; we know the work that went into all of those homemade goodies. And we sold every last crumb, too. It was a record year - we brought in \$1,068! We depend on our fundraisers and donations - it allows us to offer programming for the community that we would not otherwise be able to afford. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated - from the Library Board and Staff. What a great community we have here in Readlyn.



Wish List



FOR THE LIBRARY

Do you want to help support the library this coming holiday season? We can always use items like paper plates and cups, disposable utensils, paper towels, disinfecting wipes, disposable tablecloths for art projects and Keurig coffee pods.

Want to make a monetary donation? All donations are tax-deductible and go to library programming. If you wish to sponsor a specific program or event, visit with us for more information.

Watch us on Facebook for more information about upcoming events and programming and holiday hours/closures. Also, winter weather means that sometimes it's not safe for our staff or patrons to get to the library. We try to post notices of any emergency closures on Facebook. If you're unsure, please call before making a drive to the library in bad weather! Stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season!



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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>

Early Shell Rock: First Doctor Remembers the Early Days

These experiences, written by Dr. John Scobey M.D. 1883, gives an insight into the conditions the early settlers of Readlyn and Denver faced. Taken from Wayne Kuethe's copy of *The History of Shell Rock*.

By the solicitation of friends and former neighbors I visited Shell Rock in the spring of 1856. The village then numbered between fifteen to twenty families. There were two clergymen and a justice of the peace.

There was one small dry goods store, one saw mill and a flouring mill being erected. I visited the Shell Rock River at this place, and thought then as I do now, that it was the finest stream of water I had ever seen. Its hydraulic power at this point was suffice to drive a great amount of machinery. Waters were stored in vast numbers, fine fish, its banks crowned with fine timber and tremendously skirted with waving groves of small timber. After viewing the local advantages here, I harnessed my trusty mare Fanny, and headed southwest to take a view of the prairie. Fanny ferried me over the Shell Rock, there being no bridges. It was the last of May, the undulating plains were dressed in nature's gay attire of living green. There was but few if any laid out or worked roads or bridges in the county. I traveled as best I could, avoiding the sloughs which were very mirey. Log cabins were occasionally to be seen, generally near the groves or timberland, where a few acres were plowed, and a few domestic animals were to be seen.

After meandering over the county viewing the different localities where homesteads were being started, I returned to Shell Rock and located here as a physician, purchased several town lots which, most of the other lots were in their condition, covered with hazel Bush, limbs of trees, de-

caying logs and mud holes. The next summer I erected present cottage house which I enclosed with 2 inch plank spiked into sills 8 inches square. This Cottage stands test of moving time with but few signs of decay.

My family arrived here from Ohio in September 1856. They had never seen wild, uncultivated prairies before. Why were they brought to such an awful looking place? There was not a well-worked street, the town was full of stumps, logs, underbrush, and mud holes, the school-house was but a rude log shanty, and the meetinghouse but little better. Soon they discovered squads of Indians rambling up and down the river. Their fears were excited. The torch fire, the war club, the hatchet and scalping knife were raised. They would return to friends in Ohio. They would not stay here to be murdered by savages or to be torn to pieces by wild beasts. The prairie country was fitted only for Indians, bears, wolves and ferocious wild beasts. The Indians were peaceful and friendly and our family's fears subsided into friendly donations.

One of the winter rides I experienced in my first seven years of practice before the roads were worked and much land was cultivated. I briefly present: On the 4th of January I started this morning as usual to visit some patients up the river some fifteen miles away. The northwest wind was blowing very hard and cold and the snow flying. The first call to be made was to a Mr. Martin's, east of Turkey Grove, five miles away and east from the Clarksville Road. No track was to be seen after leaving the main road. Fanny plunged ahead until we came to the slough, some twenty rods from the house. She could go no further. I tightened the reins and covered her with a robe and blanket. I wallowed through the

slough, found the house and prescribed for the patients. Mr. Martin asked me to step to his yard where I think I saw six dead hogs which were chilled and frozen when they came out of their pens to eat corn. Then he showed me a pair of oxen that were chilling badly in their stall. The wind was veering and the air was full of snow. I could not see six feet in any direction. I crossed the slough. My sleigh was not there. I traveled, as I supposed, was up the slough, up and down the slough a number of times. The snow was up to my waist. Fanny was not to be found. I stopped, kicked the snow away and stomped my cold feet. Where was Martin's house, I could not see it. In what direction did I just come? My hopes were gone. A cold snowdrift would be my winter tomb. The prowling hungry wolves would feed on my physical form. Good-bye to my family and friends.

I straightened up and tried to look around. Naught could I see but flying snow. In those eternal moments of dark despair, had I owned the globe and revolving world in the solar system, I would have given them all for the privilege of stepping into my sleigh behind Fanny.

As I was lifting my foot to the first step, Fanny whinnied not more than a rod from where I was standing. It was a melodious sound that burst upon my ear through the whirling snow. My flagging energy re-

vived, I skipped to the sleigh, helped Fanny turn it round and I stepped in. Fanny would soon reach the Clarksville road in the timber. I was now monarch of all I could see. There were none to dispute my right but old boreaus. He may rage with all his power in 11 hydrophobic whirls and drive his silo minions into fits of desperation, but Fanny and I will win the race without my giving a world or a dime. The road being found I passed up the river to Clarksville, and went several miles to see the sick. In the evening I returned safely home. I enjoyed a quiet rest and started on another pilgrimage the next morning.

Taken from the *Forum and History of Butler County*

Bob's comment—From Wayne's book, *History of Shell Rock*, I found this almost unbelievable piece of information. The Cedar River was navigable by steamboat from the Mississippi the entire distance to the merger of the Shell Rock River and the Cedar River. The Shell Rock River runs into the Cedar a few miles south of Janesville near the Cedar-Wapsi Road.

In 1835, lieutenant Albert Lea visited the area, finding that steamboats could navigate the Cedar to the mouth of the Shell Rock River. His military march furthered the opening of the territory for white settlers. A city in Minnesota is named for Lieutenant Albert Lea.

Early travels relied on oxen, wagons

Bob's comments: Shell Rock has a history that predates Readlyn history. Wayne Kuethe, a resident of Shell Rock, lent me an interesting book on the history of Shell Rock from which I gained much information from the era while Iowa was being settled.

Before there were railroads in Iowa, the state was covered with a network of stage-coach lines. The closest route to Shell Rock Township was from Cedar Rapids to Cedar Falls. Stages were operated with regularity and merchandise was trans-

Continued on Page 16

The Mill was built in the mid-1800s

In 1853, George Washington Adair dammed the Shell Rock River and built a sawmill. George and his brother, William, built the flouring grist mill in 1855-57 that still stands today.

After the mill ceased operation it fell into disrepair. The Shell Rock community came to its rescue. In 2007, Shell Rock celebrated its 150 years of existence.

The Mill is now owned by the Pals family who converted the mill into a unique Bed and Breakfast. The B&B consists of two elaborate units on separate floors overlooking the Shell Rock River. B&B information is readily available on the Internet.



Les Becker - Case



Mike Schmitz - John Deere



Art Miller - McCormick-Deering Farmall



Dick Lehmkuhl - Oliver

Corrections to the Thran article in Nov.

The photos above should have been included in the article I wrote about area implement dealers. The *Chronicle* apologizes for the error.

Denver did indeed have an implement dealership. Butch Milius informed me that

his dad farmed with Minneapolis-Moline machinery purchased from Lahman Chevrolet in Denver. Keith Oltrogge told me that Red Lahman handled the Minneapolis-Moline machinery and Ted Lahman the Chevrolet dealership.

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Obituary

Roger Allen Zars

Roger Allen Zars, 79, of Readlyn, passed away Saturday, November 25, 2023, at the Tripoli Nursing Home.

Roger was born April 30, 1944, the son of Reinhardt and Grace (Leisinger) Zars. He was a lifetime member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger where he was baptized and confirmed. He attended Immanuel Lutheran Parochial School through the 8th grade and graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in 1962. On April 10, 1966, Roger was united in marriage to Bonnie Sue Wittenburg at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Klinger.

Roger worked for a short time at John Deere until he realized his passion for farming. Together Roger and Bonnie operated a dairy farm where they also raised hogs and crops. He enjoyed playing cards with family and friends for many years. He was well known in the area for growing sweet corn, tomatoes, and his famous beef jerky. His children and grandchildren will always remember him for being quick-witted and a smart aleck. Roger was an avid sports fan of Wapsie Valley sports

and enjoyed attending his grandchildren's high school and college sporting events.

Roger is survived by his two daughters, Pam (Dave) Shinstine of Tripoli and Angie (Chris) Joerger of Readlyn, one son, Todd (Shae) Zars of Shawnee, Kansas, nine grandchildren, Marissa (Nathan) Pech, Nick (Keely) Shinstine, Lakin Joerger, Mikenna (fiancé, Bryce Kleitsch) Joerger, Cannon Joerger, Keegan Zars, Evan Zars, Elle Zars and Emree Zars; four great-grandchildren, Livia and Hoyt Pech and Clara and Everleigh Shinstine; his two sisters, Barb Buhr of Readlyn and Sherry (John) Tiedt of Readlyn; two brothers, Larry (Ida) Zars of Denver; and Steve (Jackie) Zars of Bremer; one sister-in-law, Kathy Zars; one brother-in-law, Jerry (Bonnie) Wittenburg and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Roger is preceded in death by his parents, wife, Bonnie, his father and mother-in-law, Delbert and Elda Wittenburg; a brother, Ron Zars; brother-in-law, Gary Buhr; and a nephew, Troy Zars.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Klinger, with Rev. Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Visitation was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn and for an hour prior to services at the church on Wednesday. Memorials may be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church or to the Tripoli Nursing Home. Online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.

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



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News from Wapsie Valley Schools



WVEF fall dinner, auction a success

The Wapsie Valley Education Foundation (WVEF) had a great turnout at the Legion on November 17 for their annual fall dinner and auction. Following is a list of the people/businesses that gave a cash donation:

Costello Diesel Service, Myers Polaris, Dels Auto Repair, Northeast Security Bank, Don's Truck, Oelwein Dental Associates, Edgeton Hardware, Oran Telephone Company, Elsamiller Electric, Pat Wehr, First Bank of Waverly, Readlyn Community Club, Glenda Brandt, Readlyn Senior Citizens, Grace Kuethe, Restored Nutrition, Kaiser Corson Funeral Homes, Robert & Jean Bellis, Kathy Shook, Security Mutual, Larry's Skelly, Sue & Ed Schumacher, Laurie Phelan, Tatroe Electric, Mane Event - Becky South, The Accel Group -Mark Lenius, Marilyn Steggall, TruServ Insurance Group, Mary Lou & Don Billhorn, Van Daele Insurance, Mike Heineman- Precision Ag, Wittenburg Truck Line.

Here is a list of the auction items and the donors:

Auction Item	Donor
Detail Kit, \$20 to Costas & Homemade Soap.....	Jerrys Auto, Costas, Jaqueline Faust
Lantern & Stacked Present Decoration.....	Teresa Shephard - Rivers Edge Hair Studio
Patriot 20 qt Heavy Duty Insulated Cooler.....	Security Mutual Insurance
WV Spirit Throw Blanket & Class of 2029 Pillow.....	Jenni Gross, WV FCS Class
Cat Package.....	Readlyn Vet
Silver Bangle Bracelet.....	Tenenbaum's Jewelry
3 Tier Wheeled Serving Cart, 12x12 Santa Wall Hanging, Homemade Bread.....	Fairbank Floor Covering, Floral Image, WV FCS
6 Bottles of Wine.....	Bob Moulds
12 Bags of Asgrow Soybeans.....	Bayer Crop Science- Dave Wheeler
Crochet Critter & Soap Bundle.....	Jenni Gross & Jaqueline Faust
Canning Basket.....	Marty McKowen
Gallon of Radiate, Shirt & Hat	Nutrien Ag Solutions, Joel Sieck
WV Wreath, \$50 Booster Bucks, 2 Shirts, WV Flag... WV Athletic Boosters & Deb Sauerbrei	L&L Ag Repair
Painted Saw Blade Set.....	L&L Ag Repair
Fareway Meat Grilling Bundle & Pork/Beef Bundle....	Readlyn Savings Bank
2 Coleman Camp Chairs & Weeds on Fire \$50 Gift Certificate	KBK Kreations - Tim & Elaine Zimmerman,

Weeds on Fire	Schuldts Repair
King Size Green & Maroon Quilt	Darlene Peters
4 tickets and a VIP table for 4 to their Jimmy Buffet tribute of Parrothead in Paradise - Feb 16 at 8pm	Grumpy's - Mike & Samantha Keeran
Women's XL Leather Jacket	L&L Ag Repair
Yeti Cooler.....	Legacy Roofing
Christmas Basket & Homemade Bread.....	WV Special Education, WV FCS
Dog Package.....	Readlyn Vet
12 Bags of Pioneer Soybeans	Pioneer Seeds - Dean Buhr
Fareway Meat Variety Bundle & \$50 Gift Card.....	Readlyn Savings Bank
6 Pints Canned Beef & Homemade Bread.....	Charlie & Wilda Albrecht & WV FCS
\$100 Gift Certificate.....	Steege's Meat Market
6 Bottles of Wine	Bob Moulds
2 Tickets to "The Happy Elf," \$75 to Whiskey Road, & Overnight Stay at Blackhawk Hotel	Readlyn Telephone Communication
Wooden Fireman American Flag	Tyler Woods
Music for an event/party (2 hours).....	Emily Bauer
Homemade Soap Bundle & \$50 Weeds on Fire Gift Certificate	Jaqueline Faust & Weeds on Fire
12 Bags on NK Soybeans . NK seeds - Brett Flaharty	\$200 Gift Certificate..... Little Wapsie Communication
WV gnome, Pillow Trees, \$20 Costas & Crocheted Cozies	Laurie Phelan, Costas, Jenni Gross
Outdoor Solar Flower Décor w Shepherds Hook & \$50 Weeds on Fire Gift Certificate	Ruth & David Wittenburg, Deana Messerschmidt & Weeds on Fire
45 Minutes Single Family Outdoor Photo Session, Homemade Soaps.....	Pieces of Life Photography & Jacqueline Faust
12 bags of Channel Seed Corn	Prime Ag Services - Brian Pottebaum
Turkey Fryer, 5 Gallons of Brine, & Gift Certificate to Fairbank Food Center.....	Little Property Management - Jay & Emily Little
12 Bags of NK Corn.....	NK seeds - Brett Flaharty
2 Tickets to Big Bad VooDoo Daddy & \$75 to Whiskey Road	Readlyn Telephone Communication
Bed Head Waver for Beachy Waves & WV Sweatshirt	Visions Salon & AJS Boutique
Cardinal Holiday Quilt.....	Carol Strottmann
6 Pints Canned Beef & Homemade Bread	Charlie & Wilda Albrecht & WV FCS
Rechargeable Power Station.....	David C Matthias - Farm Bureau Financial Services
Porch Pot & Wreath.....	Wiersma, Leistikow, Davis, & Casterton
\$100 Gift Certificate.....	Steege's Meat Market
Homemade Soap Bundle & \$50 Weeds on Fire.....	Jaqueline Faust & Weeds on Fire
20 Bags of Stine Beans.....	Mick Kane
EUHOMY Commercial Ice Maker.....	Gavin Marine
\$300 Gift Certificate.....	Readlyn Telephone Communication
EdZone Ribs & Margaritas and Cooler.....	Ed & Kathy Traeger, Doug & Amy Sheppard
Queen Size Black/Gold Quilt.....	Leslie Matthias
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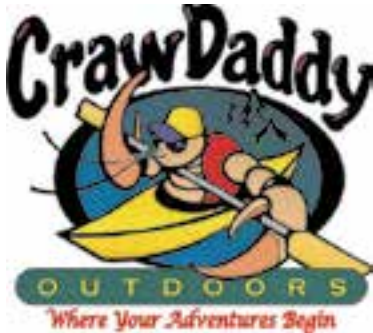
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All donation tiers are tax deductible




Special thanks from the fire department

The Readlyn Volunteer Firefighters Association would like to thank the community - residents and businesses - for your continued support. In early November, we hosted our annual community fundraiser event which consists of a mailed piece containing raffle tickets for a drawing as well as an invite to the community event which was hosted the first Saturday of November at Grumpy's Bar. While the in-person attendance of the event was lighter this year than years past, we still had a great time with those who were able to join us. The mailed or handed in donations continued to have a tremendous response. So supporters of Readlyn Fire, we say thank you for your continued support!

The funds raised from this event are used to help provide our volunteer department with equipment and gear that we need to be able to serve the residents of Readlyn and surrounding communities. The past couple of years we've used the raised money to accelerate our air pack system (SCBA) upgrade efforts. Every dollar helps as costs for these essential pieces of equipment continue to rise. As a point of reference, each SCBA unit cost about \$8,600 in 2022 and are now up to over \$9,200 with another increase expected in 2024.

A special thank you to those who helped us with our event and made donations for drawing prizes. Without the community partnerships, we wouldn't be able to put on such a successful event. Thank you Grumpy's Bar for letting us overtake the bar and lining up the great music from Unpolished Jams for us. It was an extra treat having Gucci the Cow as a guest too! Thank you Klinger Acres for donating the hog that we raffle and Oran Locker for your donation towards the hog processing. Behind the scenes, the crews at Readlyn Savings Bank and Readlyn Telephone Company also provide us such important assistance with this event, and many of the other events we do too! We had many businesses provide door prizes for our raffle this year too - too many to list. But thank you to all of you as well.

Readlyn Volunteer Firefighters Association is a 501(c)3 organization that provides support to the Readlyn Fire Department. We're always looking for fundraising opportunities to help with our equipment needs as well as advancing our fundraising efforts for our fire station upgrade. If you have an idea or would like to make a donation please reach out to us on Facebook or to our email at readlynfire@gmail.com.

Poker ride planned for April 27

As the Readlyn Emergency Services Building committee continues with our efforts to raise funds for a future station, we would like to thank the donors in the last month: In Memory of Gail Deterding, and In Memory of Evelyn Strottmann by Marty and Kristi Marticoff.

Donations can be made any time by mail, venmo, or Readlyn Savings Bank.

We are happy to announce an all-vehicle poker ride APRIL 27, 2024. Make sure to put this on your calendars. There is a committee working on great prizes and auction items. You won't want to miss it!

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.

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- Cadet \$100-\$499
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Please help us in congratulating Sherri as she is retiring after 35 years of service. We will be holding an open house on Thursday December 28th from 1 to 4 in the Readlyn office.

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Readlyn Grumps met for an annual get together at Grumpys in Readlyn Thursday, December 14. Everyone enjoyed a great meal and sharing activities of the past year. Even the Grumpy can wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

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What's Cooking?

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Texas Cowboy Stew

Submitted by High School Principal Mr. Murphy
 Here's a Texas Cowboy Soup recipe we like at the Mr. Murphy House

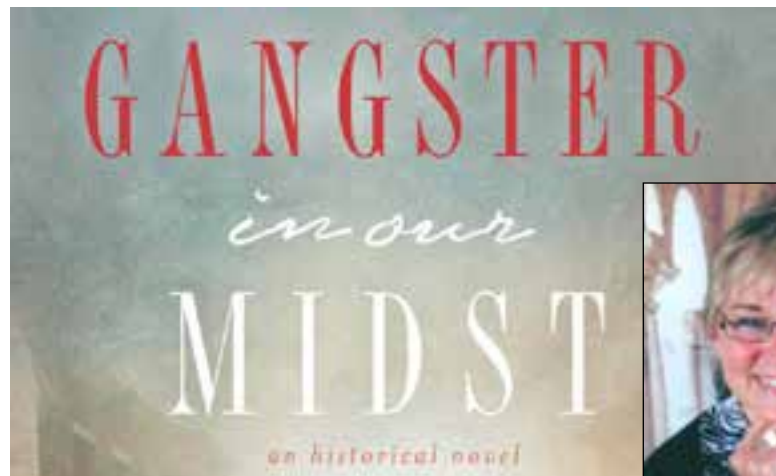
Prep Time 20 minutes
 Cook Time 1 hour
 Total Time 1 hour 20 minutes

Ingredients

- 12 ounces of beef smoked sausage cut into ¼-inch thick slices (Hillshire Farms brand)
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1½ cups diced yellow onion
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 3 cups diced russet potato 1-inch pieces from 2 large peeled potatoes
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1½ cups frozen sweet yellow corn
- 1½ cups frozen peas & carrots medley blend
- 31 ounces (2 15.5-ounce) cans of pinto beans with the liquids
- 14.5 ounces can of stewed tomatoes
- 10 ounces can of original Rotel diced tomatoes & green chilies
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper

Instructions

1. Add the sliced beef smoked sausage to a stock pot (7-8 quarts) on medium-high heat. Cook the sausage for 5-6 minutes or until the edges start to crisp and the fat renders. Transfer the cooked sausage pieces to a paper towel-lined plate to allow all the excess fat to drain, and set aside.
2. Add the lean ground beef, diced yellow onion, and minced garlic to the hot stock pot. Cook and brown the ground beef for 5-6 minutes or until no pink remains and the onions are tender. Drain any excess fat from the pot.
3. Add the cooked beef smoked sausage back to the pot, with the ground beef, along with the diced russet potatoes, beef broth, frozen sweet corn, frozen peas & carrots, pinto beans, stewed tomatoes, original Rotel diced tomatoes, chili powder, ground cumin, smoked paprika, salt, and black pepper. Stir to combine.
4. Bring the Texas cowboy stew to a boil, then cover and reduce the heat to low. Simmer for 1 hour or until the potatoes are fork-tender. Keep the lid just barely cracked open to allow the excess steam to escape the pot.



Betty Brandt Passick

“Sometimes the background is even more appetizing.”

By Betty Brandt Passick, bbpassick@comcast.net

A lot of good ‘stuff’ gets left on the cutting room floor during the book editing process. That was certainly true in the weeks leading up to the publication of the novel *Gangster in Our Midst* (2017). A lot of material was—in a word—unnecessary (in telling the story)—and had to be cut.

It’s the reason I offer a book talk, “Gangster(s) in Our Midst: The Untold Story.”

At my presentation at the Readlyn library on November 2, I read the book description (from the back cover):

Oxbow, Iowa was similar to most small railroad towns in the Midwest in the 1920s. Populated with Germans, Scandinavians and Irish. Where Roman Catholics and Protestants lived clustered lives, separated by the Wapsipinicon River. A hamlet known for its Island Park, the site of baptisms, picnics—and amateur boxing matches. Unique for its Wiltse Hotel, one of the better class of smaller hostleries of the state. And a flagpole set dead center in Main Street, a concrete reminder to follow the rules. Prohibition overnight threw the whole nation into a tailspin, Chicago quickly gaining the reputation for its underworld jungle. Oxbow too grew its own crop of bootleggers. One day a “mystery man” showed up on Main Street, and clinging to his arm was an area girl, Josephine. The phlegmatic town

marshal Sweeney Delaney; Walter Bierkoff, a farmer and man of keen curiosity; and the perspicacious Father John Halpin, priest at the I. C. Catholic Church—all soon suspect him of being a gangster for Al Capone.

The novel tells the factually inspired story of Louie La Cava, an Italian-American man who came to a small Iowa town in the early 1920s—where he lived off and on for the next sixty years.

I reminded those in attendance I hadn’t come to talk about the book. My presentation that evening was to share the backstory of Louie La Cava and his mafia family. The depth of information available is significant; one could write a book on this subject matter alone.

A few days later, one attendee sent me this note: “I just loved hearing the background of Louie La Cava! Sometimes, I enjoy background is even more appetizing.” (Music to my ears.)

The final bullet point of my agenda was to lead a discussion about other notorious gangsters who roamed the Midwest during the 1920s-30s. Several individuals shared their stories, each full of secrecy and intrigue.

Thank you to Kimberly Hollon, Readlyn library director, for the invitation to share this story. I appreciated everyone who came to listen and learn about a piece of northeast Iowa history. Iowa celebrated its 175th year of statehood in 2022.

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Have you heard about the "What Is Up" Podcast?

By Bubba Seemann - My wife and I moved to Fairbank in 2005. We have 4 kids that are in or graduated from Wapsie School District. One of my sons is currently visiting Zion Church on some Sundays. We have no personal ties to Readlyn other than some family and people who already listen to the podcast. My second guest on the podcast was Scott Broten who is a very active member of the Readlyn community. This is not a money-making venture for me. The main goal of the "What Is Up" podcast is to encourage people in the crazy times we live in.

I've always thought that anyone could write a book about their life and there would be people who find it interesting.

Or if a camera crew had followed me and my family around during deer season the last 20 years, we would have had a hit reality show.

But why? We are not special, we are just regular guys. So why would anyone be interested in our lives or our stories?



Or if a camera crew had followed me and my family around during deer season the last 20 years, we would have had a hit reality show.

But why? We are not special, we are just regular guys. So why would anyone be interested in our lives or our stories?

Then it hit me...everyone is special (Gen. 1:27). We all have a story to tell or an experience to share. People find other people's lives interesting if you let them share their experiences!

So I started the "What Is Up" podcast where I and a guest discuss everything: culture, current issues, politics, faith, family, parenting, sports, comedy, movies, music, entertainment and the outdoors. There is something for everyone!

The first half of the show is the guest's story/history. So far we have had some captivating, emotional and personal testimonies of struggle and overcoming hardships. The second half of each episode consists of our fun segments with guaranteed laughs! We conclude with the "What Is Up" segment where we discuss in depth a more serious issue that has us all asking "What is up with..." fill in the blank. And there are plenty of those out there right now!

So please give us a listen on Spotify, Apple Podcast or YouTube. Check out our social media on Facebook and Instagram for more information and a chance to win some sweet merch! If you like what you hear, please share it as much as possible.

Wapsie Valley School Board Meeting November 20, 2023

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular School Board Mtg November 20, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:30 PM

A. Directors: Auel, Sauerbrei, Wolfe, and Van Daele. Aiello (excused) Declare a quorum.

B. Administration: Supt. Hoover, Board Sec. Arndt & Principals: Murphy, Myers, & Forsyth

C. Others: Vaughn Gross, Readlyn elementary students, Tony Russell, Bill Soesbe, Brian Stark, Lynn Van Daele, and virtual participants.

2. Moved by Sauerbrei, seconded by Auel to approve the agenda moving of Spotlight in Education prior to public comment as presented. Motion carried 4-0

3. Spotlight in Education-Readlyn students presented their portfolios which teaches the students organization, goal setting, grit, coachability, celebrations, and many other valuable life skills

Public comment - Vaughn Gross discussed robotics, course description handbook & past students that come back to mentor. Tom Russell would like to start a trap shooting club for 7-12 grade students and use the WV logo. This club will be very organized and controlled.

4. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Brent Sauerbrei with OE FYI - Duane Wilcox requests to open enroll his 10th-grade daughter to Waverly, & Joshua Tucker request to open enroll his 5th-grade son to Waterloo after moving into the Wapsie District. Motion carried 4-0

5. Board-The WVEF auction on Friday night had good participation.

Superintendent-Hoover: Report included Enrollment, Iowa School Performance Profile, Thank you to WVEF dinner and auction, & Activities. Bills Soesbe discussed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) process overview.

District: Report includes Leader In Me updates, WVEF banquet, Professional Development, & Veteran's Day Program

District/Principals: report includes Parent/Teacher conferences, Run Hide Fight presentation, Leader In Me, Professional Development, 1-1 meetings with teacher/elementary principal meetings, Field Trips, Career Fair, Blood Drive, Infinite Campus Scheduler Training, & Activity updates.

6. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the resignation of Lyn Howerzyl- Elementary Music Teacher, & Gina Wiersma-Instructional Coach-Early Retirement and thank them for their service to Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 4-0

Contracts: Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve a contract to Malena Rumelhart - Elementary Music Teacher-BA/O - \$25,059 + \$2,867 = \$27,926 - 95 days effective January 3, 2023 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

7. New Business-Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve Notice of Public Hearing-December 18, 2023 and Letting of bids for Wapsie Valley CSD Softball Field Light project. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve sharing girls wrestling with Sumner-Fredricksburg for the 23-24 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve sharing Boys Soccer with Waverly for the 23-24 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the SBRC request for Modified Supplemental Amount Open Enrollment Out not in Fall 2022 (\$54,395) as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the SBRC request for Modified Supplemental Amount for ELL Beyond 5 Years (\$6,422) as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the SBRC Special Education Administrative Costs (\$5,929.83) associated with the LIED Center Consortium Program for the 24-25 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the 23-24 Dance agreement with Oelwein as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Van Daele to approve the 23-24 Course Description Handbook as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the use of the WV logo by the Trap Shooting Team/Club as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Van Daele to approve increasing reimbursement of DOT physicals Board Policy 403.01 from \$100 to a maximum of \$130 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve Board Policy 505.08-Parent & Family Engagement Districtwide Policy, 505.08RI-Parent & Family Engagement Building Level Regulation with updated language as presented. Motion carried 4-0

9. Board Talking Points-Proposals for track & other infrastructure for all buildings will be ready in January.

Discussed lunch outsourcing

10. Moved by VanDaele, Seconded by Sauerbrei to adjourn at 7:44PM. Motion carried 4-0 Respectfully,

Kim Arndt

Early travels relied on oxen, wagons

Continued from Page 7

ported over the same roads.

Oxen and horse-drawn wagons were the most reliable source in the settlement era. During the Civil War, growth and immigration was slowed, but the postwar period was witness to the expansion of stagecoach and wagon roads, railway lines and bridges. Angling territorial roads followed Indian trails or connected towns and farms to mills. However, increasing numbers of section lines were laid out according to the legal township and range patterns superimposed in Iowa by government's land surveys. This grid pattern strongly influenced farm location and field management. With road access, new farms could be located well out in the prairie along section lines. Churches and school could be located in convenient places.

Before bridges were built, settlers crossed streams at a ford or on ferries. Some of the bridges were toll bridges where a traveler paid to cross. Bridges

Shell Rock and Railroads

Shell Rock had, at one time, two railroads serving the town. The Chicago Great Western, east and west, the same line that served Readlyn. The CGW went bankrupt, Its tracks were removed, circa 1968. The Iowa Northern Railroad (formerly a part of the Rock Island Line) is an active rail line that runs north and south from Manly to Cedar Rapids through Shell Rock.

Located west of Shell Rock, three major industries are utilizing the rail line to receive and deliver their product. Wayne Kuethe, RHS graduate and resident of Shell Rock, assembled this interesting information.

POET ETHANOL PLANT—produces on average 360,000 gallons of ethanol each day—needs 875 corn truck loads each week to keep the plant running—380 rail cars of ethanol are shipped out each month—ships its product to 31 countries—employs approximately 60 workers in its Shell Rock facility—grinds on average 125,000 bushels of corn each day—Shell Rock POET has 16 days of plant operation storage on site, not including the corn pile.

SHELL ROCK SOY PROCESSING—Sits on approximately 130 acres—receives soybeans by rail and by truck—receives approximately 700 truckloads of beans each week—has the capacity to unload 30 truckloads of beans per hour—ships out 8 to 10 tank cars of oil each day—processes

Readlyn City Council Meeting Nov. 20, 2023

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:45 PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00PM for the regular meeting. Mayor Wedemeier in the chair and the following named council members present: Keith Brunscheon Rocco Imbrogno Joey Jones, Jason Franck. Absent: Nicole Barnes. Others in attendance: Barney Wiersma, Austin Matthias.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Franck to approve minutes from the October 9, 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 Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve clerk and treasurer's 1-epo1is for September and

October. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

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

Council received an update on the Main Street Project Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Jones to approve Pay Request #6 to Dave Schmitt Construction in the amount

of \$318,288.87 for the Main Street Project. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Franck. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Pay Request #7 to Dave Schmitt Construction in the amount of \$28,020.97 for the Main Street Project. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Change orders for Main Street Project unavailable.

Council received an update on the October Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation board meeting. Council received an update on the October EBRRA meeting.

Discussion on need dump truck repairs. Discussion on grain bin site cleanup.

Employee health insurance was reviewed for the renewal effective January 1, 2024. Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve Wellmark Blue Access Plan HG000008/RG000299. This represents a premium decrease of 17.33% for the renewal year 2024. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

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

built from taxes were free to all. In summer when roads were good, stage fares were lower than winter. In general, it cost from five to seven cents a mile to travel by stage. Often travelers had to get out and walk up a hill or get out in the mud when the stagecoach got stuck. Meals were available at the taverns where the stagecoach stopped. Although the stage coaches attempted to run on time, bad weather and mud made them late. In the spring, it was not uncommon for the stage to carry equipment to pry the stage out of the mud. Three to four miles an hour was considered a good speed.

Most of the roads in the last half of the 1800s were created by township trustees who graded a ditch and by dragging the roadway bed to form a primitive grade. All rural miles were dirt. Twenty miles was a long journey for a team and wagon. The development of the road and highway system followed with the evolution of the motor vehicle.

70 million bushel of soybeans per year—employs approximately 60.

TRINITY RAIL MAINTENANCE SERVICES — is a 230 acre rail car maintenance, retro-fitting and remanufacturing facility—8 miles of track on site—more than 200 rail cars are on sight at all times—more than 200 employees.

For an interesting self-guided tour proceed past Shell Rock on Highway 3 heading west. Cross the Iowa Northern rail line, turn left and be amazed at what Butler County has attracted to its industrial park.

Differences

Shell Rock is an older town. Traveling through Shell Rock, there are differences between Readlyn and Denver. In the older parts of Readlyn and Denver the streets were plotted north-south and east-west. Shell Rock was plotted with the Shell Rock River as its base, streets proceeding in a southerly direction. Several blocks to the south, the streets veer either southeast or southwest creating some interesting shaped lots.

Another difference is that older homes in Readlyn and Denver were basically two story square or oblong homes having few frills. Shell Rock has several homes throughout the town whose architecture is unique, and obviously more costly to construct. Drive through Shell Rock and observe the differences between Shell Rock and Readlyn or Denver.



“Chapters” Part 2

Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com

As we left off last month, Eric Johnston had just spotted “The Big 10!” Would the hunt be a success? Read this and find out!

This was the first time I’d actually seen him with my eyes and not in a trail cam picture. He looked even bigger than anticipated. He came out behind her, walked over to some tall grass and bedded down on the edge of the clover and intently watched his girlfriend feed. He bedded there for 45 minutes watching until he finally got up and started feeding on the radish plot to the west. He fed there for a bit and the doe went back into the thicket. He quickly followed and I had a wide window for a shot on him..... BUT!! It was a 40-yard shot.. While I’m quite proficient at 40 yards with my PSE bow, I wasn’t comfortable taking a shot at him at that range as too many bad things can happen on a longer shot like that. I elected to pass for the moment as it was only October 29 and I had all of November in the windshield ahead.

During deer season, my boss allows me to set my own hours, so to speak, to be able to hunt every day I choose to. So, on Monday, October 30, I headed right back to the food plot stand and, after an eventful evening of numerous deer, that same doe once again came out of the thicket, this time the west thicket. This is the thicket I did all the work in back in March. As she fed, I once again heard a deep grunt, but this time only caught a quick glimpse of “The Big 10.” Two encounters in two days and I was feeling pretty good about my chances of getting him.

Halloween came and surprisingly was a poor hunt as far as deer sightings and November 1 was the same. I studied my trail cams and noticed a lot of doe activity on the south end of the farm. I decided the evening of November 2 to hunt “The South Stand,” an area on a pinch point where deer travel with a clover and turnip plot adjacent to it. It just felt like an afternoon that something special was going to happen. Cloud cover, light wind, and November 2 ... I was giddy to say the least. I was in the stand a total of three minutes when I spotted a deer to the east. A doe and her yearling, then quickly things started going crazy to the northeast of me. I could catch flashes of deer amongst the trees, sounds of leaves thrashing and sticks breaking. It was total chaos in the timber and I knew it could only mean one thing. The first doe in the area was coming into estrus and the bucks had found her.

It was a circus for what seemed like an hour, (was really about 15 minutes) as they chased and thrashed their way slowly closer to me, the whole group of deer, which to my best count was eight bucks and the hot doe and her yearling. The bucks had now chased her and had her sort of corralled in a willow thicket to the southwest of me. At this moment, I could see one of the bucks was large, but I wasn’t sure what buck he was. I also knew at this moment that I was probably going to get a chance as the doe had two options, run out in the wide open field to the west or come back into the timber. I decided it was too early for her to just head out into the field and she proved me right as she headed back into the woods.

Once in the woods she walked right up near where I was 15 feet up the tree and behind her it was him, “The Big 10.” I readied my bow as the doe and her yearling passed by at a mere 20 yards. They got slightly ahead of him and as he made his way he sped up to catch them. I went to full draw and had to stop him by making a grunt sound with my mouth. When I did adrenaline must have made me louder than needed and he went on red alert. I settled my sight pin right behind his front shoulder and touched off the shot. “Thwack!!!!” rang out through the woods as my arrow only appeared to penetrate a little ways four inches higher than I aimed for ... He was so alerted from me stopping him that when I shot, he “ducked” the arrow and it hit him very high.

I was immediately sick, “I just screwed this up!!!” terror went through my mind. All the work, all the practice, and I choked at crunch time. I develop such a relationship with these deer I hunt that I wanted to cry as, in my mind, I just wounded this animal and he would suffer. I intently watched the buck as he went 60 yards and laid down. “Could I have just gotten lucky?” I thought watching him. Then, after about five minutes, he got up and very slowly walked towards the river.

I immediately called my dad and relayed to him what had happened as we

had trailed many deer together. He told me great advice and said be patient, it may be better than you think. I got down, looked at the spot where the buck had laid down and found my arrow. It looked like it had gotten in there a little further than I had thought, but still didn’t look great. I wasn’t going to go any further and wait until morning to pick up the trail, but anxiousness got the best of me. I slowly made my way to the river without finding any blood trail. I stood at the riverbank looking up and down stream. Nothing sighted and dejected, I headed home with plans to give it time and look in the morning as lows were forecast in the upper 20s so the meat would be fine.

Once at home, I spoke with my boss that I wouldn’t be into work as I had a deer to find. He suggested his son, Justin, come help me. Justin’s a great friend and a fantastic deer tracker. He agreed to meet me at 7:30 the following morning. That night, Aubrey and Delana witnessed a sick individual in myself, I couldn’t eat, sleep and just wanted morning to come.

After what seemed like three days, Justin arrived at my house and we made our way to the hunting grounds. I showed Justin where I shot the deer and he immediately found blood. “I didn’t see that last night,” I said to Justin as he picked up a decent bubbly blood trail which typically indicates a lung hit. “This looks really good, Eric,” Justin relayed all the while I’m pessimistic.

We followed the trail to where the buck had laid down and that was it, we circled the area and no blood. I showed Justin where I’d last seen the deer and I decided to have him circle south through some tall grass and meet me at the river’s edge. I slowly made my way to the riverbank a little north of where I stood the evening

before. I looked up river, down river and since the bank was a sharp six foot drop I looked straight down. And nearly unbelievably there “The Big 10” laid!!!! He hadn’t made it a total of 90 yards and, upon further review, was already expired when I stood on the bank the night before.

I called out to Justin, “He’s right here, I found him!” Justin came on a run and tackled me with a giant hug! “Let’s go!” Justin called out in his younger generation way. We celebrated along the bank and got him out of the woods. A traditional sending of pics to the landowners and we got the deer home.

I was so relieved that animal hadn’t suffered under my shot and had expired quickly. Upon review, when he ducked my shot, the arrow made contact with the backbone and deflected into the boiler room. “Lucky indeed,” I thought to myself.

As I started this column, life is all about chapters and, in this story, I closed the chapter on “The Big 10” and, like every good story, it definitely had its ups and downs throughout. I can’t close this chapter without thanking the wonderful landowners with whom I’ve become such good friends. I’m hopeful they love following along mine and Delana’s adventures as much as we love making these memories; my wife and daughter for keeping me up in the down time of this story; my dad for the same, and Justin Schmadeke for aiding me in the recovery! And thank you, readers, for following along each month. Speaking of following along, you can catch this hunt, and all our hunts on YouTube by going to our channel, EJ Outdoors. I cant wait to start my next hunting chapter, or has it already begun?! Until next time... GET OUTDOORS!!!



News from Community Lutheran School

The CLS preschool through eighth grade students led worship at Immanuel Klinger on December 13 with the program entitled "He Is God!" Thank you to our directors Megan Schutte and Jaci Hogan. Thank you to Valerie Wilkening and Kat Moyer for the musical direction and accompaniment. A special thank you to Deanna Armbricht for stepping in last minute to accompany on the piano. O Come Emmanuel!



**CLS
Christmas
Program
"He is God!"**



Congrats to all of our 5th through 8th grade students who presented at the Lutheran District Science Fair in Williamsburg!

Results:

Sadie Hogan won first place in the 8th grade division against 8 other students!

Brooke Schutte received first place in the 5th grade against 11 other competitors. Cash Kaufman received 2nd place against 12 competitors!

All 12 students received participation ribbons for their projects, and many had very high scores, missing the top 2 by a few points.

Congratulations to all the CLS students for a great job representing our school!





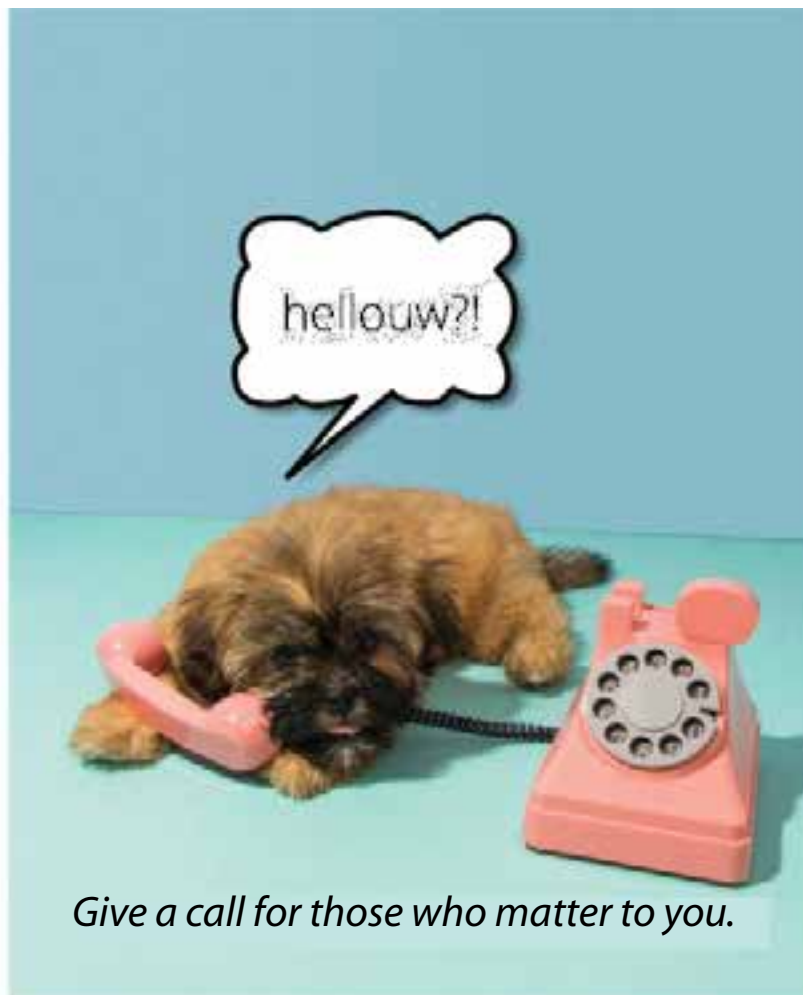
We collected food items the beginning of November and built an ark with them at our November Family Fellowship Night. The 7th and 8th grade students delivered 380 lbs of food to His Hands Food Pantry in Oran on November 17! Connected in Christ!



Community Santas — Readlyn Community Club (RCC) members deliver the plethora of toys collected by RCC and donated by Readlyn residents. Pictured are, at back, current Readlyn Grump Ron Hartman; front row, left to right, Louie Hartman, Michelle Harrington and Bonnie Wittenburg. Shown below are a variety of gifts and bags delivered to the children.



Lutheran District Science Fair participants



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Deadline for the Jan. 31 Chronicle is Thurs., Jan. 18 at 5 PM
Send news items to: readlynchronicle@gmail.com



Immanuel Lutheran Church
2683 Quail Avenue
Readlyn, IA 50668
(319) 279-3977
Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano
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 8:00 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
(319) 279-3961
Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano
Divine Service 8:30 a.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 10:00 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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