

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 12, No. 7, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, July 31, 2019

Sundae Fun Day!

The Readlyn Historical Society held their Annual Ice Cream Sundae event Sunday, July 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. Lots of people came out and enjoyed the ice cream and tours of the historical buildings with all of the new additions.

Some of the attendees were the Mayor, Dan Wedemeier and wife, Connie, along

with grandchildren. It was really special that so many of the former Grumps were in attendance at the same time. The new, 2019 Grump Roland Schmidt served the ice cream sundaes, and a group, including him and former Grumps, posed for a photo along with 2019 Little Miss Grumpster, Silvi Meyer.



Mayor Dan Wedemeier and his wife, Connie, with their grandchildren receive 25 cent ice cream sundaes served by 2019 Grump Roland Schmidt (above).



Former and new Grumps posed in front of the Readlyn Historical Society at the sundae event July 21. At left, they include, front row, left to right, Don Billhorn, Verdeen Pavelec, Larry Ladage, Ron Leistikow, Charlie Albrecht, and 2019 Little Miss Grumpster Silvi Meyer. Middle, seated, is GaryLee Thurm, and back row, Burton Thies, Roland Schmidt, Roger Deterding, and Ron Kohagen,

Yard of the Month: *The Hesse Family*

July's Yard of the Month winners are Craig and Janette Hesse, 230 West Clark Street. They realize, "There are many beautiful yards in Readlyn, and we feel humbled and honored to receive this award."

The variety of gardens surrounding their house is stunning. Janette and Craig have used their gardening skills to create an assortment of aesthetically pleasing flower beds throughout their property. From pavers to flowers to accent pieces, all of the work is done by the two of them.

When you view their beautifully land-

scaped yard, keep in mind that almost all of the wood and metal pieces were constructed by Craig. He attributes his carpentry skills to his father, L.W. Hesse, who left behind much of the quality wood Craig uses.

Besides using their talents to decorate their yard, Craig and Janette construct kids' toys to donate to various causes and, of course, their grandkids. This generous couple plans to donate their \$50 award from Weeds on Fire to Readlyn Elementary School. Congratulations, Craig and Janette!



See more photos on page 2

Grump's Grumblings



By Roland Schmidt

Hello Readlyn,
 First off I would like to thank the Community Club and the 2019 Grump committee for another successful and very organized Grump Days. I enjoyed several events with my family during Grump Days. We went to the crowning of the Grump, Miss Readlyn and the Little Grumpster.
 Congratulations to Anna Richards, Silvi Meyer and Bentley Buss.
 Congratulations also to our volunteer of the year, Nick Kuker.
 I really enjoyed the fireworks. Readlyn does such a great job. I also enjoyed being in the parade as the Readlyn Grump of 2019. A big thank you to Jeff Schmidt for

driving me in the parade.
 I played Bingo on Saturday afternoon and watched my great-grandson, Blake Hesse, play in the baseball tournament. Great job to the entire Warrior team from Readlyn. I completed the weekend attending a church service in the park with all my Readlyn friends.
 I had a great weekend with family and friends. I enjoyed talking to everybody and want to thank everyone for the nice comments for becoming Grump 2019. I will do my best to represent Readlyn in the next year.
 In closing, the Cubbies are in first place at the All-Star break. Go, Cubs, Go!!
 Roland Schmidt, Grump 2019

Miss Readlyn Comments



By Anna Richards

It's hard to believe that it has already been over a month since I was crowned Miss Readlyn. My summer has been quite busy and has gone by very fast.
 Since Readlyn Grump Days, I have spent a lot of time working, getting fair projects done, working with my calves, and preparing for the Bremer County Fair Queen Contest. I spent the first week of July at the Buchanan County Fair showing my heifer and helping work for FFA.
 On July 21, I competed in the Bremer County Fair Queen Contest. This was a great experience that I would recommend to any girl interested in the fair. I met a lot of great girls and enjoyed getting to talk to

them as well as the judges.
 Bremer County Fair is coming up at the end of this week and I'm very excited to exhibit my static projects as well as my heifer.
 The baseball and softball teams have both finished up their seasons. They did a great job this year and I really enjoyed going to watch some of their games.
 The FFA chapter is very excited to welcome our new advisor, Mr. Forsyth. The officers have gotten to spend a lot of time with him already and know that the chapter is going to like him just as much!
 I hope everyone is enjoying their summer - it will be over before we know it!
 Miss Readlyn Anna Richards



Yard of the Month: The Hesse Family



Community Calendar

- Mondays** - Novel Knitters 6:00 pm at the library
- Tuesday, August 6** - V.F.W. Post #5661 7:30 pm at Readlyn Telephone Company
- Tuesday, August 13** - Coloring 1-3 pm at the library
- Tuesday, August 13** - V.F.W. Auxiliary 7:30 pm at the library
- Thursday, August 15** - Deadline at 5 PM for Aug. 28 Chronicle
- Wednesday, August 21** - Senior Citizens lunch and cards 11:30 am at Inspired
- Wednesday, August 28** - Merry Elders 11:30 am at Inspired
- Thursday, August 29** - Readlyn Reads Book Discussion 7 pm at the library, All Iowa Reads Youth Selection "Amina's Voice" by Hena Khan
- Wednesday, August 31** - MarioKart Tournament 1:00 pm at the library

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Readlyn Community Happenings

Senior Citizens meet June 19 and July 17

On June 19, 2019, 15 members attended the 11:30 meal at Inspired for the Senior Citizens meeting.

President Ron Leistikow led everyone in prayer before the delicious meal.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$131. Motion was made by Roger Deterding and seconded by Verdeen Pavelec to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The secretary's minutes from the May 15, 2019 meeting were read. Motion was made by Wilbert Huebner and seconded by Marlys Deterding to approve the secretary's minutes.

Roger Deterding had a birthday June 11, so we all sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

Roger and Marlys Deterding will celebrate their 14th wedding anniversary on June 25. We all sang "Happy Anniversary" to them.

NO Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Congratulations were extended to Roland Schmidt on becoming the new

Grump of Readlyn for 2019-2020.

We had a discussion on some improvements for the 2020 Grump Days Celebration. Each member in attendance reflected on some new ideas or changes. All in all, the Grump Days Celebration was a success! A lot of hard work and planning goes into making this all come together to be enjoyed by all ages.

Kim Brown informed the Senior Citizens members that there will be a Family Fun Night in the Park sometime in August before school starts.

Judy Leistikow brought up the 3rd Sunday in July will be the Ice Cream Social at the Readlyn Historical Museum from 5-7 PM. Remember to come and enjoy the delicious sundaes.

The next meeting will be July 17 at 11:30 at Inspired.

Motion was made by Marlys Deterding and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was followed by card playing and fellowship.

Lois Thacher, Secretary

July 17 Meeting

On July 17, 2019, 20 members attended the 11:30 meal at Inspired for the Senior Citizens meeting.

President Ron Leistikow led everyone in prayer before the delicious meal.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$150. The secretary's minutes from the June 19, 2019 meeting were read. Motion was made by Roland Schmidt and seconded by Verdeen Pavelec to approve the treasurer's report and secretary's minutes. Motion carried.

No birthdays for the month of July.

Virgil and Mary Matthias celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We all sang "Happy Anniversary" to them. Congratulations!

OLD BUSINESS:

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the Ice Cream Sundaes being served by the New Grump, Roland Schmidt at the Readlyn Historical Museum on July 21 from 5-7 PM. The price is still just 25 cents!

NEW BUSINESS:

Roland Schmidt will be contacting past Grumps to ride in the Tripoli Days Parade on August 3 and the Denver Days Parade on August 17.

The next meeting will be August 21 at 11:30 at Inspired.

Motion was made by Sonja Bast and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was followed by card playing and fellowship.

Lois Thacher, Secretary

V.F.W. Auxiliary meets July 9

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary #5661 met July 9, 2019 at the Readlyn Community Library with five members present. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and treasurer's report were read and accepted. General orders and chairman reports were read by all.

Old business: Volunteer hours were turned in. We discussed the 70th anniversary of V.F.W. Auxiliary gathering.

New Business: Membership dues are due. We got a new program book. Twenty veterans commit suicide every day. Melissa Bennett was deployed to Kuwait.

Darlene Peters made a motion and Wilda Albrecht seconded it to adjourn. Carried. We closed with prayer. Hostess was Marjorie Macken.

Thank You!

I would like to thank those who sent cards, brought meals, called or stopped by to visit while I recuperated recently from knee surgery. It was all appreciated! Special thanks to Dan Wedemeier and his crew for all the mowing/trimming they did while I was unable to do the work. It was a great relief knowing I didn't have to concern myself about the work getting done as they came in a timely manner, worked diligently and efficiently, taking care to do a great job! Thanks so much for being dependable and reliable. It made my recuperating time less stressful knowing the mowing was in their capable hands!

Vernon Clefisch

Thank You

I would like to thank all my friends and family who remembered me with cards, visits, and calls while I was recovering after my fall. It meant a lot to me and made my long days recovering seem shorter. God bless you all!

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Hours
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10-5 Wednesday 9-12 Saturday

Introducing Our New Director

The Readlyn Community Library would like to welcome the incoming director Patrick Brodigan. Mr. Brodigan assumed the title position of Library Director on 15 July. He has been working at the Readlyn Library since the beginning of the year under the watchful tutelage of former director Barb Sowers. He was selected for the position after receiving the tough won approval of Barb as well as a few "seasoned" patrons.

Patrick, originally from Frederika, is a recent Air Force retiree where he served 5 years as a flying crew chief (aircraft mechanic) and 15 years as a meteorologist. He holds Associate's degrees in aerospace maintenance and meteorology, as well as a Master's degree in Emergency and Disaster Management. Barb believes the later will be invaluable during story time.

Barb, a beloved fixture of the library for over 20 years, will remain at the library continuing to mentor and guide Patrick as he takes over the director responsibilities. She is set to retire later this year, however, the time and effort that she has invested in the library will remain for many years to come.

Are You an Expert?

The Digital Media Lab project continues to move forward. This week all of the equipment was ordered and soon patrons will be able to take, edit, and duplicate pictures and videos in the library. If you are a photography enthusiast and would like to help others learn how to properly take and edit photos please volunteer to teach a class.

More kid, teen, tween, yute and adult events are on the way - including more video game tournaments (Brawlhalla maybe?!?). Please watch our Facebook page and/or come into the library for updates on current and future programs.

Have a program or event idea? Let us know!

We Need Your Help!

Last week the Readlyn Library held two special events with great success. The special events included an introductory level solar weather class and an interactive Harry Potter movie night. These events show the broad range of activities available for free within the community. The library staff strives to provide the facility, resources, equipment, and programs that meet the needs and exceed the expectations of our Readlyn and Bremer County residents/patrons.

At times it can be difficult to ascertain if community needs are being met. We need your input! What are we doing right, what can we do better, and what are we not doing that we could/should be? Send us an email, post on Facebook, drop a message in our comment box or book drop, or even just come in and talk to us. We not only appreciate your feedback it is the only way for us to know how we are doing.

A library is more than books it is a cornerstone of the community.

What is it to you?



August's title:
Amina's Voice
by Hena Khan

Youth All Iowa Reads selection
Pick up a copy at the library and join us for discussion on **Thursday August 29th at 7:00 pm**



Amina's Voice tells the story of an 11-year-old girl navigating friendship, family, religion, and dreams of becoming a soul-singing sensation. In a quiet Milwaukee suburb, Amina and her best friend Soojin grapple with their own ethnic identities and the pressure to Americanize. Soojin is Korean American and on the pathway to citizenship. She's contemplating changing her name to solidify her American identity, while Amina, who is Pakistani American, must reconcile her love of singing Motown with her Muslim faith. Popular Emily, a white girl, who has a history of bullying, creates a wedge when she tries to befriend the pair, drawing skepticism from Amina. Things begin to unravel when Amina's uncle comes to visit from Pakistan and her deficiencies in Urdu and Arabic are exposed—along with the fact that Amina and her older brother, Mustafa, aren't necessarily the perfect children her father would like them to be. When the neighborhood mosque is vandalized, the greater community comes together. Amina's struggles to balance her faith, friendship, and aspirations are all resolved in this universal story of self-acceptance and the acceptance of others.



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Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago

History of the Readlyn Creamery

[Edited from a report by Gertrude Griese Pook and Judith Leistikow from the *Readlyn Historical Society Cookbook*.]

In the winter of 1905 a group of farmers in the vicinity of Readlyn gathered to discuss forming a creamery. A committee was selected to circulate a petition for individuals to subscribe for stock in the new creamery at \$25 a share, and \$3,000 was subscribed.

On January 26, 1905 the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were adopted. The first directors of the creamery were Carl Hagenow, William Meyerhoff, Rudolph Tiedt, H. Schoenbucher and Edward Huebner. Carl Hagenow was elected president, Rudolph Tiedt, Secretary and William Meyerhoff, Treasurer.

On May 21, 1905, the creamery began operation. Fred Wills was the first buttermaker but resigned after four months due to ill health. H. A. Griese was buttermaker from October 1, 1905, to January 1942, followed by his son-in-law, Arnold Pook. Later buttermakers were Donald Ruth, Fred Kazar and Mr. Krueger.

The creamery started with 33 patrons. The first 10 years were difficult, with much competition from the five nearby creameries. The business grew steadily until it reached a membership of 80. A 12-foot addition was built in 1920 which was used for refrigeration and an office. In 1921, the creamery was put on the Iowa State Brand list, license number 16, certifying the butter produced was of 1st grade quality.

In 1925, the incorporation expired, stockholders were bought out and the creamery became a cooperative. The first directors of the Readlyn Cooperative Creamery Company were Herman Rathe, O. F. Bruns, William Hagenow, E. C. Moeller and H. R. Wilson.

After June 1, 1941 only sweet cream, no whole milk, was received for butter production. In the fall of 1950, the wooden exterior walls were replaced by hollow tile walls with glass block windows.

The Readlyn Creamery was disbanded sometime in the 1960s and, in 1971, Larry Kuhlman's Service and Repair purchased the building.



Unidentified creamery taken from a postcard

Creameries in the area

[Herold Meier contributed to the information in this article.]

When the area around Readlyn was settled, farmers needed markets for their products. Farmers came together to form groups to construct a creamery building along with a house nearby for the buttermaker. There were at least six creameries near Readlyn, located at Readlyn, Knittle, Klinger, Crane Creek, Fremont (4 miles north), and Buck Creek. Incidentally, these five locations were villages that were early settlements, and some were on the map before Readlyn was founded. The settlements began to decline when Chicago Great Western Railway established Readlyn as a station. These creameries were not far apart. When they were constructed, in the very early 1900s, farmers' only transportation was a team of horses which they had to harness every morning to deliver their milk to the creamery.

Before circa 1942, creameries accepted whole milk from their farmer patrons. Farmers would bring their evening milking along with their morning milking in 10 gallon milk cans to the creamery. One byproduct of milk is butter. The buttermaker would weigh each farmer's milk, take a small sample to check the cream content, then pour the milk into a trough which led to a giant cream separator. Cream would be separated from the whole milk leaving skim milk, at that time a waste product. A large faucet was placed on the outside of the building and farmers would pull their horse-drawn wagons up to this big faucet and, one after another, fill their cans with skim milk and return home with a smaller percentage of the amount of whole milk they brought in. There were farmers who had the reputation of returning home with more skim milk than they were entitled to and then the last person at the faucet would be shorted. Back at the farm the skim milk would be poured into a large barrel, ingredients such as ground oats, minerals, etc. added, stirred well, and this swill would be slopped to the hogs in a hog trough in the hog house (correct terminology). Skim milk would also be fed to calves.

Circa 1941, the process for delivering product to the creamery was altered. Farmers purchased separators, separated their own milk and delivered the cream to the creamery. Creameries thus disposed of their large separators which left added room in the building.

The buttermaker would take small samples periodically from each farmer's milk, then analyze the collective sample to determine cream content of the milk. The creamery would pay each farmer according to the

weight of milk brought in and the cream content of the sample. The buttermaker processed the cream into butter. Earlier the butter was marketed in wooden tubs; later butter was formed into one-pound blocks and folded in a wrapper. Creameries had their own individual wrapper. Some creameries marketed their product themselves but most sold through a broker with much purchased by the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company. A&P was a giant chain store organization.

In the process of making butter there would be a liquid residue called buttermilk. Creameries would pump this nourishing liquid into a large tank and farmers would bid on this buttermilk as feed for their hogs. Buttermilk would be purchased in ten gallon can amounts.

Refrigeration for cooling butter did not come into existence until sometime during the 1940s. Each creamery had an ice house where ice was stored for use, cooling the cream and butter throughout the year. Patrons would get together in winter to harvest ice from the Wapsi or Crane Creek. In the early years, sleds or wagons drawn by horses hauled the ice to the creamery. It was a welcome convenience when electric power replaced ice for refrigeration.

Many farmers stopped milking for a multitude of reasons. Milking was labor-intensive and farmers had fewer children, almost all of them going on to high school. If a farmer wanted to make milking productive, he often needed a hired man who would live in his home as one of the members of the family. In the late '50s and early '60s, creameries began to close. Creamery buildings were torn down at Crane Creek, Knittle, Fremont and Buck Creek, however, in Klinger, the building is used for storage and, in Readlyn, Larry Kuhlman converted the building into an auto repair shop in 1971. The last creamery to close in the area was Western Douglas Creamery west of Tripoli in 1998.

Buttermaking, as practiced in early Readlyn history, is a profession that no longer exists. Some of us old-timers remember these buttermakers of long ago: Readlyn, Henry Griese and his son-in-law, Arnold Pook; Knittle, Jack Strumple; Klinger, Henry Segebarth, and Crane Creek, Herb Meier. It is amazing that there is one former buttermaker still alive, 94-year-old Herold Meier, who with his wife Delores live in Readlyn. Herold was buttermaker at Artesian.

When I was small, my mother would send me with a container to the creamery for a pint of cream. Whipped cream on pumpkin pie! Was that good! Henry Griese was buttermaker.



Readlyn Creamery

Photo courtesy Gertrude Pook

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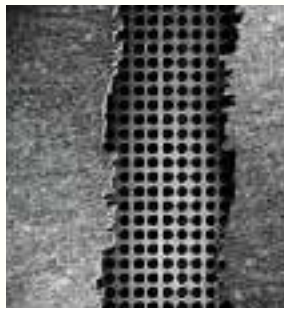
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The 70th anniversary of the local V.F.W. Post and Auxiliary was celebrated with a dinner at the Watering Hole in Readlyn on July 11. Those attending were, left to right, Charles Albrecht, Wilda Albrecht, Luann Happel, Darlene Peters, Marjorie Macken, Verdeen Pavelec, Ellen Thies, Burton Thies, Wilbert Huebner, and Ron Wolff. Everyone enjoyed the evening of remembering the years gone by.

Local V.F.W. notes 70 years

The Auxiliary to the Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Post #5661 got together at the Watering Hole with the Post in recognition of their 70th anniversary.

Ten members were present on July 11, 2019. The tables were decorated with poppy bouquets, small flags and cupcakes with white frosting and red and black

raspberries. They enjoyed a delicious meal, visiting and looking at thick, historical notebooks filled with lots of memories.

Mary Lockard is the only lifetime charter member still living. Marjorie Macken has been the longest Auxiliary member attending.

Pavelec reunion held July 14

The Ed and Louisa Pavelec family reunion was held on Sunday, July 14, 2019 at the Readlyn City Park with a noon potluck. Thirty family members attended from; Readlyn, Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Tripoli, Cedar Rapids, New Hartford, Janesville, Oran, Waverly, Swisher, Charles City, Marion, and Mason City.

Bruce and Karen Wolff of Swisher and Sarah Pavelec of Mason City traveled the longest distance. The youngest attendee was 3-year-old Elijah Pavelec, son of Craig Pavelec of Tripoli. The oldest was 90-year-old Robert Maxfield of Waverly.

Host was Verdeen Pavelec of Readlyn and her family.

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All the 2019 Little Grumpster candidates are shown above. Left to right are: Brylee Robinson, Madeline Forsyth, Brooke Schutte, Silvi Meyer, Bentley Buss, Reece Heinemann, Jackson Brunscheon, and Donovan Tiedt.



2019 Little Miss Grumpster is Silvi Meyer and 2019 Little Mr. Grumpster is Bentley Buss.

Roland Schmidt crowned 2019 Readlyn Grump

Friday night, June 14, about 6:30 p.m., Roland Schmidt was crowned the Readlyn Grump for 2019 by Eric Johnston. Roland succeeds 2018 Grump Larry Ladage, and will make an awesome Grump.

Roland was born two miles east of Klinger, and moved to a farm one-half mile west of Klinger in 1941, attended Immanuel Lutheran School and graduated from Readlyn High School in 1951. In 1953 he moved to the Williamsburg where he was a buttermaker and hauled milk. In 1966 he and his wife, Virginia, moved to Readlyn where he worked at the Readlyn Co-op until he retired in 1996.

Roland has been a member of St. Paul's Church and has served on the school board, deacon, chairman and collector. The Schmidts have four children, Mark (Cynthia) Schmidt, Melinda (Dallas) Bergman, Myron (Pam) Schmidt, and Marilyn (Rod) Osborn.

Roland keeps busy volunteering at UnityPoint-Allen Hospital where he was recently awarded the Mayor's Volunteer of the Year Award, dancing, playing cards,

riding his bike, and watching the Cubs. Roland also helps deliver the *Readlyn Chronicle* once a month to sponsors in outlying communities surrounding Readlyn. Roland loves the small town atmosphere we have here.

Congratulations Roland, you are a great Readlyn Grump.



2019 Grump Roland Schmidt

Anna Richards is Miss Readlyn

Anna Richards was crowned Miss Readlyn on Friday night, June 14.

Anna is the daughter of Mike and Cassandra Richards, and will be a senior at Wapsie Valley this fall.

She is active in FFA, basketball, and National Honor Society. She is involved in the Rainbow Clovers 4-H Club, Bremer County Youth Council and Luther League.

Anna plans on attending DMACC for ag business and then transferring to Iowa State University. Congratulations, Anna, have a great year as Miss Readlyn.



2019 Miss Readlyn Anna Richards

Silvi Meyer and Bentley Buss are Little Grumpsters

2019 Little Miss

Grumpsters Candidates

Brooke Schutte is the daughter of John and Megan Schutte. She has one sister and one brother. She is enjoying her summer playing T-ball and loves riding her bike. Brooke loves living on the farm. She is a farm girl that loves helping her dad with feeding the cattle. Brooke is a kind friend and loves lending a helping hand to her friends.

Brylee Robinson is the daughter of Brandon and Heather Robinson. She is a loving big sister to Brooklyn and new baby sister due to arrive any day. Brylee enjoys playing with her baby dolls, fishing with Grandpa Brian, riding in the tractors with Grandma Sherri. She loves to spend time doing lots of arts and crafts. Brylee is the most helpful little girl and has the softest heart. She loves helping people and sharing candy with them!

Madeline Forsyth is the daughter of Chris and Alyson Forsyth. She has one older sister, Gwen, an older brother, Jack, and the family dog named Tucker. She enjoys playing T-ball and swimming this summer. Madeline also enjoys time playing school, Barbies, and playing dress up.

Silvi Meyer is the daughter of Dalton and Brooke Meyer. She has an older sister, Ava, an older brother Gabe, and a baby brother she adores, Barrett. Silvi is very motherly, almost too much at times and loves to keep her older siblings in check! She loves playing babies and coloring. She just had her first dance recital and rocked it! She loves spending time at the "Riber" in "Prairie Machine" fishing, boating, and eating at the Winnie with her family.

2019 Little Mr.

Grumpsters Candidates

Bentley Buss is the son of Corey and Courtney Buss. He is an energetic, fun-loving boy who excels at life. His love

for being outside is an understatement. He enjoys riding his bicycle, dirt bike, and four wheeler, along with getting into a little mischief. Bentley's summer consists of playing with his friends, going to the swimming pool, T-ball, golf and summer adventures. During the winter months, he can be found on the wrestling mat, his love for this sport has grown. He continues to amaze his family on how smart he is and we love watching him grow into the young man he is.

Donovan Tiedt is the 3rd son of Nick and Haley Tiedt. He is a very funny and outgoing person. He enjoys playing baseball, jumping on the trampoline with his brothers. He enjoys playing the guitar, skipping rocks on the water. He loves to ride along in the field with his dad. When he grows up he wants to play guitar in a band!

Jackson Brunscheon is the son of Keith & Tanya Brunscheon. He has one older sister, Lexi. He is busy with the Wapsie Wrestling Club in the winter and this summer he is playing T-ball. Jackson enjoys fishing at his grandma & grandpa's pond, golfing, riding his bike around town, reading books, playing basketball & football with his friends. He is a HUGE sports fan and enjoys collecting and trading football, baseball, and WWE cards and loves to talk about all the players and knows their stats. If you ever have a question about the score of a game or name of sports player, just ask Jackson - he knows!!!

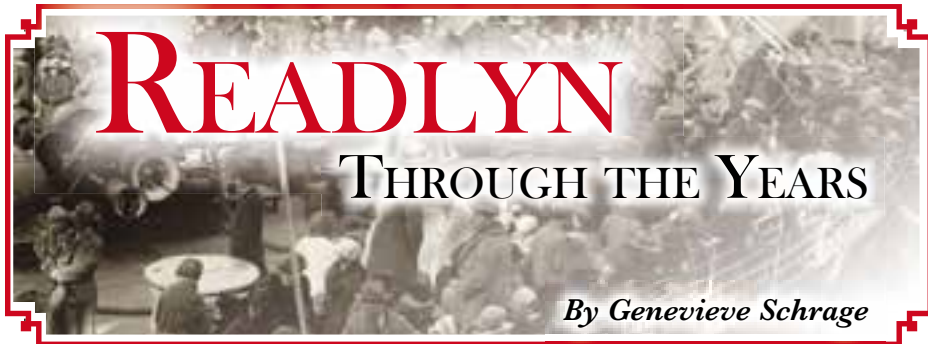
Reece Heinemann is the son of Dave and Jodie Heinemann. Reece is a kind, funny, charming and silly six-year-old boy. He loves to play sports with his brother, Gavin. He is a fan of all things Super Hero and likes to wear costumes. Reece's hobbies include building LEGOs, camping with his family and playing with Roscoe the family dog.

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The Newest Town in Bremer County - Readlyn Iowa

[Editor's Note: Continued from last month's *Chronicle*, the year is 1935 and Genevieve's parents, Louis and Lila Maurer, are raising their children on the family farm on the east edge of Readlyn.]

By this time, my parents, Louis and Lila Maurer, had three children. In 1935, my youngest sister, Lorraine, who was almost 10 years younger than I was, came along. I remember this very vividly — it was only a few days after we had a three-ring circus in our night pasture. I thought that it was so strange that my mother did not want to go to the circus. I remember seeing cars parked along the streets, and up and down the road everywhere.

After the circus left, I looked for money where the bleachers had been, found none, but I found a stick of gum. Lucky me! It was only a matter of time, maybe a couple weeks, before the National Guard set up in our pasture again, and that night they had a really stirring band concert. From then on, I wanted to play an instrument in the band. By the time I graduated, I could play the baritone, trombone and tuba. My band teacher for eight years was Mr. Cap Crawford. He was 60 years old when I started to hear his story. It was amazing. He had played with John Phillip Sousa in

the Ringling Brothers Circus.

Since we lived "in the country," we had to go to a rural school which was located three-fourths of a mile north to Highway 10 (later Highway 3) and west a half-mile (St. Matthew's Church). My brother and I went there through the third and fourth grades. Then it was 1936, a very cold and snowy winter, as well as a hot summer. After having survived that winter, my parents decided to pay tuition of \$9 a month for each child enrolled in "town school" — we only had to walk three blocks and didn't need a ride again. After we reached high school age, we didn't have to pay tuition anymore.

Up until 1935, there were two identical school buildings, similar to rural schools, which handled grades through the sophomore years. The junior and senior years had to be finished in surrounding high schools. Readlyn was growing and had enough students to accommodate the building of a new four-year high school. When my brother, Vincent, and I started "high school" in the fall of 1936, we were also attending classes in the new building, which produced the first graduating class, and we only had to walk three blocks. That was the year I started band lessons with my baritone. I pulled it back and forth in my coaster wagon and let it stand by the front steps for several years. I was never

fearful that it would be stolen. One day someone pulled it around the other side of the school, but it was easily found.

Having grown up only three blocks from the railroad track, we had many hobos who managed to get off the railroad while it was filling up on water and stopping on the side track. Most of them didn't look too bad, but I remember one who was enough to scare anybody. My mother had one piece of apple pie left that she was saving for herself, but she wanted to get rid of him fast, so she gave it to him. Another time my mother allowed my dad to sleep late on Sunday morning, so she got up at about 4:30 AM to milk the cows. Why so early?? She wanted to go to church, and Mass in Waverly began at 8 AM and 10 AM. She knew we kids liked to go early, and maybe have an egg sandwich at Roy's Place, do some grocery shopping at the two grocery stores that were open on Sunday morning, and then go to the locker and pick up some strawberries, corn or meat, all having been put in the locker the summer before.

This one time, after going through this procedure of Mom getting up early to milk, on a Sunday morning, she was almost scared to death. When she walked into the barn, she smelled cigarette smoke. She nearly turned around and walked back into the house, but Mom was not "chicken" — she had to stay and investigate what was going on. She found a spot in the straw pile in the horse stall where someone had lain. All the while she smelled the strong odor of smoke. So she stepped outside of the other barn door, near the water tank and discovered a recently doused bonfire where someone had made fried eggs — the eggshells were the evidence. With two chicken houses and two boxcars that also housed laying hens at times, there were plenty of eggs to be fried, scrambled, poached or whatever. After having found much evidence of another hobo, my mom really had to hurry to finish milking in time for church. This situation did not de-

ter her from ever milking again; it made her stronger and she was ready to go to battle again, if need be.

As Readlyn grew after 1904, many of the original businesses came and went after only two or three years. Several were in existence for many years. One of the first was Emma Klemp's Mercantile. She and her husband built the original building near the first house, the Ohlendorf house. When I shopped there in the mid-1930s, she had so much to tell me about her long-time store. All I wanted was some fabric to make an apron. After all, I was only ten, but 1904 was a long-ago year and it really was not of much interest to me. She had groceries, cornflakes and Wheaties, especially, that were faded from old age. On the shelves, canned goods were in the same condition.

Doctors came and went after only a year or two. One committed suicide. Then Dr. Osnes came for 23 years. He built the hospital in 1920. There were as many as three grocery stores, but only a couple would remain for several years. Implement dealers, especially Case, changed hands often. International seemed to linger the longest. John Deere, Oliver, and Ford were present for short periods. Blacksmiths came, Thran's meat market lasted a long while. The Herb Wittenburg and Bill Klemp barber shops remained for many years. Also cafes and taverns made themselves known. Some lines of businesses barely made themselves visible.

When Wallace's Farmer organization was looking for the earliest Century Farm in Iowa, my uncle, Bill Maurer, applied in the late 1950s for the honor. His grandfather, Peter Maurer III, had bought the farm in 1855, and it is still in the family, having reached "Heritage Farm" status in 2005. Bill had the first Century farm in Iowa.

I have brought my story up to the pre-World War II period. My next segment of stories shall be from that period up to the post-war years. News was being made every day at that time.



By: Eric Johnston

“High Water”

It seems every time I’ve checked the weather this spring and early summer, the one constant has been chance of rain.

The Mississippi River went above flood stage in March and stayed above for over 90 days. Recently, it jumped back up and is above flood stage as I write this. Even our local Wapsi and Cedar Rivers have been up and down all season.

To most, the thought of fishing in high water is a bad thought and, in my early tournament career, I felt overwhelmed fishing high water. Everything looked the same to me back then; water and flooded trees made the process of finding where the bass were feel like finding a needle in a haystack. Recently, I’ve come to love fishing high water, especially on the Mississippi River.

This month I’ll break down finding and catching fish in high water, and these tactics can even help locally on the Wapsi and Cedar. I’ll also fill you in on a couple tournaments I’ve had this season thus far.

Let’s rewind back to early June. My good friend and great tournament bass fisherman Jason Swanson was preparing for the Hot Rod Bass Series Open out of Harpers Ferry, Iowa. We had just re-

cently had a lot of rain and the river was at near historic levels. Everywhere you looked was water and trees along the river bottom.

We had ideas in our heads of where to begin looking. The bass were just coming out of their spawning rituals, so we figured they would still be shallow. The big key to finding high water bass, or any river fish species, is to follow the bank. What I mean by that is, as the river spreads, you need to find where the water finally meets dry land. Fish, especially bass, will follow the bank as the water rises and falls. This typically applies to river system fish as opposed to lakes.

The next step of putting the puzzle together is to think about where the fish are at normal river levels. This can give you a general idea of where to start following the bank from. Jason and I have quite a few years of experience in the spring on the Mississippi of where to start following the bank. A good general rule on the Mississippi is to get to the other side of railroad bridges on each side of the river. Each side of the river, behind these bridges in high water, become big backwater systems and literal lakes. The bass will school to these areas to get out of heavy flooding current, and they are following all the smaller bait fish they feed



Jason Swanson and Eric Johnston

on as they too look for easier water to live in.

Jason and I started practice on Friday and began searching these areas. We spent 12 hours on the water that Friday and looked for every back cut or feeder creek we could think of that had good bank and cover for the bass to get against. We had at least a half dozen areas by the day’s end and felt like we put together a pretty good plan.

We added to our plan with a short practice day on Saturday. As the tournament started on Sunday, we were beyond excited to have the area we wanted to start mostly all to ourselves. On Friday, we had found an area that was a feeder creek coming into the main river with a bridge that back-flooded a large expanse of ground. Nearly every flooded tree had a bass on it, and we immediately had our five bass limit and began upgrading. We fished the entire area most of the day

and ended the tournament with our best five weighing 14.68 pounds and walked away with a fifth place finish and a check for our efforts.

As spring transitioned into summer, the river continued to run high. Spring high water and summer high water fishing can be a bit different. Instead of looking for calm backwater-type areas, the water is now very warm and the fish need current for good oxygen in the water. So, the areas you should look for will be different, but the following the bank rule still applies. You will now look for main river rocky points and wingdams.



On July 13, my dad, Doug Johnston, and I fished the Ken Thompson Memorial tournament out of Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. The water was again quite high, and this time we both had to work leading up to the tournament and didn’t have any practice time. Our game plan was to run to a lot of different spots like we would in practice and try to put together a good limit for the day.

Our first area we started was along rocks and current in the main river near a backwater area where the fish had been just a month before. Our hunch was correct that the fish had pulled out of the backwater into the current and we quickly put together a good limit of about 11 pounds. We both knew this wouldn’t get us a check, so we kept searching for bigger fish throughout the day.

Around noon we pulled into an area with heavy current and flooded trees. A few casts in and Dad hooked up with a fish. I hadn’t even looked and Dad yelled for the net. I knew it must be the fish we needed and I was right as I netted a three-and-a-half pound bass for Dad. High fives, a bit of hooting and hollering, and that moment made the whole weekend. We finished the day with 12.18 pounds with our best five and, again, it was good enough for fifth place and a check.

So, as I look at the forecast again, I see more rain. My hunch is we won’t be seeing normal river levels anytime soon. Put these tactics of following the bank to use and hopefully it will put more fish in the boat!

Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!!

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Doug and Eric Johnston

Flower show and sale is Saturday, Aug. 3 in Tripoli

On Saturday, August 3 at the Bremer ISU Extension office in Tripoli, the Bremer Master Gardeners and Friends have scheduled a special, "Small Town Living at its Best" Flower Show and Sale.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will begin following the Tripoli Days parade and run until 1 PM. Planners have fashioned it after a similar floral show from the past and hope to make it an annual event.

For the floral show, people are invited to bring in their entries to the Bremer ISU Extension office on Friday afternoon, Aug. 2, from 4-6 PM, or Saturday morning from 8-10 AM. Entries are open to everyone with a

25 cent entry fee per submission.

Ribbons will be awarded to winners in several classes after the guest speaker. Categories include flowers, herbs, or hosta leaf...one or more in a clear container; houseplants, succulents, or potted plants; fairy gardens, or terrariums; plate of three vegetables; floral arrangements; and themed arrangements. Children's entries are welcome with no fee.

At 1 PM, guest speaker Roger Buhr will cover, "Horticultural Judging," including thoughts on perennials, annuals, and a variety of other plants.

For further information, contact Bremer Master Gardener Phoebe Drape at 319-882-3104, or pdrape@gmail.com.

~ Obituary ~



Bonnie Sue Zars

Bonnie Sue Zars, 72, of Readlyn, passed away Monday, July 22, 2019, at the Waverly Health Center in Waverly.

Bonnie was born September 30, 1946, in Readlyn, Iowa, the daughter of Delbert and Elda (Schweer) Wittenburg. She was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Klinger. She attended Immanuel Lutheran School through the 8th grade and then graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in 1964. On April 10, 1966, she was united in marriage to Roger Zars at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Klinger.

She worked in the dental office in Denver and lawyer office in Waverly up until having children and being a homemaker. She was an integral part of the farm operation where she served as the #1 tractor driver, among various other jobs. She also worked as a CLS bus driver, was a receptionist for Dr. Larry Wright in Denver, and was currently on her twelfth year of employment with First Maxfield Insurance in Denver.

Cards, cards, cards, Bonnie loved to play cards. Whether it was a game with her family or one of her card club groups, she thoroughly enjoyed playing. She was particularly fond of keeping score and winning! She was also known to play the slots at any casino she came across. In her free time, she enjoyed cross stitching. Above all, her greatest joy came from spending time with her family and attending her grandchildren's sporting events. She was eagerly looking forward to her oldest granddaughter's wedding in September.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Roger, of Readlyn, 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) Shinstine, Nick Shinstine, Lakin Joerger, Mikenna Joerger, Cannon Joerger, Keegan Zars, Evan Zars, Elle Zars and Emree Zars, one brother, Jerry (Bonnie) Wittenburg of Readlyn and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She is also survived by her brothers-in-law, Ron (Kathy) Zars of Albia, Larry (Ida) Zars of Denver and Steve (Jackie) Zars of Bremer, sisters-in-law, Barb (Gary) Buhr of Readlyn and Sherry (John) Tiedt of Readlyn.

She is preceded in death by her parents and father and mother-in-law, Reinhardt and Grace Zars.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 26, 2019, at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Klinger, with Rev Bruce Zimmermann officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Visitation was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 25, at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn and for an hour prior to services at the church on Friday. Memorials may be directed to the family for a later designation. On-line condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn was in charge of arrangements.

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Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America



Nick Grober escorts Mrs. Readlyn, Anna Richards, at the crowning.



Cole Neil helps out at Readlyn Pedal Pull.

FFA kicks off summer with Readlyn, Fairbank celebrations

By Kaylee Kleitsch, Chapter Reporter

During the month of June, many Wapsie Valley FFA members could be found representing the chapter during Grump Days, Readlyn's annual town celebration, and Island Days, Fairbank's annual town celebration.

This year during Grump Days, June 14-16, Wapsie Valley FFA participated in a variety of events for the community. On Friday, three students served meals during the Readlyn Savings Bank Annual Golf Tournament, while later in the day the pedal pull took place. Results and sponsors from the pedal pull can be found at the end of this article. Forty-nine kids took part in the pedal pull competition. Great job to all of the competitors and a huge thank you to our sponsors!

Anna Richards, the Miss Readlyn candidate, was escorted by FFA member, Nick Grober before her crowning. Early the next morning, FFA members could be seen representing the organization in the grand parade. Ethan Oltrogge, 2019-20 Sweetheart King, as well as 2018-19

Sweetheart Royalty Dallas Wittenburg and Courtney Schmitz, rode in a convertible while Jason Harks pulled the Gift of Grain wagon.

Following the parade, FFA members, parents, and supporters cooked and sold rib-eyes, hamburgers, and hot dogs to the hungry people of Readlyn with the help of Bremer County Beef Producers, who provided the grill.

The chapter also kept busy during Fairbank's Island Days. FFA members helped kick off the celebration at the Island Queen Coronation meal Thursday evening. The following day, members organized and helped boys and girls ages 0 to 10 pedal their tractors as far as they could go in the annual pedal pull. The results are found below.

On Saturday morning, the Gift of Grain Wagon, pulled by Blake Rechkemmer and the 2019-20 Sweetheart Queen, Kaylee Kleitsch, represented the chapter in the parade.

None of these events would be possible without the support of our amazing

community. Thank you to everyone!!

Pedal Pull - Readlyn

**Age 0-4 Girls -
Farmer's Cooperative Company**
1st - Ashtyn Shores
2nd - Tuliann Boevers
3rd - Caitlynne Busch

**Age 5-6 Girls -
Wittenburg Trucking Company**
1st - Brooke Schutte
2nd - Brylee Robinson
3rd - Josie Ott

**Age 7-8 Girls -
Readlyn Mutual Insurance**
1st - Ashlyn Strottmann
2nd - Sadie Hogan
3rd - Makayla McCabe
**Age 9-10 Girls - Wolff's Service, Inc.
and Readlyn Telephone Company**

1st - Alex W.
2nd - Camryn
3rd - Mackenzie
Age 0-4 Boys - Schuldt Repair
1st - Will Kuker
2nd - Hoyt Hammond
3rd - Bennett Strottmann
Age 5-6 Boys - Readlyn Savings Bank
1st - Cael Busch
2nd - Keegan Strottmann
3rd - Evan Kleitsch
Age 7-8 Boys - Kuhlmann's Repair
1st - Griffen Miller

2nd - Mason Scribner
3rd - Weston Shores
**Age 9-10 Boys - Inspired and Readlyn
Telephone Company**
1st - Caleb Hogan
2nd - Daniel Matthias
3rd - Greysen Miller

Pedal Pull - Fairbank
Age 0-4 Girls
1st - Macy Vorac
Age 5-6 Girls
1st - Caelyn Clarke
2nd - Gentry Decker
3rd - Brylee Robinson

Age 7-8 Girls
1st - Aubrey Robinson
2nd - Lola Destival
3rd - Espyn Decker
Age 0-4 Boys

1st - Calvin Jones
2nd - Silas Coffin
3rd - Reid Kleitsch
Age 5-6 Boys
1st - Evan Kleitsch
2nd - Hunter


Age 7-8 Boys
1st - Hudson Vorac
2nd - Jacob Coffin
Age 9-10 Boys
1st - Tripp Gissel
2nd - Wally Kaufman
3rd - Mason Curley



Blake Rechkemmer drives the Gift of Grain Wagon in the Island Days Parade.



(L to R) Queen Melody Kayser, Cole Neil, Kennadi Neil, Nick Grober, Becca Platte, Courtney Schmitz, Ellie Neil, Mary Beodensteiner, Kaylie Curley, Jason Harks, and Advisor Wyatt Forsythe help with Fairbank Pedal Pull.



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Readlyn Class of 1959

The Readlyn Class of 1959 gathered recently for a reunion. Shown at left are, front row, left to right, LaRue (Dettmering) Boom, Virginia (Sauerbrei) Sickles, Judy (Matthias) Weidmann, Betty (Kuker) Lines, and Karan (Hagenow) Boevers; second row, Esther (Schneider) Bast, Sandra (Otto) Jerke, Rosalie (Klemp) Wiedner, Verla (Meyerhof) Buenzow, Larry Heineman, Larry Hagenow, and Arlo Pipho.

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Kleitsch attends week of Leadership Development in the nation's capitol

Urban, Iowa – Thirty-eight high school students representing Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C., from June 14-20 and joined more than 1,900 other students from across the nation for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Iowa's electric cooperatives were the first ones to send students to Washington, D.C., back in 1958; this year marks the 61st anniversary of the journey.

This year Kaylee Kleitsch and Jacob Ludeking were sponsored by East-Central Iowa REC.

Kaylee attends Wapsie Valley High School and is the daughter of Richard and Brenda Kleitsch of Fairbank. Kaylee is an honor roll student. Her school activities include archery and being a student ambassador representative. She is also a member of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, where she holds the position of sentinel and is part of the conduct of meetings team and poultry judging. Kaylee is also a teacher's assistant and is part of the Talented and Gifted Program (TAG), choir, chamber choir, and musicals. Her activities outside school include being a member of the Atom Bombers 4-H Club, where she serves as president. She is also a library volunteer, babysitter, and house- and pet-sitter for several families. Finally, Kaylee is a Vacation Bible School teacher, lector, and member of several other church groups and fundraisers.

Jacob is an honor roll student at Benton Community High School and is the son of George and Theresa Ludeking of Norway.

His school activities include speech, band, show choir, musicals, and plays. He is an Iowa Ambassador of Music and serves as a reporter of the Benton Community FFA Chapter. He is also a member of the Florence Go-Getters 4-H Club and has represented Iowa 4-H as a state delegate to the National 4-H Congress. Jacob is also a member of the 4-H and FFA livestock judging teams, has been an altar server and has served as an assistant fifth-grade religious education teacher at his church.

"The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students, and we're proud to send 38 of Iowa's best and brightest to our nation's capital this year to participate," said Chuck Soderberg, Executive Vice President of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "These students gained a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and made connections with other student leaders from across the country that will last a lifetime. We look forward to continuing the Youth Tour tradition for years to come."

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstarted their national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives, and toured the monuments and museums of Washington, D.C.

Students apply and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative. Nationally, nearly 50,000 students have participated in this program over the decades. For more information, visit www.youthtour.coop.



Kaylee Kleitsch and Jacob Ludeking attended a week of leadership development, sponsored by East-Central Iowa REC, in Washington, D.C.



Plan now to enjoy the music of Mollie B and Squeezebox when they perform in Fairbank on August 21! Photo courtesy Lindsey Trettin Photography

Mollie B coming to Fairbank!

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 — save the date! That's when Mollie B and Squeezebox will be coming to Fairbank!

The City of Fairbank is hosting this special performance on Aug. 21, from 2-4 PM, at West Bentley Park in Fairbank.

Squeezebox features Ted Lange and Mollie B is the star of *Mollie B Polka Party* on RFD-TV. The group recently

appeared in the movie, "The Mule," with Clint Eastwood.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Fairbank American Legion.

This event is a fundraiser with proceeds from a free-will donation to benefit the Main Street Christmas Decoration Fund.

**Deadline for the August 28
Readlyn Chronicle:**

Thursday, Aug. 15, 5:00 PM



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	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church 2683 Quail Avenue Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3977 Pastor Philip Giradin Divine Service 9:30 a.m.</p>
	<p>St. Matthew Lutheran Church Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor 2649 230th Street Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758 No Sunday School Divine Parish Worship at St. Matthews, 9:00 a.m. Mid-week Service at Zion, Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM</p>
	<p>St. Paul Lutheran Church 120 West 4th Street Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3961 Pastor Philip Giradin Worship 8:30 AM</p>
	<p>Zion Lutheran Church 240 Elmer Avenue Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3643 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor Sunday Divine Worship Service 8:00 a.m. Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays Mid-week Service Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:30 p.m. Evening Circle 1st Thursday 6 p.m.</p>

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