

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 12, No. 1, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, January 30, 2019

Keep Your Heart in Readlyn Feb. 8

The 10th annual Keep Your Heart in Readlyn Valentine's Ball is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 8, at the Readlyn Event Center, downtown.

Tickets are \$30 per person and includes a meal of prime rib or broasted chicken, baked potato, glazed carrots, lettuce salad, dinner roll, a glass of wine and cupcakes.

The evening begins at 6 PM with social hour and appetizers. A silent auction will begin at 6:30 PM, with dinner served at 7 PM.

The evening continues with a motivational speaker at 8 PM, then a live auction at 8:30 PM. The silent auction closes at 10 PM, with winners announced at 10:30 PM.

Reservations should be made in advance by Wed., Feb. 6, by calling Dani at 319-279-3321.

Following is the list of items for the auction as of press time:

- Angie Aul Archery: Bow
- Bremer County Corn Growers: Two scale model John Deere tractors
- Brenda and Brian Meyer: Book basket
- Charlie and Wilda Albrecht: 12 pints of canned beef
- Darlene Peters: Dozens of sugar cookies
- DeKalb Seed Dealer: 12 bags of seed beans
- Del's Auto Repair: Two \$50 repair tickets
- Dirty Dog: Four \$25 certificates
- Don and Mary Lou Billhorn: Spring Grove pop
- Ed Traeger: Margarita basket
- Farmers Coop: \$50 work certificate for the repair shop
- Flint Hills: Basket
- GaryLee Thurm: Nightstand and scrolled winter picture
- IAS Oran: Grizzly Cooler
- Jack Decker: Personalized, homemade clock
- Jake and Corrin Schares: Welded item
- Jolene Meyer: Framed floral picture
- Judy Leistikow: American Doll Blaire with accessories
- K T Shrimp: Two shrimp certificates; Valentine basket
- Kass Adams: 18 piece Pyrex glass storage set and Yeti 20 ounce tumbler
- L & L Ag Repair, Kevin Leistikow: \$100 work voucher
- Larry's Skelly: Three \$50 work certificates
- Little Tiling: Four \$25 Fareway certificates
- Mane Event: A bag of hair products
- Michele and Tony Harks: Dozens of farm fresh eggs
- Myers Polaris: Snowmobile gloves
- Newy's Wireless: Four \$25 certificates
- Nick Wiley Construction: \$100 work certificate
- Oran Tap & Cafe: Two \$10 certificates

and t-shirts

P & K JD Dealer, Waverly: John Deere scale model tractor

Panther Lanes: Two \$25 certificates
Phile Kaye Tools: All Snap On items: socket shaped cooler, ceramic pig bank, wall bottle opener, blanket, and four large, frosted glasses

*Pioneer Seed – Dean Buhr: 12 bags of seed beans

Pizza Ranch, Waverly: Four coupons for a free pizza with the purchase of a pizza; good once a month for a year

Rainbow Clovers: Labor- five to ten workers for two hours

Readlyn Historical Society: Six months of meals for four to six people

Security Mutual: Blanket, golf balls, and wireless headphones

Readlyn Telephone Communications: \$300 certificate, two Righteous Brother tickets for March 30, 2019; gift certificate to a Cedar Falls restaurant, and a computer backpack

Readlyn Veterinary Service: One cat and one dog package

Ron and Judy Leistikow: Salsa and home canned veggies

Sunrise Catering: Dinner for 25 people, soft gun case, and Wartburg College golf putter

Tenenbaum's: Pearl necklace

Waverly Democrat: Two free three month subscriptions

B.E. Mick's: Golf socks; clutch purse and matching scarf

balance: One hour massage
Blue Lagoon: Dinner for two including entree' plus appetizer or dessert

Bonnie Erickson: Framed award winning pastel

CrawDaddy: Three one-day rental passes

Janet and Rick Huebner: Chickapig board game

Pat Wehr: Cactus garden; Kendrick wooden sign

Rada Cutlery: Set of three paring knives; fish fillet knife and sharpener

Readlyn Gardeners: Six to eight foot tree delivered and planted

Readlyn Library: Warm and Comfy basket

Root: \$25 gift card

Thompson's Shoes: Two Nike backpacks

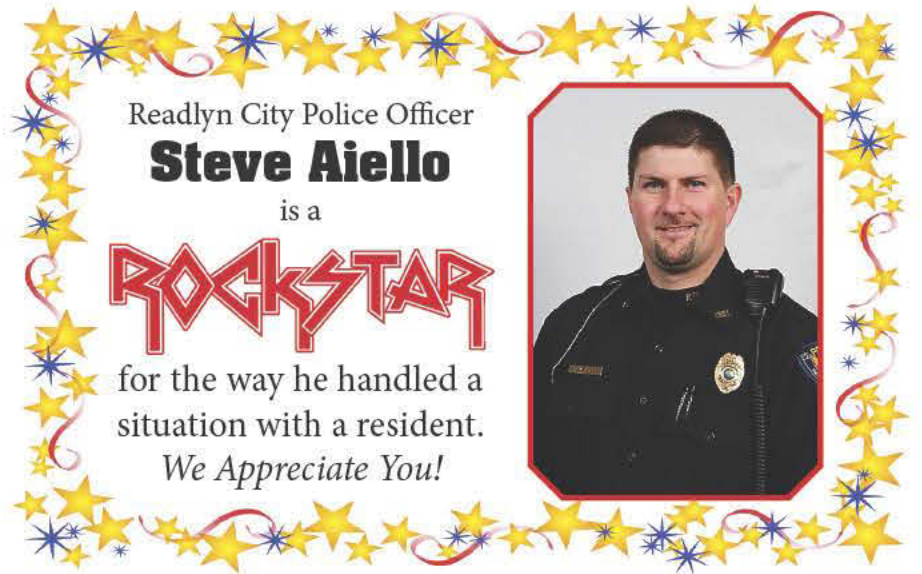
Tibs Design: Metal "Together is my favorite place to be" sign

Tiedt's: Gardening Basket


Weeds on Fire: 4 \$50 gift cards (paid \$100 for their tickets); Four \$50 gift cards

Oran Locker & Butcher Block: \$50 gift certificate

Marticoffs: Relaxation basket
Power Woods & Crafts: Pallet artwork



Readlyn City Police Officer
Steve Aiello
is a
ROCKSTAR
for the way he handled a situation with a resident.
We Appreciate You!




Bremer County Corn Growers/Soybean Association meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 30, Waverly

The Annual Meeting/Banquet of the Bremer County Corn Growers/Soybean Association will be held Wednesday, January 30, at the Waverly Area Veterans Post, 1300 4th St. NW, Waverly, IA. The meeting will begin with registration at 6:00 p.m., and the meal at 6:30 p.m.

All members and spouses are invited to listen to reports of activities, plans for 2019 and the award of ag scholarships to area high school seniors.

This is a new location for the annual meeting.

2018 was a very busy year, the board of directors of the Bremer County Corn/Soybean Growers goals are too have a lot of activities to benefit corn and soybean growers not only from Bremer County, but for all corn and soybean growers across Iowa and the USA. We work with the Iowa Corn Growers to promote businesses and those farmers that feed livestock that utilize a lot of corn. We continue to find markets, and find ways to increase yields, control erosion, new ways to control weeds, and work to increase the use of ethanol and other by products.

Through out the year, volunteers attended the county and state fair to promote the

use of corn, attended the annual meeting of the Iowa Corn Growers, and planned activities to educate local growers. Planning an annual meeting, working to maintain membership levels of past years, and looking for more ways to educate growers is number one goal.

This was the first year of something new, "Ag College" was a huge success as a committee put together an educational program for those urban folks to find out about how farmers invest their time and talents and finances to grow and market corn. Those urban business folks learned about seed and chemicals, equipment needed, planting cost, and harvest data. From all of that learning they also realized the profit and loss of the business of farming.

As usual other activities included the Ag Breakfast at the County Fair, sponsoring the tractor pull, and volunteering to promote uses of corn with the Iowa Corn Trailer. Some of the directors also did presentations at elementary schools.

So, please come and attend our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 30 at the Waverly Area Veterans Post. Registration at 6:00, and meal at 6:30. See you there.



CLS receives items from Wish Tree



First and second graders at Community Lutheran School received a new nativity kit.



Fifth through seventh graders are shown playing games of logic and problem solving.

See more photos on Page 9

CLIP AND SAVE!

Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation Agency

will observe the following holidays in 2019. There will be no garbage pick up on the following days:

- Memorial Day Monday, May 27, 2019
- Independence Day Thursday, July 4, 2019
- Labor Day Monday, September 2, 2019
- Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 28, 2019
- Day after Thanksgiving. Friday, November 29, 2019
- Christmas Tuesday, December 24, 2019
- New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 31, 2019

If garbage is not picked up due to a holiday, the next garbage pickup day, each household is allowed to put out 1 (one) extra bag without a tag. This bag may not be larger than 32 gallon and must not weigh over 50 pounds.

Please remember that all lids must be snapped down and attached or garbage will not be picked up.

Grump's Grumblings

By Larry Ladage



Happy New Year to everyone. Where did 2018 go? Here is a little of what I have done.

- I felt privileged to go on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in May.
- I was crowned Readlyn Grump in June.
- I celebrated my 80th birthday in September.
- I was also honored to live in a very friendly town with great and friendly people and neighbors.
- I am also honored to live in the town that is the home to the Bremer County Freedom Rock.

This has been a nice winter, as of this writing. Although, we did have just about an inch of snow yesterday, Jan. 5.

We are waiting for this spring when we can go camping again. It seems like a long time since this has been possible, but we are halfway through our time before we can start doing that again.

The Christmas lights are all down and put away until next year. Thank you to the City of Readlyn for the new string of lights that we will put up with our other ones next year.

I attended the Senior Citizens Dinner and Meeting at Inspired on January 16. Good food and lots of fellowship.

The Valentine Ball will take place on February 8 at the Readlyn Event Center (Watering Hole). I would like to see the place filled. Don't forget to buy your tickets for a fun-filled evening. This is a tremendous fundraiser for many, many groups and organizations in our community.

Don't forget, we are looking for candidates willing to run for the 2019 Grump. Talk to myself or anyone in the Community Club, if you are interested.

I hope the New Year brings you health and happiness.
Larry Ladage – 2018 Readlyn Grump

Miss Readlyn Comments

By Cassidy Brunscheon



2019! When I was little I would always calculate what year I would graduate, and that year is finally here! I hope that everyone has been having a great New Year so far. One New Year's resolution I made was to be more kind to the people around me. This year will be spectacular and will be full of bittersweet endings and new beginnings!

January has been crazy so far! I went to Dorian Music Festival at Luther College January 13-14! Dorian is an honor choir where 1,100 of the best musicians come together and sing in one big ensemble! Singers come from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. It's so incredible to be surrounded by SO many people who all have a passion for music! Five people were selected from Wapsie, including Evie Roberts, Nolan Rochford, Kyle Zimmerman, Melody Kayser, and me, and we stayed in the Luther dorms. But the week had just begun....

That same week on Wednesday, our choir represented Wapsie Valley at the NICL (North Iowa Cedar League) Choir event. Jesup hosted the event, and four schools attended. We had a guest conductor from Kirkwood. My choir was very proud to represent Wapsie.

District Speech was Saturday, January 19. With the crazy snow storm, the event started at noon. Before we knew it, our Reader's Theater was up next to perform. Our piece is called *Frantically Fractured Fairytales* and it is a collection of four fairy tales that have a slight twist. After hours of waiting for our score, we found out we got a I. This means our group will advance onto State Contest! I'm so incredibly proud of our team. Our ensemble also received a I rating, and they will advance onto state as well. Our short film received a II. State Contest is at Waterloo West on February 2! If you want to see what's happening with the Speech program, check us out on Facebook!

Winter athletics have also been busy since the new year started. I recently picked up my saxophone again and started playing with the pep band for basketball! It's been so fun playing and cheering both the boys and girls teams on. This month, the Wapsie Valley Mat Pac hosted the Carson McGrane wrestling tournament in honor of Carson. There were almost 400 wrestlers there! It was a great turnout and it was great seeing the community come together.

Senior year is going by fast. I've started my last semester of high school ever, and it's bittersweet. I plan to enjoy every minute of high school until I graduate. But for now, I will keep struggling in calculus and laughing with my best friends.

Cassidy Brunscheon, Miss Readlyn

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Dr. Jonathan Smiley and family

Community Calendar

Mondays - Novel Knitters at the library 6 pm
Wed., Jan. 30 - Bremer County Corn Growers/Soybean Association annual meeting, Waverly Area Veterans Post, 1300 4th St. NW, Waverly, 5 PM registration, 6:30 PM meal
Thurs., Jan. 31 - Readlyn Reads Book Discussion @ the Library 7:00 PM
Sat., Feb. 2 - Groundhog Day
Tues., Feb. 5 - Visiting Nurses Foot Clinic at the library call 319-235-6201 for an appointment.
Fri., Feb. 8 - Keep Your Heart in Readlyn Valentine's Ball, starting at 6 PM, Readlyn Event Center
Tues., Feb. 12 - Coloring at the library 1-3 pm School-agers welcome after school
Tues., Feb. 12 - V.F.W. Auxiliary
Thurs., Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
Thurs., Feb. 14 - 5 PM deadline for articles for publication in the Feb. 27 *Chronicle*
Mon., Feb. 18 - President's Day
Wed., Feb. 20 - Senior Citizens lunch and cards at Inspired, 11:30 am
Thurs., Feb. 28 - Readlyn Reads Book Discussion @ the Library 7:00

Readlyn Community Happenings

Senior Citizens meet

On January 16, 2019, 19 members and one new member, Bob Thran, attended the 11:30 Senior Citizens Meal/Meeting at Inspired. We welcomed Bob Thran and we are always looking for new members.

President Ron Leistikow lead 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 \$78.00. Motion was made by Sonja Bast and seconded by Judy Leistikow to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The Secretary's minutes were read. A motion was made by Roger Deterding and seconded by Wilbert Huebner to approve the Secretary's report. Motion carried.

There was one birthday for the month of January and so we sang *Happy Birthday* to Wilda Albrecht.

Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary #5661 met at the Readlyn Library January 8, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. with 6 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. A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Darlene Peters to pay the bills. Carried.

Volunteer hours were turned in. 188 cancelled stamps were turned in and will be sent to handicapped veterans along with 918 before the end of the month.

Thank-yous were read from the families of Jeanette Wolff and Delores Sauerbrei for the flowers. A letter was read from Linda Tasler and Donna Landsverk.

Letters were handed out to send to Congressmen for the Blue Water Navy Bill. The V. F. W. Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference is January 18-20, 2019 at Holiday Inn & Suites at Des Moines Airport.

A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Luann Happel to adjourn. Carried. Closed with prayer. Hostess was Wilda Albrecht.

We all signed a card to send to Linda Schneider as she was in the hospital and now she is in Northcrest Specialty Care in Waterloo for rehab.

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charlie Albrecht reported that on March 30 the Annual Community Club Meeting will be held at the Watering Hole in Readlyn. It is \$20.00 a year to join and that will include a meal that evening. Social Hour will be at 5:00 PM and the Meal will be at 6:00 PM. Election of the new board members will be taking place and a list will be put together of the possible Grump candidates. New members are always welcome.

April 20 will be the Easter Egg Hunt in Readlyn with Burton and Ellen Thies in charge of this event.

June 14-15-16 will be the Grump Days Celebration in Readlyn.

It was brought up to change our dues to \$2.00 each month instead of the \$1.00 that we had been paying. We will be paying \$20.00 to Kim for the use of Inspired each month for our meetings. Verdeen Pavelec made a motion to approve the \$2.00 each month for dues and paying Kim each month. Darlene Peters seconded it. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marlys Deterding and seconded by Roger Deterding to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was followed by fellowship and card playing.

The next meeting will be February 20, 2019 at 11:30 AM at Inspired.
Lois Thacher, Secretary.

Pepper Tournament

Sixteen players participated in the pepper tournament on Saturday, January 5. The winners and their scores were:

1st Place: Dave Schumacher and Don Childs - 182

2nd Place: Kathy Albrecht and Suzy Heineman - 181

3rd Place (Tie): Corlyn and Reiny Freitag - 163

Barb Meyer and Grace Kuethe.

The next tournament will be on Saturday, February 2, at the Readlyn Community Event Center at 2:00 P.M. Entry fee is \$3.00. Bring a partner!

Don't forget ...

Valentine's Day

is Thursday, February 14!

Thank You

The family of Delores Sauerbrei wishes to extend a BIG "thank you" to our family, friends & community for your thoughts, prayers, food, cards and any other act of kindness shown to us since our recent loss. Thank you to Pastor Rabary for your visits, comforting words and wonderful service. Thanks also to Pastor, Mitchell Boevers, David Heinemann and Chaplain Al Biere for the wonderful music, to Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home for their services, to UnityPoint Hospice for the great care they gave to Mom and us, the ladies and men that served and/or helped with the meal, and Parkview Assisted Living for the great care that you give. As we all know, she was a special lady to everyone she touched. May God bless each and every one of you.

- Gary, Larry, Cheryl, Jerry & Teresa

Send news of your community to the *Readlyn Chronicle* at: ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

Thank You

Thank you for the cards and well wishes I received after my recent fall and hospitalization. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Harold Meier

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- Bob & Becky South
- Grace Kuethe
- Karan Boevers

In Memory of Delores Sauerbrei

- Joan Williams
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- Jim & Doris Wehling
- RJ & Corlyn Freitag
- Bob & Becky South
- Suzy Heineman
- Doug & Sherry Koschmeder

In Memory of Robert Brandt

- Doug & Sherry Koschmeder

In Memory of Al Buhr

- Bob & Becky South
- Bonnie & Kenny Piehl

In Memory of Vincent Maurer

- Nancy & Trent Lockard

Book Memorials

In Memory of James Klemp
"The Snowy Nap" by Jan Brett
from Ron & Judy Leistikow

In Memory of Delores Sauerbrei
"Winter is Here" by Kevin Henkes and
"The Littlest Reindeer" by Brandi Dougherty
from Farmers Co-op Readlyn and Shell Rock

"Stop, Go, Yes, No!" by Mike Twohy
from Dan and Connie Wedemeier

"Pete the Cat and the Cool Caterpillar" and
"Pete the Cat Goes Camping" by James Dean
from Kevin & Bo McCann

"Good Night Reindeer" by Denise Brennan-Nelson
from RTC Communication

In Memory of Margaret Owens

"What's Your Favorite Bug?" by Eric Carle and
Friends from Dan and Connie Wedemeier

In Memory of Mervin Meyerhoff

"What It Means to Be a Hawkeye: Kirk Ferentz and
Iowa's Greatest Players" from Audrey Schmidt

In Memory of Russell Wilson

"Be a Good Dragon" by Kurt Cyrus
from Ron & Judy Leistikow



Winter Reading

Adult Winter Reading 2019 (Ages 18+)

Read Books ~ Win Stuff!

For every book you read between January 1 and February 28, you will get one entry for a chance to win prizes. No registration is required and you can read as many or as few books as you like between these dates.

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



Hours

Phone and Fax: 319-279-3432 10-7 Monday 10-7 Thursday
Email: readlynlib@gmail.com 10-5 Tuesday 10-5 Friday
Website: www.readlyn.lib.ia.us 10-5 Wednesday 9-12 Saturday



Welcome! Patrick Brodigan and Tina Ristau to the Library Team!



We are excited to announce two new staff members at the library!
Be sure to stop in to say Hi and introduce yourself

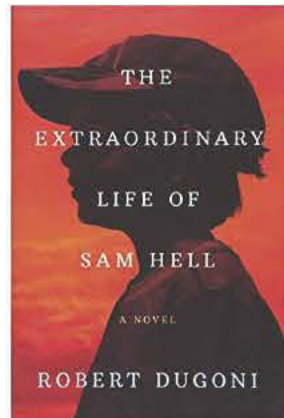


Stop in to get your child registered for **1,000 books Before Kindergarten**



Here are some ways to make family reading time more fun:

- Set a time.** Arrange a special time to read together every day. Just before bed, in the morning, after dinner, whenever it works for your family.
- Get comfortable.** Find a quiet place where you can snuggle up and relax with one another.
- Act it out.** Use different voices for characters. Make faces, gestures and add sound effects.
- Trade Places.** Have each reader take a turn, beginning readers can take shorter turns.
- Talk about it.** Ask questions about what you read, such as "How do you think this story will end?" or "What was your favorite part of the story?"
- Read it again.** Be willing to read favorite stories again and again, especially with young children. Change voices and think of new questions to ask.



Booktalk

Readlyn Reads

February's title:
The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell

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

Thursday February 28th at 7:00 pm

Told in two separate time lines (Sam as a boy, and Sam as a man) that eventually come together, and written in a gentle, introspective yet dramatic style that is very different from that of Dugoni's crime fiction, this is an inspirational story of a man who spends a lifetime getting to know himself." —*Booklist*

Sam Hill always saw the world through different eyes. Born with red pupils, he was called "Devil Boy" or Sam "Hell" by his classmates; "God's will" is what his mother called his ocular albinism. Her words were of little comfort, but Sam persevered, buoyed by his mother's devout faith, his father's practical wisdom, and his two other misfit friends.

Sam believed it was God who sent Ernie Cantwell, the only African American kid in his class, to be the friend he so desperately needed. And that it was God's idea for Mickie Kennedy to storm into Our Lady of Mercy like a tornado, uprooting every rule Sam had been taught about boys and girls.

Forty years later, Sam, a small-town eye doctor, is no longer certain anything was by design—especially not the tragedy that caused him to turn his back on his friends, his hometown, and the life he'd always known. Running from the pain, eyes closed, served little purpose. Now, as he looks back on his life, Sam embarks on a journey that will take him halfway around the world. This time, his eyes are wide open—bringing into clear view what changed him, defined him, and made him so afraid, until he can finally see what truly matters.



I Still See You

Small Foot

The House With the Clock in the Walls



Color Us Creative

JOIN US

Tuesday, February 12th
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Results of the December 30th Jigsaw Puzzle Competition



1st Place Team



2nd Place Team



3rd Place Team



4th Place Team



will not meet for the winter months.
We'll begin again in March.



Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago

FOUND — ANOTHER READLYN

Written by Genevieve (Maurer) Schrage Waverly, IA

Editor's Note: Genevieve Maurer Schrage, RHS class of 1944, travelled to Readlyn Saskatchewan, Canada to visit the only other Readlyn in the world. She found Readlyn, located 15 miles north of North Dakota, a ghost town. This is the story of her adventure. Readlyn, Sask surrendered the right to be a village on December 31, 1956. It was then identified as a hamlet. If you want to learn more about Readlyn, Sask, there is information and interesting pictures on the Internet.

Over a period of 32 years, we traveled each year with our cousins and friends, the Farrills, covering all of the lower 48 states. Then each year I kept a log of the area that we covered and noted all of the familiar names of towns along the way which we had in our neighborhood. There were many Clarksvilles, Plainfields, Nashuas, Sumners, Denvers, Waterloos, Allison, Hamptons, Hudsons, and even another Tripoli, besides 20 Waverlys, but as much as I searched our maps, I could not find another Readlyn. Then just by accident while planning our trip for 1996, I came across a town, in very small print and located in Saskatchewan, Canada, by the name of Readlyn--it really caught me by surprise, since we had driven through that area before, but did not come close enough to notice that name on the map beforehand. I hadn't really planned a trip into Canada that year of 1996, but I decided to make it our priority that year.

When I told one of my card-playing friends where we were heading that summer, she was surprised, since she was born and reared in the nearby good-sized town of Gravelbourg, but she also expressed surprise that Readlyn, Saskatchewan was even on the map since it was about 40

miles from Gravelbourg and was considered a ghost town. Even with that thought, I was curious that the name was still on the map. So I continued to plan our route, heading toward Saskatchewan, and places of interest, leading to and from that area. August came and we got ready to do our exploring into Canada.

We had gone through South Dakota, when we were made aware of reaching the boyhood home of Lawrence Welk, near the town of Strasburg, North Dakota. We stopped to register in his church, and then went on to the larger town of Linton, N. Dakota and got a motel and found a good family restaurant. As we waited for the waitress to take our order, we were surprised to hear her ask the older couple sitting next to us, how many of their children came home for her 70th birthday party. When the lady answered, "Only ten," we wondered how many children they had altogether. Then she told us that she was Lawrence Welk's niece, and we wound up going to their home for many bars, cookies and leftovers from the celebration. They had a home with nine bedrooms, a large kitchen and dining room. We corresponded back and forth with the Silbernagels for seven years until they passed away. That was an experience in itself before we even found the second Readlyn.

Just as we were about to drive over the border, we noticed large forest fires in the area and we questioned whether we should drive any farther, but I was determined to go on.

When we drove into the area where we thought that the town should be, we slowed down and all at once, just before we got to the top of a knoll where we could not see on the other side, we noticed a bunch of tall weeds and in the middle, almost hidden was an old one-bottom plow, which



An old one-bottom plow supporting a sign that read "Readlyn" told us we had arrived in Readlyn, Saskatchewan, Canada.

supported a sign that read "Readlyn." Then we noticed a path-like road that led into town. That road was kind of worn, but several other streets were covered with grass. We followed a couple of them and saw about 8 or 10 empty houses and 2 that had residents, besides another that had a young family sitting on the steps. We decided to stop and ask a few questions. Then the mother went inside and brought out a history book of the town. This young family with 2 children spent part of the summers and weekends in this house--one that her granddad had left for them as a getaway from their home in a larger town. They were both teachers.

The town still had electricity and a large building which several organizations used for meeting rooms. The town had been much larger, but arsonists had burned down 3 wheat elevators and many, many buildings besides homes, at different times. There was a double-track railroad on one side of the town and it was very busy. Trains were constantly passing through town, going in both directions, carrying wheat, coal, and semi-trailer loads, headed for overseas. However, there were no new homes being built like in Readlyn, Iowa.

We read most of their history book, and learned that a man named "Read" had built a railroad past Readlyn, Iowa in 1902.

Then when the town began to spring up in 1903 and was incorporated in 1904, he decided that he would call it Readsville or Readline, but it eventually was changed to Readlyn. Then when his job was finished he moved on to Saskatchewan, Canada in about 1909 when he completed that area's railroad and named the town "Readlyn," too. Arsonists were responsible for that town's demise or almost so.

Now to compare the two towns in this day and age, we see a Readlyn, Saskatchewan, Canada, as a very busy double-track railroad, with trains traveling in both directions almost constantly, but with the residency almost nil, after three sets of grain elevators were vandalized and burned, along with the population gradually diminished down to two permanent residents, and a number of empty houses — I suppose the town could be considered a ghost town, since the streets are maintained only by mowing the grass in the summertime.

Then we see our "Readlyn, Iowa, U.S.A.," as a thriving little town, with new homes being built in new additions, as well as among the older houses. However, the Chicago Great Western Railroad is no more, but only displaced by a bicycle trail to Denver or to Waverly. Each town is important in its own way.

WHAT A DISCOVERY!!



This is the abandoned schoolhouse at the hamlet of Readlyn, Saskatchewan, Canada.

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Tucker completes recertification

Ryan G. Tucker, CFSP, a funeral director with Kaiser-Corson Funeral Homes in Waverly, Denver, Readlyn and Shell Rock Iowa, has recently qualified for recertification of the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP), by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.

A number of professions grant special recognition to members upon completion of specified academic and professional programs and "CFSP" is funeral service's national individual recognition.

The Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, since its 1976 founding, has had as its goals: 1) to recognize those practitioners who have voluntarily entered into a program of personal and professional growth, 2) to raise and improve the standards of funeral service and 3) to encourage practitioners to make continuing education a life-long process in their own

self-interest, the interest of the families they serve, and the community in which they serve.

To initially receive this award, the practitioner must complete a 180 hour program of continuing education activities and events. In addition, the practitioner is required to accumulate 20 hours per year to recertify. Credits are awarded by the Academy for work leading to personal and/or professional growth in four areas:

- Academic Activities
- Professional Activities
- Career Review (for retroactive credit)
- Community and Civic Activities



Ryan Tucker

Deadline for the Feb. 27
Readlyn Chronicle:
 Thursday, Feb. 14
 5:00 PM



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10th Annual Valentine's Ball

February 8th, 2019

Readlyn Event
Center
Readlyn,
IA

Tickets - \$30 per
person



*All Proceeds Go to:

Wapsie Valley 5th Grade Classes; Wapsie Valley Archery; Wapsie Valley Baseball/Softball Lights; Wapsie Valley Mat Pac; Wapsie Valley Baseball/Softball Teams; Wapsie Valley Elementary Writing Curriculum; Community Lutheran Schools; Girl Scout Troop #2616; Rainbow Clovers 4H; Readlyn Community Library; Readlyn Garden Club; Readlyn Historical Society

Having a wide variety of auction items helps make this evening a success.

Please contact Kim Brown if you have items or certificates to donate.

We appreciate your generosity!

Your \$30 ticket includes:

A formal dinner, appetizers, access to live/silent auction, motivational message, background music by Jason Kayser, not to mention a FUN Night on the town & an opportunity to give back to this great community!

**Formal Dinner includes:

Prime Rib or Broasted Chicken Dinner, Baked Potato, Glazed Carrots, Lettuce Salad, Dinner Roll, Glass of Wine & Cupcakes

Reservations should be made in advance by Monday, February 4th!

To RSVP, Call Dani Sauerbrei at 279-3321 or stop into the Readlyn Savings Bank...

Reserve your tickets today!

Schedule of Events

- 5:30 Social Hour/Appetizers
- 6:30 Silent Auction Opens
- 6:30 Dinner with music performed by Cassidy Brunscheon
- 8:00 Motivational Message by Abrah Meyer
- 8:30 Live Auction
- 10:00 Silent Auction Closes
- 10:30 Silent Auction Winners Posted
- *TBA Cashier Table Opens
- 11:30 Cashier Table Closes

News from Community Lutheran School



National Lutheran Schools Week affords us the opportunity to join with more than 2,000 schools in giving thanks and praise to the great God we serve. Community Lutheran School will rejoice together in the partnership we have in sharing God's grace and mercy, as we provide another year of spiritual training and educational preparation to the next generation of faithful Christian servants.

This year, our school will rally together around the theme "Real. Present. God." God is present in our school and through the Holy Spirit, works in powerful ways each day. Community Lutheran School worships, teaches and shares the "Real. Present. God."

Throughout NLSW, Community Lutheran School will celebrate with special field trips, visitors and activities all that center around Real Grace, Real Plac-

es, Real People, Real Time, and Real Praise! Thank you to all in the community and surrounding congregations, especially St. Paul's and Immanuel, who support our mission to provide a Christian environment for a quality education! God bless our school, families, students, and teachers!



On December 19, the CLS students performed the advent service *One Starry Night* for the the community at Klinger. Oh Come Emmanuel! Christ is born! These six photos showcase various groups.



Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere that Jesus Christ is born! The CLS kindergarten through 7th grade students sang tidings of great joy December 14 to many town businesses and community members! (photos at left and above)




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News from Community Lutheran School



CLS would like to thank all of our generous community and congregation members for all of the classroom gifts from our Wish Tree! We are blessed and thankful for your support!



First and second graders got a new map of the USA puzzle!



Third and fourth grade received educational games and dry erase supplies.



Four-year-old preschool received puppets, *If You Give a Mouse a Car* story companion, and binoculars.



Third through seventh grade received PE materials!



Kindergarten and extended day preschool with street map carpet.



Fifth through seventh grade is enjoying their new game of Clue after a tough lesson of Phase Changes of Matter.

Preschool Registration Night

Community Lutheran School

Thursday, February 21, 2019

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

124 West 4th Street, Readlyn

Phone: (319)-279-3541

Email: office@communitylutherschool.com

3 Year Old Options

- M - F 8:15 - 11:30am - \$150/month
- M,W,F 8:15 - 11:30am - \$125/month
- T,TH 8:15 - 11:30am - \$100/month

(Scholarship Options Available)

**Registration paperwork is available for pick up before registration night! Stop by the school, call, or email for the paperwork in advance.

4 Year Old Options

- **Morning Preschool:**
M - F 8:15 - 11:30am – No Tuition, covered by grant
- **Extended Day Preschool:**
M - F 8:15am - 3:30pm - \$184/month* OR \$230/month including lunch
Students will join the Kindergarten class at 11:30am when morning preschool is excused. Activities include lunch, recess, rest time, specials, interest area choices, and structured teacher directed Kindergarten experience activities. *A 20 day lunch ticket can be purchased for \$46. Forms to apply for free/reduced hot lunch tickets are also available upon request.

Must be of age on or before September 15.
Scholarships may be available based on family income. Please ask if you are interested.
All information is kept confidential.

Items to bring to Registration Night

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Doctor's Physical
- \$50 nonrefundable registration fee
- Registration paperwork**

Before and after school care available for preschool and school age children at
\$3.25/hr for 1st child,
\$3.00/hr for 2nd child &
\$2.75/hr for 3rd or more child.
Please ask for more information.

Mission Statement: Community Lutheran School exists to provide a Christian environment for a quality education while inspiring students to go forth living Christ-centered lives as witnesses of the one true faith in God's Kingdom.

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Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

Busy December for the Wapsie Valley FFA

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter
 Wapsie Valley FFA members were very active during the month of December. On

December 9, 2018, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter held their annual FFA Holiday Party. Members got to spend time together to celebrate the holiday season eating at Pizza Ranch and bowling at Waverly Bowl Inn. Kennadi Neil, a junior, said, "Pizza Ranch made me so full, I could hardly move when bowling."

Wapsie Valley FFA members also got the chance to help Santa's Elves write over 120 letters back to the local Wapsie Valley Elementary students. FFA Members were honored to be able to help during this busy season, and look forward to helping Santa again next year.

There are so many people who help to make the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter successful. From chaperoning events to sharing knowledge, and from attending fundraisers to donating money, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter could not be more thankful and appreciative. Which is why on December 19, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter hosted its annual Appreciation Breakfast to acknowledge and give back to its supporters. Kaylee Kleitsch, a soph-



(L to R) Ethan Oltrogge, Courtney Schmitz, Dallas Wittenburg, and Kaylee Kleitsch all received their Chapter Degree.



Members got to test out their bowling skills at the Waverly Bowl Inn.

omore in the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter commented, "Even though we all had to be up early, it was really nice to be able to serve some of our biggest supporters and get to know some people better." This seemed to be the common thought as many FFA members agreed the work was worth giving back to the community.

Every year, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter gets to welcome new members into its chapter and organization and on December 21, the FFA chapter did just that welcoming 23 Greenhand Degree recipients. The Greenhand Degree is given to members in their first year of FFA. When members receive their Greenhand Degree, they are officially members of the National FFA Organization. That same evening, the chapter also awarded second-year members with their Chapter Degree. In order for members to receive this degree, they must have received their Greenhand FFA Degree, kept records on

the Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) while earning or investing at least \$150 or 45 hours outside of class time, and hold a satisfactory scholastic record, just to name a few of the requirements. This year, the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter honored 14 members earning their Chapter Degree



The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter showed their appreciation to the community by serving breakfast.

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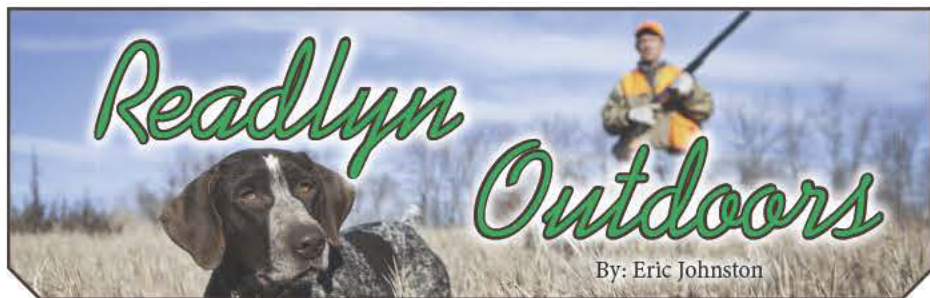
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019
IC Parish Center, Fairbank
7-8 PM; Social to Follow

A PANEL OF COMMUNITY LEADERS WILL INCLUDE:

- *Mr. Brett Bergman, WV Counselor
- *Fr. Ray Atwood, IC Church Pastor
- *Mrs. Bridget Stark, Health Care Professional
- *Mr. Chad Van Daele, WV Alumni/Athlete

TESTIMONY
 Our featured speaker, a former college football player, will share how he lost everything after getting involved with substance abuse. Hear his amazing story of grace after he asked God into his life following several run-ins with the law.

Our featured speaker, along with local pastors, school leaders, and our panel of community members will be available for questions during and after the presentation.



By: Eric Johnston

The Elusive Shed Antler

I still remember every detail of my first shed antler find. Although I was only 13 or 14 years old, I was on a mission to figure out how to find shed antlers on the property we deer hunted.

I had been watching VHS videos, (yes I said VHS) by Drury Outdoors and on their videos they always spoke of finding shed antlers to help them figure out the bucks they hunted. My Dad and I started hunting them, it was something we could learn together as my Dad had never shed hunted either even with all of his years of deer hunting experience at that time. We started out walking deer trails and would put on literally miles of walking without finding so much as an old deer skull. We hunted many weekends that late winter and couldn't find any. It became very frustrating, but made me more determined than ever. I started going after school by myself searching.

Then late that shed season, I was hunting a local public hunting ground. I searched hard that afternoon and came upon a thick deer bedding area. I searched every part of it and started to follow a deer trail leading out of it along a steep river bank. As I neared the top of the steep hill I noticed little white tips sticking up out of the late winter dead grass. I ran the rest of the way up the hill to my first ever shed find!!! I was so excited I rode my bike home as fast as I could and ran in the house and showed my mom.

"Mom I finally found one!!!" I said excitedly, waving it in front of her. I could tell she wasn't nearly as excited as I was, but as always, she was happy I had accomplished a goal I had worked hard at. I immediately called my Dad and, if I remember correctly, he had to tell me to slow down a couple times. I relayed the story to him and we were both excited!

What I didn't realize at the time was that little four-point shed had unlocked many more sheds over the years. When I sat back and thought about how I had found that shed, the puzzle started to come together. This week I'll break down how I shed hunt to help you not have to work as hard for that first one as I did.

First off, let's talk about the time-frame to productively look for sheds. That first year, we started about mid-January. That was our first mistake; while some bucks have started to shed, most haven't. We started too soon that year and essentially spooked a lot of bucks out of our area before they had dropped their antlers.

Now as the years have passed, I've narrowed the window down to between about mid-February to mid- to late-March. I had some trail cameras out last winter that showed a few bucks still carrying their antlers as late as April 1. While that's rare, it can happen. So, I try to keep my hours spent each shed season within that window.

What a lot of folks don't realize is antlers typically drop with the amount of daylight changing or photoperiodism. Animals' clocks all run by photoperiodism, and while cold weather and stress on deer can make them drop earlier or later, that window I gave is a good one to follow. You may want to adjust that time-frame slightly if areas you shed hunt have pres-

sure from other hunters. You'll want to be the first one out, but be mindful of intrusion on the deer and work hard to not spook them out of the area.

Next, let's talk about the most productive areas to shed hunt. What I like to do is, first, find out what fields the deer have been using the most over the winter to feed. I'll watch from a distance in the late afternoon to see where the deer have been herded up. Once I find that, I'll begin the process. I'll start by combing the fields first. The nice thing about hunting a field is a lot of times you can spot them from a distance. I'll basically grid search the field where I find the most tracks and deer signs. Once I've checked the field, I'll start to walk the fence-line where they enter the field. A lot of antlers get jarred loose when a buck jumps the fence, so fence-lines are very productive places to look. Then I will plunge into the bedding areas. When I say bedding area, I'm talking the thickest part of the timber you are hunting. Search until you find spots the deer have been bedding. If you have a bedding area on a south-facing slope, those are very productive areas as bucks will bed up in these areas and take advantage of the winter sun.

The biggest tip to finding shed antlers is think about where a deer will spend a lot of time, which are typically the food source and the bedding areas. One bonus to shed hunting, and what the Drurys were relaying to me on those VHS tapes, was late winter is a great time of year to scout for the next fall. As the snow melts, all of the deer signs from last fall is once



again visible and has been preserved so to speak. You can now follow that deer trail or plunge into a bedding area you were once afraid to last fall because you didn't want to spook deer out of the area. You can use this time to solve the puzzles you had the season before. When you find a shed,

you know that buck made it through the seasons. So as we roll into mid-February, lace up the boots and start putting some time in. And with these tips you should be successful in finding some sheds. It's also great exercise!

Until next time, Get Outdoors!

Valentine Pancake Breakfast

Sponsored by SEMS

Sunday, Feb. 10, 8 AM-12 PM

American Legion Hall, Sumner

Menu includes:

All-you-can-eat pancakes with sausages, orange juice, coffee and milk

Free-will donation

Proceeds will go toward finishing the inside of the SEMS building

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Readlyn's active Community Club

Nineteen attended the Readlyn Community Club's (RCC) meeting January 10, 2019, at Inspired. As always, Community Club members have been working and continue to work tirelessly to make Readlyn the best town around.

Roger and Marlys Deterding organized the decorating on Main Street. Thanks to the Deterdings plus other Community Club members and Girl and Boy Scouts, Christmas decorations have been retired after they added a festive air for the season.

Sheila Boevers did an awesome job organizing Santa's visit. She enlisted a lot of helpers. Thank you Lampe from Frederika for the toys, Darlene Peters, the library,

Jim Collins, and Marlys and Roger Deterding for the cookies, GaryLee Thurm for the wooden ornaments and candy, Wilda and Charlie Albrecht for the caramel corn, Mike Morris for the hot chocolate, and Ron and Charlie for filling the 115 bags the children received. Luckily, Mike Tiedt was able to transport Santa to Readlyn. Miss Readlyn, Cassidy Brunscheon, and Grump Larry Ladage added to the festivities. Twenty lucky folks went home with turkeys, and Santa returned to the North Pole with a ham.

Led by Kim Brown and Ron Leistikow, the Valentine Ball, Friday, February 8, 5:30 PM, at the Watering Hole, is the next Readlyn Community Club event. Please refer to the article in this paper or posters around town for details. As always, tickets can be purchased at the bank.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 5:00 PM, at the Watering Hole. A broasted chicken and roast beef buffet plus Trivia will be included as a part of your membership dues. Louie Hartman heads the committee, so you know it will be fun. February's *Chronicle* will have more specific details.

Ellen and Burton Theis have graciously agreed to once again be in charge of the Easter Egg Hunt, April 20, 9:30 AM, in the City Park.

Nick Kuker will head Grump Days. His expertise is invaluable. It appears minnow races will be a new event this year.

Rita and Allan Losh were on hand to tell about a new Wapsie Valley venue. They have nearly completed the remodeling of the former Oran Junior High. The building offers a 9' x 18' movie/video screen, there are plenty of plug-ins, and a 250-occupancy makes the building very versatile. Al-

cohol can be brought in if you have a permit. Recently they hosted a wedding and reception with Dolan Bureson catering the event. All groups are welcome. Cost is

a free-will offering.

Contact the Loshes at 319-277-7333 or 319-230-9107; email: aarpdrummer@gmail.com.



February 8

5:30 PM, the Watering Hole, Valentine Ball

March 30

5:00 PM, the Watering Hole, Annual Readlyn Community Club Dinner

April 20

9:30 AM, City Park, Easter Egg Hunt

KT Shrimp has received shrimp processing license

KT Shrimp Farm would like to announce that they have received their Shrimp Processing License the first week in January.

While still selling fresh shrimp by the pound, KT Shrimp now offers a few additional options. Deheaded shrimp have been requested, and KT Shrimp can deliver!

In addition to offering deheaded pounds of fresh shrimp on Thursdays

6-8 and Saturdays 10-12, KT will also have frozen pounds of deheaded shrimp available. Shrimp products are also available for purchase, including sauces, fettuccine noodles, seasonings, and deveiners for preparing your shrimp and making it convenient to get dinner on the table in 30 minutes.

Watch for recipes and additional hours as the temperatures change!

Send news of your club, organization or church to the *Readlyn Chronicle* at: **ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com**



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News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Fairbank PTO sponsored Christmas Craft before Winter Break. Students visit multiple stations to make crafts, decorate and eat cookies, and make cards for family and friends.




Fairbank 5th grade students showcase their project on the history of Christmas Lights.

Fairbank 4th grade read Christmas books to their buddy class, Mrs. Kent-Thomas's kindergarteners.



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Preschool & Kindergarten Enrollment Night!
Fairbank and Readlyn



Now enrolling for 2019-20 School Year

Enrollment Night (Open-House):
Tuesday, March 5th from 5:30-6:00 PM

Highlights:

- **ALL-DAY PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS**
- state certified **teachers** and instructional associates
- State-of-the-art **facility and technology**
- Hands-on learning with **academic and social** focus
- **Indoor and outdoor** learning activities

Please **enroll soon** to ensure your child's spot in the class.
*We look forward to being **partners** in your child's learning!*

Children must be 4 years of age on or before Sept. 15, 2019 to enroll in preschool. Children must be 5 years of age on or before September 15, 2019 to enroll in Kindergarten.

Readlyn Community Happenings

SPECIALS:

Mondays
\$2 Hot Ham & Cheese

Tuesdays
\$1.50 Hamburgers

Wednesdays
\$1.50 Tacos

Thursdays
\$2.50 Tenderloins

Mon.-Fri. 10:30am-10pm
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Kitchen closes at 9pm

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Senior Citizens December meeting

On December 19, 2018, 13 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.

The secretary's minutes were read. In Charlie Albrecht's absence, Lois Thacher reported that there was \$158.00 balance in the treasury. Motion was made by Larry Ladage and seconded by Wilbert Huebner to approve the secretary's and treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

There was one birthday for the month of December and so we sang *Happy Birthday* to Ron Leistikow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Larry Ladage reported that he handed out sacks to around 100 children that came to the December 15 Christmas Celebration at the Readlyn Elementary. Twenty turkeys were given away to the adults that attended this event.

Larry Ladage also reported that nine

Grumps attended the Annual Grump Night at the Readlyn Watering Hole. A total of 17 attended with spouses.

NEW BUSINESS:

February 8, 2019 will be the Annual Valentine Ball Event at the Readlyn Event Center. Ron Leistikow reported that this year the charge was lowered to \$30.00 a person instead of the \$40.00 charged in previous years. A motion was made to donate \$50.00 from the Senior Citizens fund to the Valentine Ball. A motion was made by Verdeen Pavelec to donate the \$50.00 and Maryls Deterding seconded it. Motion carried.

Come to the Valentine Ball Event and hear Miss Readlyn (Cassidy Brunscheon) sing songs that were written by Readlyn's Mrs Emelie Osnes. She was the wife of Dr. Osnes and she published these songs in 1929. The songs that will be sung are "Love is a Dance," "Silver Wreath," and "Hand in Hand." The sheet music was found in a piano bench owned by Ray Kueker. The Readlyn Historical Museum is grateful that the sheet music was donated to the Historical Museum.

A motion was made by GaryLee Thurm and seconded by Don Billhorn to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

At 1:00 PM some Elementary students came to play games with the Senior Citizens.

The next meeting will be January 16, 2019 at 11:30 PM at Inspired.

Lois Thacher, secretary

Community Foundations' grant application now available

Grant applications can now be submitted to the Bremer County Community Foundation and Waverly and Readlyn Community Funds for their 2019 grant cycle. The deadline to submit applications is 11:59 p.m. March 31, 2019. Grants are awarded to projects in the following areas: art and culture, community betterment, education, environment, health, historic preservation and human service.

There is one application process for all three grant cycles. Please make sure to review grant guidelines for detailed information. The online grant application and guidelines can be found at any of the three Community Foundations' websites: www.bremercfc.org, www.waverlycf.org or www.readlyncf.org. Grant recipients will be announced in June 2019. Completed applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm March 31, 2019 to be considered for funding.

First-time grant applicants should contact Dotti Thompson, Program Manager, at (319) 243-1358 prior to submitting an application. Grant applicants must be a 501(c)(3) designated organization (or government entity) serving Bremer County in order to be considered for funding.

For more information, please contact the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa at (319) 287-9106.

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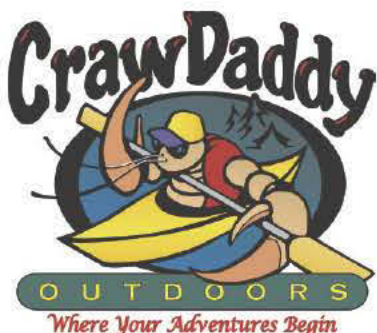
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Pearls of Wisdom

By Pastor Jean Rabary
St. Matthew Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church

The Sweetness of God's Law

We live in a society in which right and wrong have become largely a matter of personal opinion. All individuals are seen as a law unto themselves. What is right for one person is not necessarily right for anyone else. If any person tries to impose their ethical standards on another, we hear a defensive response. "Don't try to impose your white middle-class morality on me. "I know what is right for me, and you have no business trying to meddle in my life."

The result is that there is no common standard of conduct that governs our lives. The country is split into a multiplicity of little groups, each pursuing its own values and setting its own ethical agendas. Frequently there is conflict, each little group trying to gain power over its point of view and scorning the standards and lifestyles of other groups. The increasing number of talk-shows and reality shows attests to this societal fragmentation. A sarcastic line at the end of the book of Judges could apply to our society: "In those days, there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his [or her] own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

Our state of affair recalls what happened to the Israelites after they return from exile in the 6th centuries B.C. Their traditions and knowledge of God's directions for their lives had been forgotten. However, a community that has forgotten its founding story and common ethic cannot be a community. It can only be a hodgepodge of competing groups and interests, as our society often is. But the Jews in post-exilic time were wise enough to realize that.

You must wonder what they did to come to that sober realization: "It was a public reading of the Law of Moses or the Torah" (See Nehemiah 8:1). We would not want that, would we? If someone wanted to read us a story that con-

tained commandments for our lives, we might quickly leave the scene. Our pious excuse, of course, would be that we are Christians who are saved by faith and not by some law. But the Jews in Ezra's time had a different understanding of the Torah than we have, and they wanted desperately to hear it.

From the Torah, they heard the old, old traditions of how God had delivered them from slavery and entered into covenant with them. And through it all, they heard the voice of the Lord, guiding them, forgiving them, accompanying them in his law, and pointing out the way they were to walk as his people. To it all, they said, "Amen," and they wept for joy.

Now, why? Why should a reading of commandments give us joy? Why should we rejoice over laws and commandments? Isn't that legalism?

No, it's not! The law and commandments that are given us in the Bible that Jesus set down for us in the New Testament are expressions of God's love. God has delivered us from slavery to sin and death, as he delivered Israel from Egypt. And in Jesus, God has given us a new life. "The old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Having redeemed us in Jesus Christ, however, God does not just let us stumble around in the dark, wondering what to do in this new life. No. God continues to go with us and to guide us, and he does that by giving us commandments. God points the way, which is the plain meaning of "Torah." He says, "Here is the way to walk. Here is the way to abundant life. Walk in it."

We don't do so alone but always with other Christians by the power of the Spirit. When we follow Jesus and walk in God's way and not in our own, we will experience the joy and sweetness of godly living. Our family and community will surely benefit from it. Peace!



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