

# Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 12, No. 3, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, March 27, 2019

## Buffet and Trivia Night is Saturday

The Readlyn Community Club (RCC) is presenting a buffet and Trivia Night as this year's membership drive.

The event will be held this Saturday, March 30, starting with social time at 5 PM, a delicious meal at 6 PM, meeting at 7 PM, and an evening of trivia beginning at 8 PM. All of this will be held at the Readlyn Event Center.

Cost is only \$20 per person, which includes a delicious broasted chicken and roast beef buffet, a fun night of trivia, and voting rights for the 2019 Grump, RCC officers and projects. There will be a raffle for three nice items donated by Readlyn Telephone Company.

It is time to renew your RCC member-

ship! It is time to become a new member! RCC encourages you to become a member so that you can be a part of this active community organization that is the envy of our neighboring communities. Readlyn's annual events add value to our lives and lasting memories for our children. Your financial and volunteer contributions are vital to continue offering these opportunities.

Our regular membership meetings are held every other month on the 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m. You are invited to attend; you personally decide how much you would like to volunteer. Possible committees that would benefit from your talent and interest: The *Readlyn Chronicle* newspaper,

Valentine Ball, Miss Readlyn Contest, Easter Egg Hunt, Fall and Christmas Decorating, Grump Days and Parade, Kids in the Park, Christmas on Main, and Santa's Visit. By liking "Readlyn Community Club" on Facebook, you can be notified concerning events.

Membership dues are \$20.00 per member. Your membership entitles you to vote

for the 2019 Grump, Grump Day T-shirt design, officers and directors during the short meeting Friday, March 30, at the Readlyn Event Center.

Please bring or mail this form with your dues of \$20.00 each, and donations to:

Dani Sauerbrei, RCC Treasurer, Readlyn Savings Bank, P.O. Box 40, Readlyn, IA 50668

## Readlyn Community Club

# TRIVIA NIGHT

## & Membership Drive Dinner this Sat., March 30

If you are not a Community Club member but enjoy playing Trivia, we invite you to form a 4 – 6 person team and join us at 8:00 p.m. at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Prizes include six \$10.00 Kwik Star certificates for first place, six \$5.00 Inspired certificates for 2nd, and a surprise prize for last place. Buy raffle chances

for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 to place in the box for the item you wish to win. Winner need not be present. Raffle items include a 24-hours Thermos, black leather gym/overnight bag, and a black expandable briefcase donated by RTC, and four \$25.00 Dirty Dawg gift cards and a clutch purse. Come join the fun.



## Special thanks to donors, friends and family

By Alec Marticoff

This past year I had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the Family Relations committee, raise over \$3,000, and run the Chicago Marathon all for Dance Marathon at the University of Iowa. I cannot believe it has already been one month since the Big Event for Dance Marathon where over 5,000 students stayed awake and on their feet for 24 hours (some even longer), raised over \$2.96 million dollars for pediatric cancer research and our families, and honored all the brave kids that have been affected by this horrible disease. I sincerely want to thank every single person that donated to this incredible cause and supported me over the last year. With your support, we moved one step closer to ending pediatric cancer and making sure that these families and kids fighting this unimaginable battle felt so much love from all of you.

This year's Big Event marked Dance Marathon's 25th Year Silver Anniversary at the university. For 25 years, this student-led organization has helped countless families financially and emotionally through its unwavering support. Not only that, but Dance Marathon has made massive contributions to the University of Iowa Steadfast Family Children's Hospital; a \$5 million dollar pledge to the 11th floor (where you see the kids doing the wave), a \$2 million dollar pledge to establish the University of Iowa Dance Marathon in Pediatric Oncology,

Clinical, and Translational Research, and numerous other donations including new hospital equipment. This year was no different. For 24 hours, I got to witness these astounding families have the best time of their lives; celebrating life and those who graduated (being 5 years cancer free), honoring those who've passed, and supporting those who are still affected every day by cancer. Nonstop dancing, family speakers, game rooms, a silent disco, bouncy houses, live entertainment, all kinds of snacks, and the craziest Power Hour in the history of DM highlighted only a fraction of the Big Event this year. I can honestly say it will be an all-time highlight for me and everyone else involved.

Thanks to all of you, Dance Marathon's 25th year at Iowa was a monumental success and inspired a new generation of students, families, and kids. I truly cannot put into words how much that means to me and all of the people who work so hard to run this organization and make it successful year after year. Below I've posted some pictures from the event. If you have any more questions about this awesome organization and what we do, feel free to email me at [amarticoff@gmail.com](mailto:amarticoff@gmail.com) or visit our website [dancemarathon.uiowa.edu](http://dancemarathon.uiowa.edu). There is tons of information about the organization, the families, and what we're all about. Thank you again, and as always FTK (For the Kids)!

See more photos on page 2

READLYN COMMUNITY CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM – 2019

**Membership Fee includes buffet dinner at the March 30 Annual Meeting at The Readlyn Event Center!**

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE(s): \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY MEMBERSHIPS? \_\_\_\_\_ ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE PAID: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYABLE TO: **Readlyn Community Club**  
(Can be dropped off at the Readlyn Savings Bank during business hours or in the night drop)

Are you attending the Annual Meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>? \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 each membership)

Committee Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

You can volunteer as much as you wish!

## Valentine Ball committee scholarship deadline is April 8

The Readlyn Valentine Ball Committee is excited to announce this year's senior scholarship opportunity!

All Wapsie Valley High School 2019 seniors with a Readlyn address, Readlyn telephone number, or those who completed grade school at Readlyn Elementary are eligible to apply for this \$500 scholarship.

The subject of this scholarship is "My Readlyn Community Involvement." Please submit a well-written, thought-provoking 300-word minimum essay describing ways you volunteered in Readlyn and have been involved in the Readlyn community throughout the years. Describe

how your involvement has impacted you and influenced your future plans.

Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the Readlyn Library no later than Monday, April 8, 2019. The scholarship winner will be announced in the May *Chronicle* as well as by mailed letter.

The Valentine Ball Committee believes that Readlyn offers priceless opportunities to give roots and wings to our young citizens. Roots to hold them strong in their beliefs and where they can always call home. Experiences to help them spread their wings and contribute to the bigger world outside of our great town.

# Dance Marathon



## Readlyn Spring City-Wide Garage Sales - 2019

**Thursday, May 2, 4:00 – 8:00 PM**  
**Friday, May 3, 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM**  
**Saturday, May 4, 7:00 AM - Noon**

In response to a Facebook poll on the Readlyn site, Thursday night has been added and dates changed to the first weekend in May. The Readlyn Community Club is coordinating this event and will be responsible for ads placed in the newspapers and online.

Please drop off your registration and \$5.00 to the Readlyn Library or the Readlyn Savings Bank by **Wednesday, May 1**. Maps of the listings will be on [readlyn.lib.ia.us](http://readlyn.lib.ia.us), and can be picked up at the Kwik Star, Library and Bank at noon on Thursday, May 2.

Please turn in your listing and money to the Library or Readlyn Savings Bank by Wednesday, May 1. If your sale will run different hours than those listed, please indicate. Different hours will be included in the sale listing if possible. The list will be on the library website by noon on Thursday: [readlyn.lib.ia.us](http://readlyn.lib.ia.us)

The Goodwill truck will be behind the library.

## Boys, Girls State attendees' summer reunion is planned

The Waverly American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 0176 will be hosting a special reunion event this summer, and are searching for anyone who has attended Boys State or Girls State, from Bremer County. Attendees from Shell Rock (Butler County) are included in this invitation.

If you attended, or know of a family member or friend who did attend Boys State or Girls State, please let them know we are looking to contact them with more information in the very near future!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Our search for names and current addresses has just begun, so any assistance is appreciated!

The date for this event has not yet been determined.

Please contact Maxine at: [hbb109mab@gmail.com](mailto:hbb109mab@gmail.com), or Kathy at: [msmcfan@aol.com](mailto:msmcfan@aol.com) with any helpful information. If contacting by email, PLEASE include the words B/G REUNION in the Subject Line above your message. Or contact Kathy Epley, 1991 Hawthorne Ave. Waverly, IA 50677.

Other information requested: Year you attended Boys State or Girls State, and Post or Auxiliary Unit (community) that sponsored you.

## Grump's Grumblings

By Larry Ladage



February and March are probably not everyone's favorite months. This year, we saw snow and more snow, along with very cold temperatures. As of this writing, there are only 13 days left until the first day of spring on March 20. Is everyone ready to mow the lawn instead of shoveling snow? The City has done a very good job of keeping the streets open and cleaned. Thank you, Barney and Austin. Good job!!

Janet and I have had a lot of "snow days," since we both work at schools. So, now we start the process of making them up.

March 9, we got to help our great-granddaughter celebrate her sixth birthday in Tripoli.

The Readlyn Community Club Annual Meeting will take place on March 30 at the Readlyn Event Center. Everyone is invited to attend and become a member. This will become a time for a good meal and trivia games. You will also be given a chance to vote for the next Readlyn Grump. You can also volunteer for many community activities, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, putting up decorations for fall and Christmas, Santa in Readlyn, or Readlyn Grump Days. Readlyn is a very caring community to live in. Everybody please do your part to promote the town you live in.

Saturday, April 20 is the Easter Egg Hunt in Readlyn. We can only hope for nice weather for that day, so the kids can hunt their eggs. Easter Sunday is April 21. Hopefully, everyone is anxious and thinking about this important day in our lives.

Larry Ladage – 2018 Readlyn Grump

Deadline for April 24 Chronicle:  
**Thurs., April 11, 5 PM**

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Dr. Jonathan Smiley and family

## Miss Readlyn Comments

By Cassidy Brunscheon



My Dad has said that March "comes in like a lion" and it seems to be true every year, especially this one. March is one of the busiest months for me, and I can tell because it seems like almost every day Facebook shows up with a picture or post showing what I was doing a year or two ago. It's bitter-sweet looking through all my old photos and looking back on my high school experiences.

So much has happened since the last time I wrote. I went to my last state competition in Individual Speech at Waldorf University. I performed my piece for the very last time and I received a perfect score. Speech has been such a giant part of my high school experience. I have done something for fun that many people are terrified of doing... public speaking. The program has taught me how to be comfortable in front of a crowd and has taught me what true determination is. I've met some of the greatest people through Speech that have inspired me to be the best I can possibly be. It's been an amazing four years.

The Variety Show was earlier this month and it was a tremendous success. The night went off without a hitch and there were many talented performers. There was a great crowd and we raised a lot of money for the music department. Thank you to everyone who came out!

Also, this month, I was invited to attend the 2nd annual NICL Academic Awards Banquet. The banquet was held March 11 at the AEA Education Center in Cedar Falls. Tanner Sauerbrei, Carley Schmit, Julia LaRue, Jacob Risse and I earned the award and the opportunity to attend. The banquet recognizes the top five students of each class from each NICL school for their academic accomplishments. We were all presented an All-Academic Award certificate and served a delicious prime rib dinner and side dishes followed by a motivational message. It was awesome to be recognized and sit with the five most academically successful students from all-over North-Eastern Iowa. It was truly inspiring, and I was honored to be a part of it.

I'm writing this article as I'm packing to go St. Louis with the music department for our trip that we take every other year. We will attend a music clinic with professionals, go to the Arch, see "Beautiful" (a musical about the life of Carole King), and much, much more.

I'm tired of snow and I'm ready for green grass and sunshine. I hope spring comes soon and everyone stays safe within this transition!

Miss Readlyn, Cassidy Brunscheon

## Community Calendar

- Mondays** - Novel Knitters at the library 6 PM
- Thursdays** - Story time at the library 9 AM
- Saturday, March 30** - Readlyn Community Club Membership and Trivia Night, Readlyn Event Center, starting at 5 PM
- Tuesday, April 2** - Visiting Nurses Foot Clinic at the library call 319-235-6201 for an appointment
- Tuesday, April 2** - V.F.W. Post #5661 at Readlyn Telephone Company 7:30 PM
- Saturday, April 6** - Technology Class at the library - Buying and selling on eBay 10 AM
- Tuesday, April 9** - Coloring at the library 1-3 PM school-agers welcome after school
- Thursday, April 11 & 18** - Ukrainian Egg Dying Class at the library 6 PM
- Thursday, April 11** - Deadline for April 24 Chronicle, 5 PM
- Saturday, April 13** - Pepper Tournament at the Readlyn Event Center 2 PM
- Sunday, April 14** - 4-H at the library 6 PM
- Wednesday, April 17** - Senior Citizens lunch and cards at Inspired, 11:30 AM
- Saturday, April 20** - Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 AM Readlyn City Park
- Wednesday, April 24** - Merry Elders at Inspired 11:30 AM
- Thursday, April 25** - Readlyn Reads Book Discussion @ the Library 7 PM

# Readlyn Community Happenings

## Senior Citizens meet

On February 21, 2019, 14 members attended the 11:30 AM Senior Citizens Meal/Meeting at Inspired. President Ron Leistikow led the members in prayer before our delicious meal.

President Ron Leistikow called the meeting to order.

Charlie Albrecht reported the new balance in the treasury, after expenses, to be \$72.00. Motion was made by Don Billhorn and seconded by Judy Leistikow to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The secretary's minutes were read. A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Sonja Bast to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Ruth Wittenburg had a birthday in February so we sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Rick and Lois Thacher had an anniversary on February 14 so everyone sang "Happy Anniversary."

**OLD BUSINESS:** It was discussed about the dues that were raised per month from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per person. It was agreed last month in January to pay \$20.00 to Kim per month, but should have been \$10.00 to Kim for the use of Inspired for our monthly meetings. The dues will stay the same at \$2.00 per person in attendance, but \$10.00 to Kim and the rest would go into the treasury for miscellaneous expenses. A motion was made by Charles Albrecht and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to approve this amended payment to Kim at Inspired. Motion carried.

It was reported by Ron Leistikow that 160 people attended the Valentine Ball on February 8. Around \$16,000.00 was raised by having the event. It was the 10th year that the Valentine Ball was celebrated. Kim Brown and Ron Leistikow have been the organizers of the Valentine Ball and will be stepping down from that role. New organizers are needed for their roles. Thank you to Kim and Ron for all their hard work the last 10 years. It was appreciated by everyone! The Valentine Ball has raised around \$200,000.00 in the last 10 years for the community. Keep Your Heart In Readlyn!

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Annual Community Club Meeting will be held March 30 at the Watering Hole in Readlyn. Charlie Albrecht reminded people to join by attending the meal and meeting. Dues are

\$20.00 per person for the year and it includes the wonderful dinner. Trivia competition games will also be played. There will be electing of the new board members and a list will be put together of the possible Grump candidates.

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

Card-playing and social conversation was enjoyed by all after the meeting.

The next meeting was set for March 20, 2019 at Inspired.

Lois Thacher, Secretary

## College News

### Kleitsch named to Upper Iowa University 2018 Fall Dean's List

FAYETTE, IA -- Upper Iowa University has announced the Dean's List for the 2018 fall semester. To be honored, a student must have earned a minimum 3.50 grade point average for the semester and be enrolled as a full-time student.

The honored students included Meghan Kleitsch, an art major from Fairbank.

#### About Upper Iowa University

Founded in 1857, Upper Iowa University is a private, nonprofit university providing undergraduate and graduate degree programs to about 5,800 students-nationally and internationally-at its Fayette, Iowa, campus, 21 U.S. locations, as well as centers in Hong Kong.

## Pepper Tournament

Join us Saturday, April 13, at 2 p.m. at the Readlyn Community Event Center for the last pepper tournament of the season.

Sixteen players participated on March 2. The winners and their scores were:

- 1st Place: (Tie) Alli Matthias and Mitchell Boevers - 188
- Shirley Kuker and Judy Henn
- 2nd Place: Connie and Roger Buhr - 178
- 3rd Place: Corlyn and Reiny Freitag - 177

## Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary #5661 met at the Readlyn Library on March 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. with 5 members present. The meeting opened with prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The general orders and chairman reports were read by all for February and March. A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Luann Happel to pay the bill. Carried. Volunteer hours were turned in. Old business: 1226 canceled stamps and 40 postcards were sent to Arizona V.A. healthcare system for handicapped veterans. Eight letters were handed out to send to Senator for Bill: H.R. 299, The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act.

Third District meeting will be April 13 at Alta Vista Paul Johanns Post #4069. The V.F.W. and Auxiliary National Convention will be July 20-24, 2019 in Orlando, Fl. Darlene Peters and Wilda Albrecht are Delegate and Alternate. Ellen Thies was Secretary Pro Tem: Worked on year-end reports. A motion was made by Darlene Peters and seconded by Luann Happel to adjourn, carried. Closed with prayer. Ellen Thies was hostess.

## Historical meeting at Waverly Apr. 2

"Death Comes for Us All-Death and Mourning in the Victorian Era" will be the topic presented by professional historian and educator, Kathy Wilson, B.A., M.A. at the Waverly Public Library, on Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m. Kathy believes learning about the past can be fun as well as interesting. To prove that point, she draws on more than 20 years of experience to create programs that engage and entertain as well as educate her audiences.

Wilson received her BA in history from Bemidji State University in Minnesota before traveling to England where she completed her masters at the University of York. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Iowa and specializes in 18th and 19th century British-American Social History.

The program is being sponsored by Bremer County Genealogical Society in cooperation with Waverly Public Library. There is no charge and everyone is invited.

For more information contact Mary Buls, 319-276-4753.

## With Sincere Thanks

The family of Al Buhr would like to extend a special thank you to our family and friends for all of your visits, thoughts and prayers, and support during Al's illness and passing. We continue to be comforted by wonderful people, and for that we are forever grateful.

A special thank you to the Cedar Valley Hospice House for caring for all of us during Al's final days; and to Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home for their assistance with the visitation and Celebration of Life.

Al will be missed by many, but he will live on in all our memories! Thank you all so very much,

*Veronica  
Curt, Stacy, Parker & Avery  
Tami, Sean, Alex & Ryan*

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# Readlyn Community Library

We put the READ in Readlyn

Barb Sowers  
Nancy Lockard  
Patrick Brodigan  
Tina Ristau

## In Loving Memory

### Cash Memorials

**In Memory of Ron Rathbone**  
Kevin & Cathy Kuhrt

**In Memory of Glenyce Bruns**  
Family & Friends

### Book Memorials

**In Memory of Russell Wilson**  
"Be a Good Dragon" by Kurt Cyrus  
From Ron & Judy Leistikow

**In Memory of Dennis Albrecht**  
"Little Robot Alone" by Patricia MacLachlan and  
Emily MacLachlan Charest from Ron & Judy Leis-  
tikow & Ron & Bev Herman

**In Memory of Wayne Sauerbrei**  
"Fireman Pete" by James Dean  
from Jerry & Cindy Sauerbrei



### Bremer County Libraries

### Offer Free Technology Classes

Registration is greatly appreciated but not required.

#### April Schedule:

- Fri. April 2 at 2 PM – Plainfield – Phone Apps
- Sat. April 6 at 10 AM – Readlyn—eBay
- Mon. April 15 at 2 PM – Sumner – Phone/Tablet Apps
- Thurs. April 18 at 10 AM – Janesville – Phone Apps
- Thurs. April 25 at 6:30 PM – Denver – Resume Writing
- Fri. April 26 at 10 AM—Waverly—Ancestry.com
- Mon. April 29 at 5 PM – Tripoli – Intro to Pinterest

### Learn Ukranian Egg Decorating at the Library



Pat Wehr has once again offered to teach the art of Pysanky or Ukrainian Egg Decorating.

The method is similar to batik - patterns are drawn on the egg with wax, which protects the covered areas from the dye that is applied. By repeating this process with different colors of dye, a multi-colored pattern is built up. Finally, the wax is removed, with the heat of a candle, to reveal the colors that were covered up at each stage.

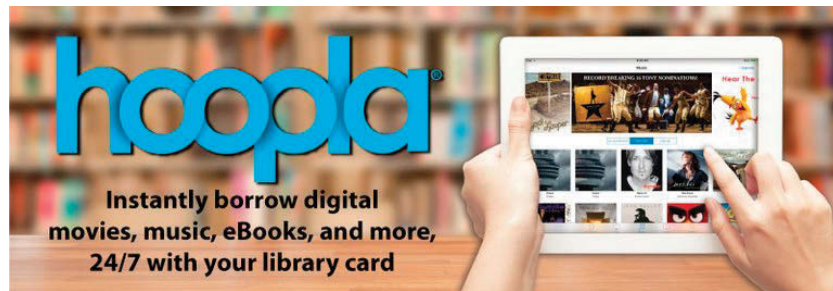
Participants are asked to bring 3 hard boiled eggs that are at room temperature.

**Thursday April 11th and 18th  
@ 6:00**

309 Main St.  
P.O. Box 249  
Readlyn, IA 50668

Phone and Fax: 319-279-3432  
Email: [readlynlib@gmail.com](mailto:readlynlib@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.readlyn.lib.ia.us](http://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us)

**Hours**  
10-7 Monday 10-7 Thursday  
10-5 Tuesday 10-5 Friday  
10-5 Wednesday 9-12 Saturday



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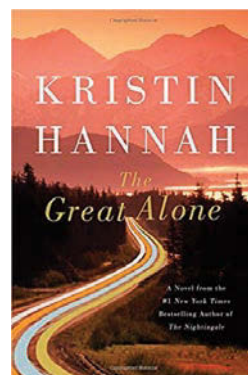
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Wendy Matthias

Inspired Gift Card:  
Louie Hartmann



### Booktalk



April's title:  
**The Great Alone** by  
Kristin Hannah

Pick up a copy at the  
library and join us for  
discussion on

**Thursday April 25th  
at 7:00 pm**

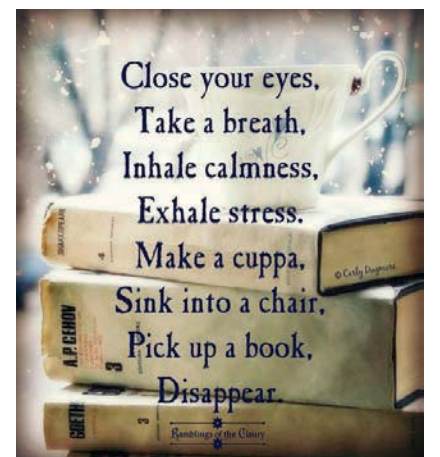
Thirteen-year-old Leni, a girl coming of age in a tumultuous time, caught in the riptide of her parents' passionate, stormy relationship, dares to hope that a new land will lead to a better future for her family. She is desperate for a place to belong. Her mother, Cora, will do anything and go anywhere for the man she loves, even if means following him into the unknown. At first, Alaska seems to be the answer to their prayers. In a wild, remote corner of the state, they find a fiercely independent community of strong men and even stronger women. The long, sunlit days and the generosity of the locals make up for the Allbrights' lack of preparation and dwindling resources.

But as winter approaches and darkness descends on Alaska, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates and the family begins to fracture. Soon the perils outside pale in comparison to threats from within. In their small cabin, covered in snow, blanketed in eighteen hours of night, Leni and her mother learn the terrible truth: they are on their own. In the wild, there is no one to save them but themselves.

In this unforgettable portrait of human frailty and resilience, Kristin Hannah reveals the indomitable character of the modern American pioneer and the spirit of a vanishing Alaska—a place of incomparable beauty and danger. *The Great Alone* is a daring, beautiful, stay-up-all-night story about love and loss, the fight for survival, and the wildness that lives in both man and nature..



- A Star is Born
- Ralph Breaks the Internet
- Instant Family
- Creed II
- Fantastic Beasts  
The Crimes of Grindelwald
- Aquaman



### Color Us Creative

**JOIN US**  
**Tuesday, April 9th**  
**1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**  
Children are Welcome after  
School

### Readlyn Reads

Ernt Allbright, a former POW, comes home from the Vietnam war a changed and volatile man. When he loses yet another job, he makes an impulsive decision: he will move his family north, to Alaska, where they will live off the grid in America's last true frontier.



Compiled by Bob Thran

# Readlyn, Long Ago

**Editor's Note:** Last month in the *Readlyn Chronicle*, the story dealt with Readlyn men serving in Korea during the early months of the war and ended when I was home on furlough from Hawaii.

## To Korea

After seven short days at home in Readlyn, I reported to Camp Stoneman in California, boarded again a troop ship, then a twelve-day voyage to Japan. Calm seas. Landed in Yokohama and then to Camp Drake. Spent two days listening to lectures like what to do in case of capture. We were issued our M1 rifles and steel helmets. Most of us were assigned to the 45th Infantry Division in Korea. I boarded another troop ship and landed at Inchon, in Korea, rode a train to Yong Dong Po, 45th Division Rear Headquarters, where we were assigned to our individual units.

The next morning after breakfast I saw my first terrible effect of war. Small children were at our garbage can area begging us to dump what we did not eat into their pails. Many parents were killed, leaving many orphans, sometimes leaving four-year-olds taking care of their two-year-old brothers and sisters.

We were hauled up front in the back of a truck to a military area extending several miles back from the front line. It took awhile to get there because in Korea the speed limit for all vehicles was 15 miles an hour. At the time I arrived in Korea, the front lines were stabilized. Both sides were dug in and heavily fortified. Almost all fighting was done at night. There were battles. Attacks during daytime were too costly because both sides had everything in no-man's-land zeroed in with artillery and mortars.

What was it like in this area near the front? First of all, rifles were to be carried at all times, no matter where we went. Steel helmets were to be on our heads at all times. Upfront was an area with no civilians. I did not see a woman for six months. I was not in a building all winter, only bunkers and tents. Money was worthless--there was nothing to buy. No stores! Either you could gamble with it or have an allotment taken from your pay and send money home. My pay was \$116 per month and I sent \$75 per month home. At first we were issued one pack of cigarettes a day, but that policy ended. Every day was the same. We did not know if it was a Monday or a Saturday or Sunday nor did we care. Unless we wrote a letter, we did not know what date it was. One of my buddies asked what the date was. He was told the date and then said, "Wow, it is, yesterday was my birthday."

As far as staying clean, during the warm months there was usually a stream to wash in. During the winter, we were hauled to a shower point, a tent next to a river. Water was taken from an ice-covered stream and heated. To shower we took off our clothes and threw them into a container for dirty clothes. After our shower we were handed clean clothes.

Troops right on the front line lived in bunkers. Bunkers were dug into the ground at the top of the ridge overlooking no-man's-land. Bunkers were covered with a roof of timbers. Sandbags or dirt covered the timbers. You could look out over no-man's-land and see enemy territory. There were battles which were almost always fought at night. Patrols were sent out at night into no-man's-land to keep the area clean and the enemy from digging in.



When chow was called, troops would leave the bunkers, go down and get in line. Lines were long because on the front line you were ordered to keep a ten-yard space between you and the next soldier. If we would bunch up we would hear the order "spread out, one shell will get you all."

An infantry division consists of approximately 15,000 soldiers. A division would be assigned so many miles of the front line to defend. Two divisions were assigned side-by-side on the front line and another division was placed immediately behind the two divisions in reserve. In case of an enemy attack, this division in reserve was there to prevent a breakthrough. Divisions would be periodically rotated.

Reiny Freitag, who is here today, was in an artillery unit supporting a South Korean Division on the front line. His unit was a few miles behind the line. The Chinese launched an attack and broke through the line. There was nothing in front of them to stop the enemy. They had to bug out in a hurry, leaving everything. They lost their personal possessions, their clothing, as well as their big artillery guns. All they were able to save was their lives. Later their unit was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.

It was cold in Korea. We were moved up from reserve to the front during the night in the middle of winter. A cook's tent was set up for breakfast at 6 in the morning in the dark. We went into the small tent, got powdered potatoes, powdered eggs, powdered milk, and bacon and then stepped out of the tent to eat. Before I got my chow all eaten it was froze. It was at well below zero. No use

complaining-- that is just the way it was.

If you complained, or in army term you b\*&ched about something, you would get no sympathy. If you b\*&ched, someone would say, "Come here and let me punch your TS card." TS=tough s\*&t! Army talk, let me punch your tough s\*&t card. It was a hard life in Korea. We were not sent to Korea to earn a boy scout merit badge. Mail call was the greatest but sometimes we did not get mail for two weeks.

When we were close behind the front line we stayed in tents, about 10 men to a tent. In winter we had a little round stove to give us heat. If someone sent us popcorn we would fire up that stove until it was red hot, pop our popcorn and have a treat. We never had to worry about cleaning up the popcorn spilled on the dirt floor--the rats would come in at night and clean it up for us. Jim Matthews was hopping around one morning and yelling. We thought he was going crazy. There was a rat in the sleeve of his parka.

After I was in this front area for eight or nine of my eleven months in Korea, I was given a 5-day R&R to Japan. In Japan finally we got a shower and were given class A uniforms to replace the fatigues we wore in Korea. What a thrill it was to be back in civilization with buildings, neon lights and, after months, finally seeing someone of the opposite sex. I went shopping in an exclusive store too and bought a 12-piece set of Nortaki china and a sterling silver table service to send home. Very reasonable! I also wanted to purchase several hand painted scenes on silk. In Japan at that time you were given a starting price and the custom was to haggle



Frozen corpses are unloaded from a truck at Koto-ri where they will be buried in a mass grave. A 155mm howitzer can be seen in the background. The dead, 117 of them, mostly U.S. Marines but some soldiers and Royal Marines, were interred in a hole originally bulldozed into the ground to serve as an artillery fire direction center.

Photo by Sgt. Frank C. Kerr, National Archives Photo (USMC) 127-N-A5366

to lower the price. These beautiful pieces of art were offered at three for a dollar. After a few moments of haggling I said, "Too much money, in New York me buy six for a dollar." His answer, "You speekee bulls\*&t." After a good laugh I bought six. We were able to drink beer in Japan which most all of us enjoyed to excess. A meal of large fantail shrimp or a steak cost 65 cents. We too soon went back to Korea where alcohol was not readily available. In Korea, further back miles south of the front line, troops had it better. They slept in tents with wooden floors, had beer gardens, were able to buy from a PX and could mingle with the civilians.

There were minefields all over, usually marked with yellow tape. In winter mines were not a big problem because the ground was frozen. In spring, when it thawed, it was dangerous. A land mine is about the size of a dinner plate but deeper and is buried in the ground. You step on a mine, it will explode when you step off. On one of the last days I was in Korea, a soldier in my company stepped on a mine. It blew off his right leg and most of his right arm. He was evacuated to Japan. I never knew if he made it.

That soldier who stepped on the mine was Corporal Kistler. What was his job before he went into the army? He was a pitcher in the minor leagues for the St. Louis Cardinals. I lost track of almost all of those who I went through basic training with, we were all split up in Korea. One I did hear about. On his first day on the front line, a mortar came down and landed on his shoulder. It blew him to pieces. I don't know how they could find enough of his body to send home.

In Korea I learned what it felt like to be scared, really, really, scared. My heart beat, kaboom, kaboom, kaboom, I was afraid my heart would explode. I swear that anyone near me could hear my heart pounding. It is not at all like when you pull something and you are scared your parents might find out.

Finally, I got enough points to rotate home. What a thrill to get those orders sending me home. Because I got points for Hawaii, I was discharged at Camp Carson, Colorado before I got home. I spent only twenty months in service, almost all overseas. At home I remember hugging my Mother, I do not remember how I greeted my Dad. It was great to be home! The war ended a few months after I got home. I missed being with my buddies at war's end to celebrate.

I have one army buddy left, Hugh Ahlering, who went on to be an all-American basketball player at Evansville University. Another buddy, Mac McCracken, and I got together in 2003 after 50 years. Mac and I remained in contact until he died last year at age 89. Mac loved his Old Milwaukee beer. Drank up to a half-dozen cans a day. I loved him! Tears come to my eyes whenever I think of him.

I am grateful to the Wapsie Valley Student Council for allowing me to tell of my experiences during the Korean War, the forgotten war, and about us poor devils who were involved. More than 6,000 died.

These Readlyn men, in addition to those mentioned in the article, were also in Korea during the war: Vic Meier, Orville Huebner, Vernon Stumme, Pete Moeller, Merlin Matthias, Ralph Oltroge, Henry Lobeck, Wilbert Thies, Norman Herman (US Air Force) and Eddie Steinbronn. There were at least 20 of us. There may have been more. Lester Diekmann was the lone casualty.



# News from Community Lutheran School



Three-year-old preschool celebrated Dr Seuss' birthday! Ryker Burgart was dressed up as the *Cat in the Hat*.



CLSG first and second graders celebrated 100 days of school on February 15!



Caleb Marsh is proud of his *Cat in the Hat* shirt!



Ryker Burgart "reads" *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss to Brielle Boyle.



Amy Schutte counted and sorted her 100 pieces of snack!



Congratulations Caleb Hogan (above, center) on representing Community Lutheran School March 2 at the Iowa District East Spelling Bee In Newhall! Caleb is shown at left with his family.



Colton Hesse stirs up our "Seuss Soup!"



Arizona Franck enjoys her 100 pieces of snack!



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# News from Community Lutheran School



Kindergarten through 7th grades visited and sang for the residents of the Sunset Nursing Home in Denver on March 4.



CLC celebrated our Lutheran school with Family Game Night and a Spaghetti Supper at our Book Fair Thursday, March 7. We are blessed to have faithful families supporting our love of learning!



CLC students, teachers and pastor celebrate our Lutheran school!



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# Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

## Wapsie Valley FFA crowns the next Sweetheart King and Queen

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter

On Friday, February 22, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter crowned their 37th Sweetheart Queen and 18th Sweetheart King to represent the 2019-2020 year. The crowning took place in the Wapsie Valley High School gym before the annual Sweetheart Dance. The 2018-2019 Sweetheart King and Queen, Dallas Wittenburg and Courtney Schmitz, started the evening off by talking about their year of serving as Sweetheart King and Queen and then explained the process of being elected to the Sweetheart Court. Followed by the crowning of the 2019-2020 Sweetheart King and Queen.

In order to be selected on the Sweetheart Court, students must be elected by students enrolled in an agricultural education class. During class, every freshman through junior student gets the opportunity to vote for two females and two males from their grade to be the class representatives. Seniors also get to vote, but they get to vote for two females and two males from each grade. Votes

are then tallied and the two females and males with the most points from each grade are elected to the court, respectively. Once on the court, candidates are asked to fill out an application that consists of five questions. The names of the candidates are then replaced by numbers and voted upon for the selection of Sweetheart King and Queen.

The candidates included Freshmen: Ellie Neil, Bridget Seemann, Max Kayser, Ayden Powell; Sophomores: Kaylee Kleitsch, Macey Schmit, Ethan Oltrogge, Luke Rochford; and Juniors: Anna Richards, Hannah Miller, Kiks Rosengarden, Reese Welcher.

The 2019-2020 Sweetheart King and Queen Runners-up were Max Kayser and Bridget Seemann. The 2019-2020 Sweetheart King and Queen were Ethan Oltrogge and Kaylee Kleitsch.

After the crowning, the Wapsie Valley FFA hosted its annual Sweetheart Dance.

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The newly crowned Sweetheart King and Queen are shown with all of the candidates and the 2018-2019 Sweetheart King and Queen. Front row, left to right: Anna Richards, Bridget Seemann, Kaylee Kleitsch, Courtney Schmitz, Ellie Neil, Ayden Powell; back row, Kiks Rosengarden, Max Kayser, Ethan Oltrogge, Dallas Wittenburg, Luke Rochford and Hannah Miller.

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# Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

## Wapsie Valley FFA takes on Northeast District FFA Leadership Conference

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter

The Northeast Leadership Conference was very successful for the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter.

The conference was held on March 9, 2019 at the Sumner-Fredericksburg High School. Members participated in a variety of different events, showing off their knowledge and passion for agriculture and FFA. Members who participated in events include:

**Ag Sales** - Bryce Kleitsch - 1st Gold, Advancing to State

**Chapter Website** - Kaylee Kleitsch - 1st Gold, Advancing to State

**Experience the Action** - Sloane Banger, Hannah Miller, Kennadi Neil, Anna Richards, Reily Richards, Dallas Wittenburg, Cole Neil, Kyle Voy - 2nd Gold, Advancing to State

**Public Speaking** - Karissa Michael - Silver

**Reporter's Book** - Reily Richards - Gold

**Secretary's Book** - Anna Richards - 2nd Gold, Advancing to State

**Treasurer's Book** - Lydia Martins - 3rd Gold, Alternate to State

**Chapter Quiz** - Ethan Oltrogge, Courtney Schmitz

**Greenhand Quiz** - Nick Grober - 5th place individual, Mary Bodensteiner, Maggie Burgett, Bryce Adams

**Delegates** - Lydia Martins, Trystan Lampe

**District Officer Candidates** - Reily Richards and Hannah Miller

**District Office** - Reily Richards - Southwest Sub-District Vice President


After the convention was completed, members stayed to help the Sumner-Fred-

ericksburg FFA Chapter package meals for the heartland. Overall, the Wapsie Valley

FFA Chapter had a very successful day. Sponsored by Black Hawk Farm Bureau



Wapsie Valley FFA members who attended the Northeast District Leadership Conference were, front row, left to right: Maggie Burgett, Kennadi Neil, Lydia Martins, Anna Richards, Courtney Schmitz, Reily Richards; middle row: Mary Bodensteiner, Dallas Wittenburg, Ethan Oltrogge, Sloane Banger, Sam Schnor, Hannah Miller, Kaylee Kleitsch; back row: Karissa Michael, Bryce Adams, Nick Grober, Kyle Voy, Trystan Lampe, Cole Neil, Bryce Kleitsch.



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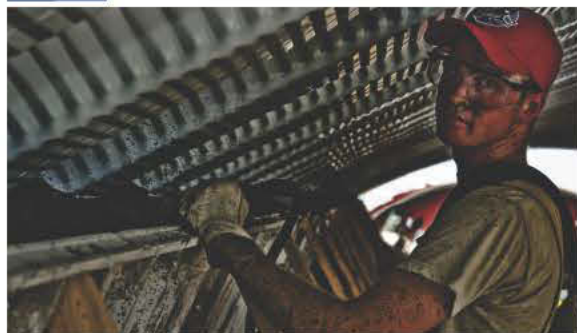
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# Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

## FFA takes over Iowa's Capitol

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter

On Thursday, February 14, four Wapsie Valley FFA members joined 308 members from other FFA chapters into Iowa to spend the day in Des Moines at the Iowa FFA Legislative Symposium. While they were there, members got the chance to talk to Legislators about agriculture and how important Agricultural Education and FFA programs are in local communities. Wapsie Valley FFA members got to visit with many congressmen including Bruce Bearinger, who serves as a ranking member on the Agriculture Committee, RasTafari Smith, who serves as a ranking member on the Education Committee, and Bob Kressing, a member of the Environ-

mental Protection committee. All three of these individuals represent counties that are a part of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter. Blake Rechkemmer, a senior stated, "I liked talking to our district representatives, they were very social and were easy to talk with. They understood just about everything we talked about, whether it was agriculturally related or about the capitol building itself. I really enjoyed visiting with Bruce Bearinger about his experiences as an ag teacher." From this opportunity, members enhance communication skills and promoted citizenship, which they can bring back these skills to our local FFA chapter and communities. Sponsored by Black Hawk Farm Bureau



(Left to right) First row: Hannah Miller, Reily Richards, Annamae Burkhardt, Becca Platte; second row: Anna Richards, Kennadi Neil, Karissa Michael, Kaylee Kleitsch, Maggie Burgett; third row: Grant Grober, Bryce Kleitsch, Nick Grober, Mary Bodensteiner, Ryan Schares, Jacob Risse and Bryce Adams.



Members from Wapsie Valley, Oelwein, East Buchanan, and Independence FFA Chapters got to take a picture with Bruce Bearinger, RasTafari Smith, and Bob Kressing.



Members got to talk to congressmen about the importance of Agriculture and Agricultural Education Classes.

## Wapsie Valley FFA members put their knowledge to use at Sub-Districts

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter

Wapsie Valley FFA members have been preparing for months to compete in the 2019 Southwest Sub-district Convention. The Southwest Sub-district Convention was held at Hawkeye Community College on February 21, 2019.

While at the convention, FFA members got the opportunity to participate in different Career Development Events. The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter had 16 members attend participating in several events. The chapter is very proud of all of the members for the work that they put into their competitions.

Members who participated in Sub-districts include:

Ag Sales - Bryce Kleitsch - 1st Gold,

Advancing to Districts

Creed Speaking - Maggie Burgett - 4th Silver, Alternate to Districts

Public Speaking - Karissa Michael - 2nd Gold, Advancing to Districts

Conduct of Meetings - Ryan Schares, Mary Bodensteiner, Kaylee Kleitsch, Bryce Adams, Becca Platte, Nick Grober, and Annamae Burkhardt - 3rd Silver, Alternate to Districts

Job Interview - Lydia Martins - 3rd Gold, Alternate to Districts

Several FFA members also participated in the Greenhand and Chapter quizzes.

Members continued their hard work competing at the Northeast District Convention at Sumner-Fredericksburg High School on Saturday, March 9, 2019.





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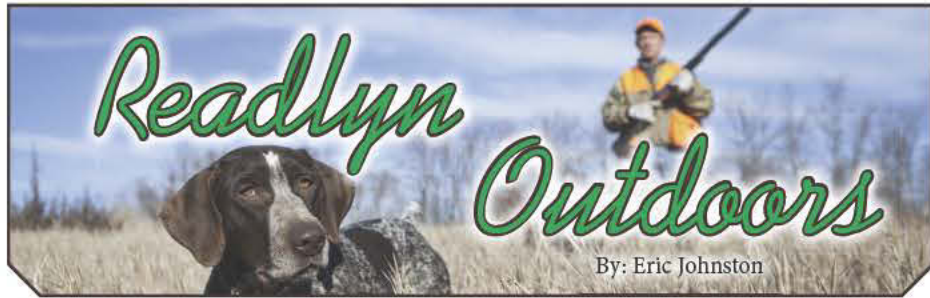


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By: Eric Johnston

**“Breaking Free From Winter’s Grasp”**

As I sit down to write this article, I am absolutely tired of winter! In fact I’ve determined winter and snow are now bad and forbidden words in the Johnston household.

In my last article I wrote about shed antler hunting. While that would normally start in mid-February for me, on March 11 if you were to run into me at our local Kwik Star and say, “Eric have you been shed hunting yet?” my answer would be a very disappointed “Negative.” With at least a foot and a half of snow in the woods locally, I do believe my results would be low if I were to try. Hopefully, by the time you’re reading this that snow will be long gone and I will have once again found happiness in finding a few antlers to unlock clues for next deer season! So with this article, I will tell you how I’ve tried to break free from the late winter blues.

Without being able to get out and walk the late winter woods yet, I’ve put more focus in getting ready for the upcoming fishing season and, more specifically for me, the upcoming bass tournament season. On January 25, I was fortunate enough to upgrade my bass boat to a Ranger 185vx.

Now, let me tell you, buying a boat and then selling the old boat was a winter adventure in itself. After searching Craigslist and the Facebook Marketplace for a couple months, I had come to realize boat shopping was not nearly as fun as I had built it up in my head to be. A lot of ads I had come across that I liked ended up dead end roads. I would find a boat that looked great, only to find it was impossible to get in contact with the seller or, once in contact, find out they were not really interested in selling it to begin with and only listed to make their wife or girlfriend happy. Finally after driving my wife, Aubrey, nuts with boat listing after boat listing, and asking her opinion on what she thought of each boat (I really don’t deserve her, she puts up with a lot with all my outdoor adventures and seldom complains), I had finally found a boat that the owner was willing to sell

and I liked. So the plans were set to look at the boat on a Saturday.

The forecast looked dry and the boat was in St. Paul, Minnesota. As my wife and I got on the road that morning of course it began to snow. In fact, it snowed the entire way to St. Paul. I was already nervous to look the boat over in the dead of winter, but the snow doubled my anxiety. As we got there the snow continued, luckily the boat was stored in a dry garage. We began to look the boat over.

It’s very important to check everything from the transom to the bow on a used boat. The motor looked to be in great shape as I looked over the lower unit and pulled the cowling off to inspect everything with

the powerhead. Some of the main things to look over on an outboard motor is to make sure it looks to have been maintained properly such as greased linkage and newer looking spark plugs and wires. It’s important to check the lower unit for dings and scratches to show abuse and spin the prop by hand to make sure it’s turning true. Also put the motor in gear and into neutral to make sure the gears are in good shape.

Then comes the boat’s hull itself: inspect for scratches and cracking. After careful inspection by my wife and myself we settled on a price with the owner and made the deal. I was excited, but also nervous as the snow kept falling. We began our trek south in four-wheel drive pulling my new boat through Minneapolis, as cars slid off the road around us. White knuckle doesn’t even begin to describe my grip on the steering wheel. I’m pretty sure I still have dents in my truck’s steering wheel from gripping it so tightly. Slowly we made our way out of Minneapolis and south to Owatonna. I had to make a pit stop at the Cabela’s there to settle my nerves!

After an hour wandering around Cabela’s, we were ready to finish the trip back

to Readlyn. As we started south again, the highway cleared up and it became a much more enjoyable drive. As we rolled into Readlyn, I backed into the car wash at Larry’s Repair, washed the salt and road grime off the new boat then home to the warm garage. I could finally breathe!!!

For a few weeks following that weekend, I worked on making the Ranger my own. I upgraded the trolling motor to a Minnkota Ultrex, the electronics, and added a Minnkota Talon. Working on upgrading things on the boat helped pass the winter days and kept my mind on spring.

Selling my old boat was not as adventurous. After listing it on Facebook Marketplace, it only took a week or so to have a young angler interested in it. Coincidentally enough, he was from St. Paul, Minnesota. We set up a time for him to make the drive to look at the boat. When he arrived I was immediately taken back in time to the day I bought it 13 years ago. He was excited and in love with the boat. Also, he was excited to tell me about how he was starting his path into tournament fishing. I knew right away my Skeeter was going to a good home and I was helping a young tournament angler get started. We made the deal and he couldn’t thank me enough. I helped him hook it up to his truck, shook his hand and sent him on his way.

I couldn’t watch my boat of 13 years drive away. I walked into the garage and didn’t look back as he drove away. I couldn’t begin to put a number on the memories made in that boat and was happy to think that the new owner would make many more.

Lately, I have passed the time getting everything organized in the new boat and rods and reels cleaned. So I guess looking back winter hasn’t been too hard on me, but I’m definitely ready to get outside as much as possible as the weather warms up. I’m beyond ready for a little shed hunting, turkey hunting, mushroom hunting, and as always, my passion of tournament bass fishing! Until next time, Get Outdoors!



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# News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



## 100th Day of School!

Kindergarten and 1st grade students did various activities to celebrate the 100th Day of School!



## Informances!

Each kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade class had an Informance where parents are invited in to see what a typical music lesson looks like in the classroom setting. Parents were given the opportunity to observe and/or participate in music games, instrument play, and movement.



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# News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Readlyn second grade students in Mrs. Ott's class earned Build a Fort Day on Hawaiian Day on March 1.



On February 22, Fayette County Farm Bureau came in for their annual Pizza Planet event with Fairbank 4th grade. The students learn about where all of the ingredients used in pizza come from and get to eat the finished product.



Readlyn 1st grade celebrated what it means to show kindness along with Dr. Seuss.



The Readlyn February Warrior Way All-Stars were recognized for being kind, respectful, safe, responsible and for always doing their best.



Students at Fairbank and Readlyn Elementary play in the snow at recess. If we can't control it, we may as well enjoy it!

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Readlyn, welcomes new members Keith and Marilyn Westpfahl on Sunday, March 17.

Email news to:  
**ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com**

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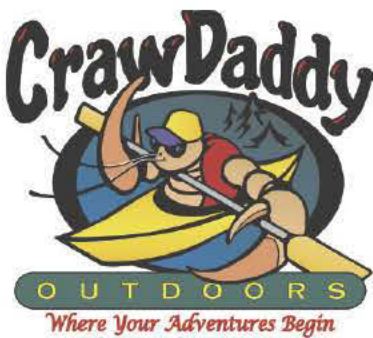
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**Deadline for the April 24 Chronicle:**  
 Thurs., April 11, 5 PM



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**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
 2683 Quail Avenue  
 Readlyn, IA 50668  
 (319) 279-3977  
 Pastor Philip Giradin  
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
 Divine Service 10:00 a.m.



**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor  
 2649 230th Street  
 Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758  
 Sunday School 8:45 a.m.  
 Divine Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
 Fellowship following  
 Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month  
 Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
 120 West 4th Street  
 Readlyn, IA 50668  
 (319) 279-3961  
 Pastor Philip Giradin  
 Worship 8:30 AM



**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.  
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays  
 Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:30 p.m.  
 Evening Circle 1st Thursday 6 p.m.

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