

Readlyn Chronicle



Home of **857 Friendly People and One Old Grump**

Volume 11, No. 12, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, November 28, 2018

Christmas in Readlyn

The Readlyn Community Club is sponsoring this year's Santa Visit to Readlyn.

Do you remember Santa visits when you were a child? Did he come to your small rural school? Was he at the park in your hometown? Did you prepare a letter to him with all of your gift request?

In Readlyn this year, Santa will arrive at the Readlyn Elementary Gymnasium at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning December 15. He will be listening to all children telling him their gift request until 11:30 a.m.

During that 2 and 1/2 hours, hot chocolate and cookies will be shared with all attendees. Christmas music will be playing and Miss Readlyn will be reading Christmas stories to the children.

This is a wonderful time of the year when everyone will have the opportunity to wish their friends and neighbors a "Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year." The event will conclude with drawings for turkeys for those adults attending.



The Readlyn Novel Knitters have knit 71 items for the 50th Anniversary of Iowa Special Olympics.

Christmas Open House at Willow Winds December 1

Willow Winds Assisted Living in Denver will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, December 1, in conjunction with the Denver Festival of Trees.

Come join us between 1:00 –

3:00 p.m. for Christmas goodies and music.

Willows Winds Assisted Living is located at 121 Bremer Avenue in Denver.



Not everyone is happy to see Santa, but jolly old St. Nick never lets that faze him - he's always happy to greet the little boys and girls!

Please Join Us for Our
Open House!

Readlyn Savings Bank

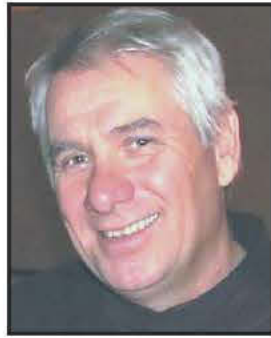
December 6, 2018

9:00 am to 5:30 pm

Come inside & enjoy hot cider, coffee & delicious holiday treats!
Don't forget to sign up for our drawings!

Mayor's Desk

By Dan Wedemeier



Hi, everyone!

This is a great time to reflect on the many good things we have going on here, living in Iowa, Bremer County and Readlyn. No forest fires, safe neighborhoods, good schools, good living conditions and really, pretty much everything we need. It's just a great time of year to say, "Thanks" and reflect on what we have!

The City Council has decided to apply for an Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program, that is funded by HUD and administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Not everyone that applies gets accepted, because funding is limited. Readlyn participated in this program a few years back and it was very successful with rehabbing several homes. There are also some income requirements for the area of town determined to be rehabilitated. So, to get this funding going, the City and INRCOG will be sending out a survey to see if the City of Readlyn qualifies. I would really appreciate it if you would please fill out these surveys and return them. The information is confidential and is only reviewed by INRCOG. We need 100% cooperation from the surveys to make the program work. I think this is a good opportunity to help out some homeowners with a grant to rehab a home. Any questions, just call City Hall or myself.

The Wetlands Project had been moving right along until the weather has acted up. If the weather cooperates, we will continue to try and get this project done before winter. We have already found some issues with the way the old drainage was working and I believe this project will benefit the City of Readlyn in many ways.

One project Austin and Barney are going to work on, through the cold months, is to replace all homeowner water meters. I know it will take some coordination with homeowners and Barney and Austin to get in and get it done. Please help us out when the guys get a hold of you. The reason for the change is to eventually have auto-read water meters. This will give us a more accurate and timely meter monitoring. If you have any questions regarding this project, please call City Hall.

Since we have already experienced a couple of light snowfalls, please be considerate of the city employees plowing snow and remember not to park on the street. Besides being in violation of the ordinance, it makes a dangerous situation while the guys are plowing and also afterwards, when snow or ice is still on the street.

As a reminder, I've seen several vehicles parked on the street - the wrong way. Once again, that is not a legal way to park and it is also dangerous, because the front of a vehicle has no reflectors and if you approach that vehicle in the dark it's very hard to see.

The Freedom Rock area is looking great! The Community Club has the sidewalk completed, the flagpoles up and some landscape rock installed. Thanks so much, it looks awesome! Great job all!! Watch for details for a dedication coming up.

The new sewer plant has been working very well. We definitely would have had issues with the old plant with all the moisture we had this fall. We will be having an open house in the near future. It is also sure nice having the compost piles back out there and they are doing a great business!!

From Connie and I, we hope you had a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor



Grump's Grumblings

By Larry Ladage



Past and Present Comments from the Grump -

Greetings and Happy Fall to everyone. Our leaves have kept us quite busy, mulching and raking them up. The trees have finally lost all of their leaves and the job might be about done.

On October 22, Grumptoberfest was held at The Watering Hole, sponsored by Readlyn Savings Bank. It seems everyone had a good time. The best part was that I got to judge the costume contest, along with Miss Readlyn and the Readlyn Mayor. What a challenge with all of the cute and original costumes. All the kids did a very good job.

Has everyone noticed the decorations on Main Street? These will keep changing with the seasons. Thanks to the Community Club and the City department for their efforts.

Halloween trick or treat was a busy afternoon for all the kids. We had about 48 costumed kids show up, but apparently some areas of town had over 300 goblins.

Hopefully, everyone has seen the lights and flags at the Freedom Rock. This is very impressive to drive past, both night and day.

Church dinners in the area are done for this fall. The Grump got to help peel potatoes for St. Matthew Church dinner. About a dozen people peeled 300 lbs. of potatoes in about two hours. St. Matthew's served 900 people at their dinner.

I hope everyone got to attend a Veterans Day ceremony. I was invited to a Veterans Day lunch at the Readlyn Elementary School. I enjoyed that a lot. Janet and I spent some time at the veterans event at The Centre in Waverly on Sunday. Then on Monday, I participated in a Veterans Day ceremony at Tripoli Schools. All of these events were very impressive and made you feel glad to be an American citizen and a veteran.

I hope everyone who reads this has an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends. See you next month!!
Larry Ladage, Readlyn Grump 2018

Community Calendar

- Mondays** - Novel Knitters at the library 6 pm
- Saturday, December 1** - 9:30-11 am Wreath Making Workshop at the library. Pre-register. Limited to 10
- Saturday, December 1** - Open House at Willow Winds Assisted Living, 121 Bremer Ave., Denver, 1-3 pm
- Tuesday, December 4** - Visiting Nurses Foot Clinic at the library call 319-235-6201 for an appointment
- Tuesday, December 4** - V.F.W. Post #5661 meeting at Readlyn Telephone Co.
- Saturday, December 8** - 9:00-11:00 am Annual Library Cookie Walk
- Tuesday, December 11** - Coloring at the Library 1-3 pm; school-agers welcome after school
- Tuesday, December 11** - V.F.W. Auxiliary, Christmas potluck @ Library
- Thursday, December 13** - Community Club meeting 7:00 pm @ Inspired
- Thursday, December 13** - Deadline for the Dec. 26 issue of the *Readlyn Chronicle*, 5 pm.
- Saturday, December 15** - 9:00-11:30 am - Santa Visit at Readlyn Elementary
- Wednesday, December 19** - Senior Citizens lunch and cards at Inspired, 11:30 am
- December 22-25** - Library closed for Christmas
- Sunday, December 30** - 6:00pm - Jigsaw Puzzle Jamboree at the Library

Happy Holidays!

Miss Readlyn Comments

By Cassidy Brunscheon



Happy November everyone! Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday ever since I can remember. I love the food, the family atmosphere, and I love how much love is given to everyone. There are always so many service projects going on at this time of the year to make sure that everyone can feel the love of the holidays. I love stuffing and the Snicker salad they serve at my Thanksgiving and I can't picture the holiday without them. Every year my family goes up to Minnesota to have Thanksgiving with my Mom's family, and this year I can't wait. This Thanksgiving, make sure you hold your loved ones close.

At the beginning of November, I was featured in my school's production of "Mary Poppins" and I can say it was one of the best experiences of my life. The cast and I spent hours of our time devoted to making the production great, and it truly was. Every day leading up to the musical, we would practice for hours and hours to make sure it was perfect. Every performance went fantastic and I want to thank everyone who came and supported us. There were ten seniors in the musical including Nolan Rochford, Evie Roberts, Caitlin McElhose, Maria Hammitt, Julia LaRue, Trystan Lampe, Preston Weepie, Kyle Zimmerman, Jacob Risse and me. The musical has always been the highlight of my year and I've made so many incredible memories and acquired so many skills because of it. I'm so blessed, I can't thank everyone enough. Support the fine arts!

On November 12 we celebrated Veterans Day at the high school. The National Honor Society invited Veterans to be honored at the annual Veterans Day assembly at the high school. Bob Thran was the keynote speaker and spoke about his time in the Korean War and it opened my eyes to the dangers the men faced and how much they sacrificed. After the assembly, the NHS invited all veterans and their families to have lunch in the commons. I want to thank everyone who served my country and let me live free in the USA.

I would like to congratulate the Wapsie volleyball and football teams for their great seasons. They've worked hard this year and represented Wapsie well. I would also like to congratulate the FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team. They went to Nationals in late October and were ranked in the top 10 teams in the country!

Now onto the next thing to keep me busy: Speech!
Cassidy Brunscheon - Miss Readlyn 2018



His Hands Food Pantry is open Tuesdays, Fridays

His Hands Food Pantry, serving the communities of Denver, Fairbank, Frederika, Oran, Readlyn, Sumner, Tripoli and Westgate, provides food assistance to those in need. His Hands is open Tuesdays 5:00 - 8:00pm and Fridays from 9:00am - noon.

The Food Pantry is located at 5001 Main Street, Oran, Iowa. For more information, call (319) 638-4357.

Readlyn Community Happenings

Business Spotlight



The *Readlyn Chronicle* is pleased to welcome four new businesses to the monthly newspaper: K.C. Auto Body, Ltd., Smith Excavating, Inc., Schumacher Elevator Company, and Willow Winds Assisted Living. We appreciate their support of the *Chronicle* and thank them for their business!

About K.C. Auto Body, Ltd.

K.C. Auto Body is a family-owned business since 1992, owned and operated by Ken and Jody Franzen.

Ken received his diploma from Hawkeye Institute of Technology for Auto Body Repair in 1981.

We specialize in minor to major collision repairs, offering free, no-hassle repair estimates. We understand being in an accident can be a stressful experience, and that's why we pride ourselves on making the process as easy for our customers as we can, as we work with all insurance companies. Customer satisfaction is our

#1 priority and we treat each vehicle as if it were our own.

We provide a lifetime warranty on all repairs. If there is any issue, we are here to back it 100%. We utilize a Crossdraft paint booth, Lesonal products by Akzonobel, and have an eagle lift hoist for undercarriage repairs.

We can custom match any paint color a customer requests using our Akzonobel Automatic vision camera. We use CCC ONE estimating systems. We have a network of local parts suppliers enabling us to repair vehicles in a timely manner, from foreign to domestic. We also offer glass replacement and paintless dent removal.

We accept cash, check or VیزیPay (credit/debit cards). Our hours are Monday-Friday, 7 AM-4:30 PM (closed from 12-1 PM for lunch), and we are located at 1701 East Bremer Avenue, Waverly. Call us at 319-352-0881.

VFW Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary #5661 met November 13, 2018 at the Readlyn Library at 7:30 pm with five members present. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and treasurer's report were read and accepted. General Orders and chairman reports were read by all. Volunteer hours were turned in and there were 153 hours in September.

Seven letters and two emails were sent to congressmen for Veteran bills. A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Marrilee Tiedt to accept the Audit report. Carried. It was done October 29.

Friday, November 9, nine Auxiliary members and seven Post members attended Lunch for Veterans Day at Readlyn Elementary School. The students made lots of cards for us.

On Monday, November 12, eight Auxiliary and seven Post members attended the Veterans program at Wapsie Valley High

School and the lunch followed which was made by National Honor Society students.

Burton and Ellen Thies attended Veterans program on Sunday, November 11 at Waverly Area Veterans Post and also The Centre for Veterans appreciation event.

Verdeen Pavelec attended supper and auction in New Hartford to raise money for a service dog for a veteran.

The Parish choir sang "Thank You Soldiers" for Veterans Day at Zion and St. Matthew's Churches.

A thank you was read from Arlyce Heideman. \$85.00 was collected for the poppy drive.

Twenty letters were handed out for Veterans Bill HR299 to send to congressmen.

The Christmas potluck will be December 11 at 6:00 pm at the Readlyn Library.

A motion was made by Darlene Peters and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn. Carried. Meeting closed with prayer. Hostess was Marrilee Tiedt.

Applications being accepted for Valentine Ball requests

It's that time of year again! The Readlyn Valentine Ball Committee is now accepting applications for the 2019 Valentine Ball.

This year's date for the Valentine Ball is set for Friday, February 8 at the Readlyn Event Center. If you are a local, non-profit organization looking for funds, please turn in your requests at the Readlyn Community Library by Tuesday, December 11, 2018. Applications must be turned in by the deadline to receive Ball funds.

This application does not need to be lengthy but should explain what the funds will be used for by your organization.

Something new this year, we would like

to know in advance what your organization is willing to help the Readlyn Community Club with in 2019. For example: help with the Valentine Ball, help set up fall decorations, clean up fall decorations on Main Street, put up Christmas decorations on Main Street, help set up Grump Days, help clean up Grump Days, etc. These are just a couple of options, please feel free to contact a Readlyn Community Club Board Member if you would like some other options. This specification should be included in your application.

We look forward to hearing from your organization!

Pepper tournament

Fourteen players participated in the November 3 pepper tournament held at the Readlyn Community Event Center. The winners and their scores were:

1st Place: Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 189

2nd Place: Joan Matthias and Matt Brunscheon - 166

3rd Place: Corlyn and Reiny Freitag - 165

4th Place: Karan Boevers and Judy Henn - 158

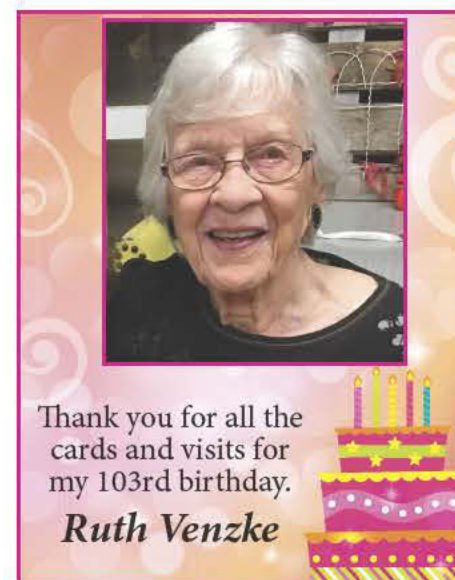
The next tournament will be held at the Event Center on Saturday, December 1. Bring a partner. Entry fee is \$3.00.

Kathy Blasberg is retiring from IAS

Kathy Blasberg is retiring from Innovative Ag Services in Oran, IA on Friday, November 30, 2018.

Please come and help us celebrate and wish her well.

Open House is at the Oran Location with refreshments served all day along with a retirement party at the Oran Community Building from 5pm - 7pm.



Come home to
Willow Winds Assisted Living

A move to Willow Winds is more than a change of address. It's a Community that ensures peace of mind.

Amenities included for all tenants:

- ~Three home cooked meals a day
- ~Medication reminders
- ~Housekeeping and Laundry
- ~Emergency call pendants
- ~Activities
- ~Resident Assistant on site 24/7
- ~Cable & Utilities
- ~Nurse on call 24/7
- ~Wi-Fi access

WILLOW WINDS
ASSISTED LIVING

In proud partnership with Western Home Communities

121 Bremer Avenue
Denver, IA 50622

319-984-5867

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



www.WillowWindsDenver.com



Readlyn Community Library

We put the READ in Readlyn

Barb Sowers
Nancy Lockard

In Loving Memory

Cash Memorials

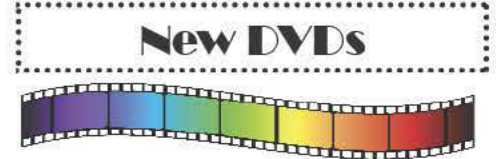
In Memory of Oscar Heideman	
Family and Friends	\$75.00
Ben Witte	\$50.00
Jerry & Colleen Riesgaard	\$20.00
Trent & Nancy Lockard	\$10.00
In Memory of Steve Meier	
Suzy Heineman	\$10.00
In Memory of Daryl Behnke	
Rick & Barb Schares	\$10.00
Dan & Connie Wedemeier	\$10.00
Andrew & Christine Sexton	\$10.00
In Memory of Darlene Hand-Wilkins	
Joan Williams	\$20.00
Andrew & Christine Sexton	\$10.00
In Memory of Ron Rathbone	
Marlene Kuker	\$20.00
Roger & Connie Buhr	\$10.00
Randy & Glenda Kleitsch	\$10.00
Nick & Dawn Tobey	\$15.00
Trent & Nancy Lockard	\$10.00
Dan & Connie Wedemeier	\$10.00
In Memory of Wes Sauerbrei	
Andrew & Christine Sexton	\$10.00

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

Phone and Fax: 319-279-3432
Email: readlynlib@gmail.com
Website: www.readlyn.lib.ia.us



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



New DVDs

- Incredibles 2
- Christopher Robin
- Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again
- Ant Man & the Wasp
- The Meg

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Schedule
Sat. Dec. 22nd through Tues. Dec. 25th

New Year Schedule
New Years Eve Mon. Dec. 31st Open 9-12
Closed Tuesday Jan. 1st



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

COOKIE WALK



Saturday, December 8th
9:00 am – 11:00 am
Plates of the best cookies in Readlyn will fill the shelf-tops at the **Readlyn Community Library** for our Annual Cookie Walk.

Here's how it works: We give you the container, and you "walk" along aisles of cookies, candy, bars, and other homemade treats. All you have to do is choose your favorites. Then, your tray will be weighed and sold by the pound.

Come early for the best selection.
FREE Coffee, Cider, and Cookies samples.

Donation of homemade goodies NEEDED!
Please bring donations to the library Friday Dec. 7th

The Readlyn Community Library is looking for a positive and ambitious person to work part time



as a library assistant. This person should be great with computers and technology. As customer service is the heart of what we do, we are looking for an outgoing and welcoming personality. Experience working with children is a plus. A person with a flexible schedule and the ability to work days, evenings, and weekends is preferred. This position offers approximately 10 hours per week. Applications may be picked up at the library or printed off of our website. www.readlyn.lib.ia.us. Applications will be accepted through December 10th

Qualifications:
Applicant should be 18 years old, have excellent customer service skills and a broad knowledge of current technology/computer applications.



Book Memorials

In Memory of Oscar Heideman
"Sunset Wins" by Max Brand
from Ken & Barb Sowers

From the Class of 1963
A gift of \$50.00 to be used for books

In Memory of Ron Rathbone
"Long Road to Mercy" by David Baldacci
from Erin Matthias



Ron Lenth from ISU Extension of Bremer County will present a Wreath Making Workshop Saturday December 1st 9:30-11: at the library.

Materials such as wild grapevines, pine boughs and cones, dogwood branches, etc., will be provided.
You're welcome to bring any additional items for your wreath.



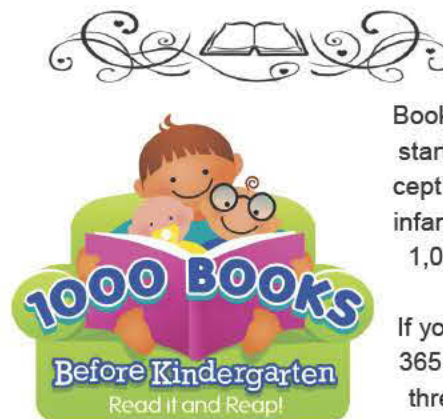
Color Us Creative
JOIN US
Tuesday, December 11th
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Children are Welcome after School



Jigsaw Puzzle Jamboree

Let's do this again! Sunday December 30th @ 6:00pm
Gather 4 member teams and join us for this fun event.
Each team will compete with identical puzzles.
The first to complete wins!
Or—if no one finishes in the allotted time, the team with the fewest pieces left wins.

Limited to 16 people ages 10 and up.
You MUST pre-register.



Book by book, help your child get ready for school and start a lifelong love of reading and learning. The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read to your infant, toddler or preschooler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books before starting Kindergarten. (Yes, you can repeat books again and again...)
If you read one book a night, you will have read about 365 books per year. Two years = 730 books, 1,095 in three years, read several books each day and you'll get there much quicker!

Stop by the library to get started.
There will be incentives, prizes and milestones along the way.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years and is free of charge.



Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago

Pearl Harbor Attack-December 7, 1941

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States said, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces from the Empire of

Japan." Until the time of the attack, negotiators from Japan and the United States were discussing peace in the Pacific. It was obvious that the attack was deliberately planned days or weeks before. The Japanese government had deliberately

sought to deceive the United States by false statements and hope for continued peace. The attack on the Hawaiian Islands caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives were also lost.

We, who are old enough to remember, I was twelve, heard the following bulletin at approximately 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 7 on the radio: "WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU THE FOLLOWING BULLETIN; THE JAPANESE HAVE ATTACKED THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS."

We were stunned. I can best describe it as if someone had just kicked you in the stomach. This announcement had burned itself in our mind that we can all remember exactly where we were at and what we were doing on December 7, 1941. I was coming home from Westgate from visiting relatives and we were driving past the Grove Hill Cemetery.

USS OKLAHOMA

Edited from the *Waterloo Courier*

Arlin Wittenburg and Paul Aschbrenner enlisted in the navy together and were shipmates on the USS Oklahoma. They escaped "hell below" by a few moments on the morning of December 7, 1941. Wittenburg of Readlyn and Aschbrenner of Sumner were on the USS Oklahoma which capsized in the attack. *The Courier* interviewed Wittenburg and Aschbrenner in 1997. Wittenburg died in 1997, Aschbrenner in 2013.

Aschbrenner said, "Some of my shipmates were killed outright as the ship was attacked by 28 Japanese torpedo bombers specifically attacking the Oklahoma from four different carriers. Other sailors burned to death when the oil leaking from their ship and others caught fire. Other sailors were trapped in air pockets in the ship's capsized hull and suffocated days and sometimes weeks later."

Wittenburg and Aschbrenner each were below deck in opposite ends of the ship. Both escaped by quick feet, quick thinking. Wittenburg was below the gun turret of three 14-inch guns at the stern of the ship ready to load powder charges that fire shells from those guns. Then it came over the loudspeaker that the Japs were attacking and the ship blew. Either bombs or torpedoes. Everything went black. She started going over. The sailors jammed a 16-inch-long brass nozzle in the hatch. "That way when the ship rolled the hatch fell open so we could go outside onto the

water," Wittenburg said. The surface of the water was covered with a layer of oil. Some of his shipmates stayed afloat by hanging onto the wing of a seaplane that had fallen off the ship into the water when the ship capsized (rolled over on its side). They were eventually picked up by a rescue launch.

Aschbrenner's situation: At the same time they passed the word over the loudspeaker, "Man your battle station - the Japs are attacking. This is no sh-t." He ran to his battle station but the ship was torpedoed, shook and lost power. Aschbrenner literally ran for his life--up the ladder out onto the deck and jumped into the water as the ship listed at a 45-degree angle and was about to capsize... He was the first one out. He doesn't know if anyone behind him made it. He swam away from the ship. "I was in the water trying to stay afloat, and when I was swimming in there the Japs had some fighter planes come strafing along shooting at us in the water. I was in the water swimming when I saw the Arizona blow up," said Aschbrenner. He was picked up by a motor launch and taken to Ford Island. "They issued me Marine clothes and gave me a .45 pistol. When the second wave came over, I was over there on Ford Island shooting at those planes with a .45 pistol."

Wittenburg said it was two days before he and Aschbrenner knew they both had survived. "I thought he had been killed and he thought I had been killed," said

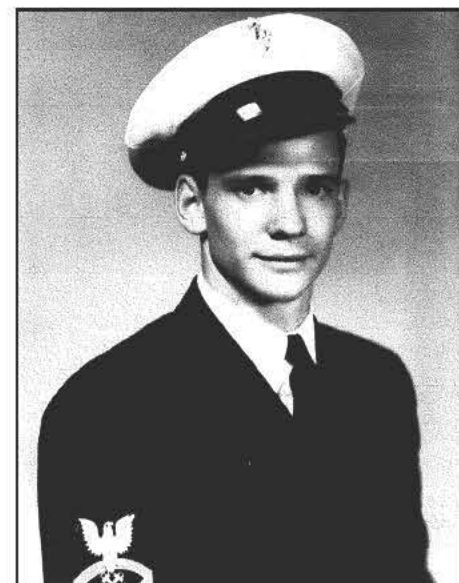
Wittenburg.

After the attack Wittenburg manned a cutting torch at the Oklahoma's capsized hull trying to free trapped shipmates. Aschbrenner assisted as well. "You could hear them tapping on the bottom.

"We cut some of them out after 72 hours. They were white as a sheet, blanched from being trapped for three days in the dark, damp hull." Some weren't that fortunate. Some trapped sailors counted the days by scratching marks on the inside of the hull until they were too weak or died. For some sailors whose bodies were recovered later those scratch marks stopped as late as Dec. 23--more than two weeks after the attack.

In all, 429 sailors of the Oklahoma's crew of 1,100 were killed. One was a Roman Catholic priest from St. Lucas, the Rev. Aloysius Schmitt, believed to be the first American chaplain killed in World War II. His remains were recently identified, returned to Iowa and interred following a service in Dubuque. He saved the lives of many shipmates at the cost of his own. Arlin Wittenburg was one whose life he helped save.

The Oklahoma was damaged so badly it could not be returned to duty. The ship was decommissioned, her armaments removed and then sold to a salvage group in California. While being towed from Pearl Harbor she capsized and sank in the Pacific Ocean.



Arlin Wittenburg

We were fortunate

We, in the United States, were very fortunate that battleships were docked in Pearl Harbor and our aircraft carriers were out at sea. If the carriers would have been in Pearl Harbor they would have been heavily damaged allowing the Japanese control of the Pacific. The Japanese lost three of their four carriers at the Battle of Midway and the other was damaged, crippling their war effort.

Paul Aschbrenner had three sisters who married Readlyn men and farmed in the Readlyn area: Erna (Arnold Tiedt), Ruby (Marvin Huebner) and Lenora (Reinhold Rathe). Paul retired from John Deere.

Arlin was one of five sons of Ted and Bertha Wittenburg. His brothers are Delbert, Leo, Arlin, Glenn, and Elmer. I might add, five crazier characters would be hard to find. Arlin married Viola Traetow and they had two sons, James and Kendall, both deceased. Both served in Viet Nam, Kendall earning two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for valor. Viola is in the nursing home in Shell Rock. She recently celebrated her 95th birthday. Arlin and Viola farmed near Bremer. Viola said that Arlin was fortunate that the USS Oklahoma rolled over on the right side allowing his escape.

Arlin's picture is on the Freedom Rock in Readlyn along with Pearl Harbor ablaze. His cousin, David Wittenburg, was one of the Readlyn citizens instrumental in bringing the Freedom Rock to Readlyn.



Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

Wapsie Valley FFA member attends World Food Prize

By Hannah Miller, Chapter Vice President

October 18-20, 210 students from 27 U.S. states and territories and ten countries came together to participate in the World Food Prize at the Global Youth Institute. Wapsie Valley sent one student, Hannah Miller, to participate in this three-day conference. During the conference, students worked together on coming up with various solutions to many urgent situations and problems regarding hunger and poverty in other countries. Students also got to meet with many global leaders to learn more about their role in solving these problems.

To participate in this event, students had to write an essay about a barrier facing another country and discuss the possible ways in which they would go about solving it. Students start by presenting their ideas at their state institute and then may advance to the global level. At the Global Youth Institute, they were able to present their ideas to several global leaders and fellow students, as well as discuss others' ideas on a global level.

While at the three-day conference, students visited the Borlaug Dialogue and were able to listen to many key leaders in government and world hunger as well as able to engage with them in a question

and answer session. Global Youth Institute participants were also able to go on various immersion sessions to gain hands-on experiences about different aspects of agriculture and policy. By attending this institute, all students are given the opportunity to sign up for a variety of internships

to further develop their leadership skills and become involved in the World Food Prize Organization as well as awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University.

Sponsored by Black Hawk Farm Bureau



Hannah Miller and fellow group members presented their ideas to a panel of 3 global leaders in the fight for food security.



Members from the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter are teaching FFA members from all over the nation about Iowa agriculture at the National FFA Convention. See story and more photos on page 7.

Happy Holidays

Spring Center Farm
 Pioneer - Dean Buhr
 2034 Vintage Ave.
 Sumner, IA 50674
 (563) 578-8104
 (319) 240-2432

The Joy of CHRISTMAS
 CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Stokes Welding
 412 7th St.
 Janesville
 (319) 987-2801
 Cell: (319) 230-7770

Happy Holidays

Dillon Law, P.C.
 Patrick B. Dillon
 Attorney at Law
 209 E. 1st Street
 Sumner, IA 50674
 (563) 578-01850
 Fax: (563) 578-1312
 patdillon@50674law.com

JOY! JOY! JOY!

Kurt R. Leistikow
 Attorney at Law
 4817 University Ave.
 STE. D, Cedar Falls
 (319) 553-3400
 kurt@lollc.net

Joe Leehey
 Broker Associate
 (319) 415-7349
 joe@sulentificschels.com
 3510 Kimball Ave., Waterloo
 Tel: (319) 234-5000
 Fax: (319) 291-7000
 www.sulentificschels.com

Glad Tidings of Joy

Del's Auto Repair Inc.
 2308 Piedmont Ave.
 (319) 279-3785

Merry Christmas

Wittenburg Truck Line, Inc.
 117 Malone Ave.
 (319) 279-3371

Wapsie Valley participates in National FFA Convention, Expo

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter

The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter left early Tuesday, October 23, to join over 69,000 FFA members and guests from all over the nation to learn, explore, and have fun at the 91st National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana. Members got the chance to learn about different agricultural careers and colleges at the career and college fair as well as hear inspiring messages from the National FFA Officers. The Wapsie Valley FFA members also got the chance to represent the state of Iowa in the Hall of States exhibit and a chance to compete in Nationals Parliamentary Procedure contest. While in Indianapolis, 12 FFA members also received their American Degrees.

The career and college fair gave members a look into a wide variety of agricultural career options. The opportunities ranged from raising livestock to engineering equipment

and from precision agriculture to greenhouse management, each career showcasing an important role in agriculture. While looking into future careers, members also got the chance to look into different agriculture colleges from all over the country.

Throughout the convention, members were able to attend different sessions where they heard retiring addresses from the National FFA Officers. All of the national officers' speeches pertained to this year's theme, "Just One." This year, members got to hear from a fellow Iowan, Erica Baier, the Secretary of the National FFA Organization as she reflected on her year of service.

Several of the Wapsie Valley FFA members that attended National FFA Convention and Expo represented Iowa working in the chapter's Hall of States exhibit. Wapsie Valley FFA was able to participate in this because the chapter was named the number one chap-

ter in Iowa last April at the State Convention. The display was created to help teach those in attendance about Iowa agriculture and FFA. To help FFA members and guests better understand Iowa agriculture, the chapter created a game in which players would spin a corn spinner and get asked a question about the topic that the spinner landed on and if members correctly answered a question, they received a prize graciously donated by the Iowa Egg Council, Iowa Beef Industry Council, Iowa Dairy Association, Heartland Acres, and Iowa Corn Growers. The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter is also very thankful for the Waverly-Shell Rock FFA Chapter for their help in running the display.

Six Wapsie Valley FFA members were given the opportunity to compete in National FFA Parliamentary Procedure contest, a leadership development event. The team consisted of Sloane Banger, Hannah Miller, Kennadi Neil, Anna Richards, Reily Richards, and Sam Schnor and was named the number one parliamentary procedure team in the state of Iowa in April, thus allowing them

to represent Iowa at the national level against 39 other teams from all over the country. The Parliamentary Procedure team was coached by Ellen Doese, Ashley Beierschmitt, and Jacob Risse, the president of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter. The Parliamentary Procedure competition consisted of a multiple choice test, a quotes practicum, a minutes practicum, a demonstration, and a team activity. Friday, October 26, the Wapsie Valley team placed in the top ten throughout the nation.

To wrap up a successful week, the Wapsie Valley FFA had 12 members receive their American FFA Degree. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree that an FFA member can have bestowed upon them. The members include, Todd Miller, Natalie Risse, Eric Richards, Breanna Hakeman, Jacob Hammit, Lynn Duffy, Ben Schmitz, Dayton Wittenburg, Delaney Mohlis, Jordan Kalenske, Connor Jones, and Holly Haberman. The chapter is proud of these members for continuing with their FFA careers after graduation.

Sponsored by Black Hawk Farm Bureau



There were seven American Degree recipients who attended the National Convention. Front row, left to right: Lynn Duffy, Dayton Wittenburg, Delaney Mohlis, and Jordan Kalenske; back row: Natalie Risse, Jacob Hammit, and Ben Schmitz.



The parliamentary procedure team received a gold at nationals. Left to right are Sam Schnor, Kennadi Neil, Reily Richards, Sloane Banger, Hannah Miller, and Anna Richards.

Smidt Crop Management, Inc.
 Thomas B. Smidt, President
 303 North 2nd St., PO Box 594, Greene
 (641) 823-4817 or cell (641) 330-6717
 smidtcrop@iowatelecom.net

Best Dishes
Weeds On Fire Custom Application LLC
 Dan Wedemeier, Owner
 Dan at (319) 269-6753
 Elton at (319) 231-5104

Stumme, Collins, Gritters & Epley, PLLC Attorneys
 171 E. Main, Denver
 Phone: (319) 984-5479
 www.waverlydenverlaw.com

Happy Holidays
Farmers Coop Service & Repair
 2640 230th St.
 (319) 279-3436

'Tis the Season
Larry's Skelly Inc.
 430 E. 1st St.
 (319) 279-3307

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Elsamiller Electric Co.
 1004 E. Bremer Ave.
 Waverly
 319.352.3917

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Denver Heating & Cooling
 120 Transit St.
 Denver
 319.406.0000



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Farmers Co-op
223 E. 1st St.
(319) 279-3396



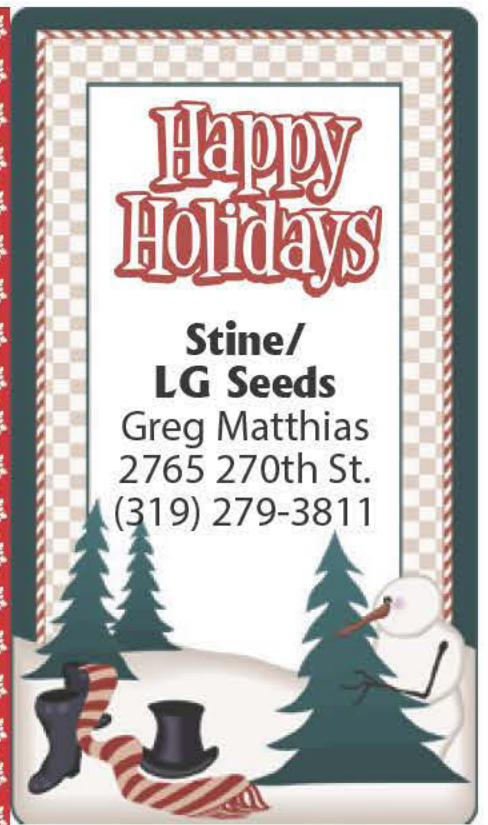
Season's Greetings

Farmers Savings Bank
103 3rd St.
Frederika, IA
(319) 275-4301



Happy Holidays

Fettkether Fertilizer Co. LLC
7634 N. Ordway Rd.
Dunkerton, IA
(319) 822-2482 or Cell
(319) 404-0064



Happy Holidays

Stine/LG Seeds
Greg Matthias
2765 270th St.
(319) 279-3811



CHRISTMAS Blessings

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www.myfnbbank.com



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24701 Oran St.
Oran, IA 50664
(319) 638-7551



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Liddle-Ebert Ltd.
Randy & Dee Liddle
Farm Drainage
1196 Hilton Ave., Plainfield
(319) 275-4528
(319) 231-5590



Rejoice!

Monsanto Dekalb/Asgrow
Dave Wheeler
8234 E. Marquis Rd.
Fairbank (319) 230-1029



Best Wishes

Precision Planting
Mike Heineman
2919 270th St.
(319) 279-3136



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Brian Pottebaum (515) 290-4098
Steve Rathe (319) 269-8083



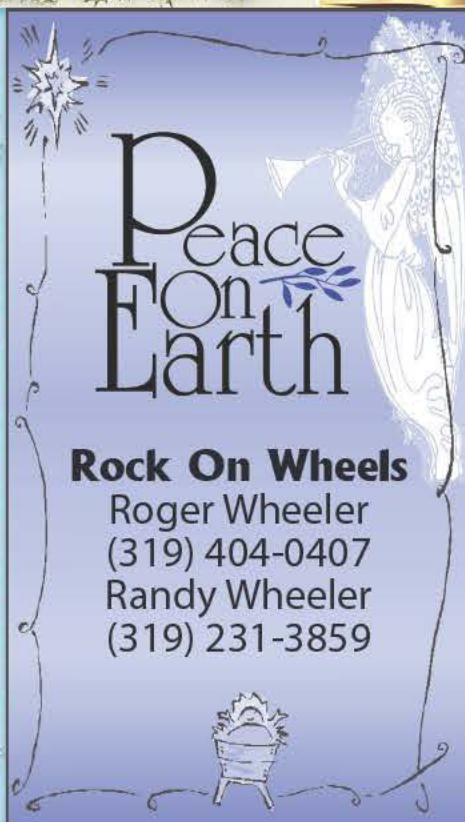
WE wish YOU A Merry CHRISTMAS

Quality Distributors, Inc.
Brian Meyer
101 Main St.
(319) 279-3555



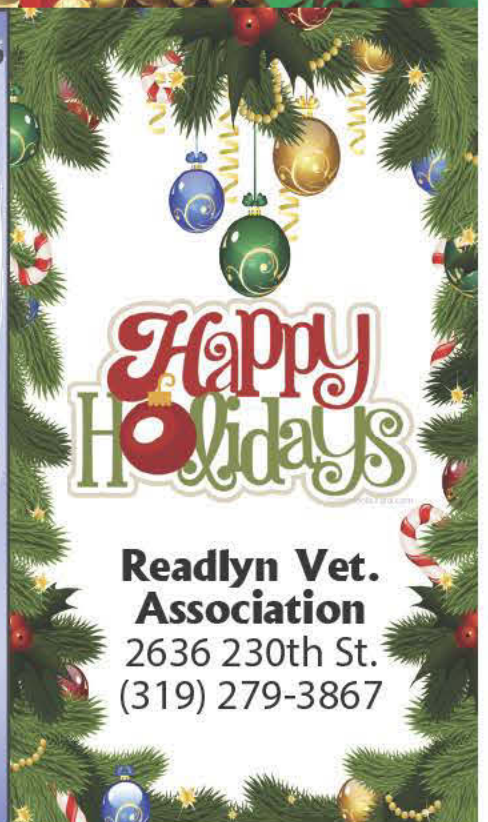
R&R Drainage LLC
Randy and Linda Bast, Jesup, Iowa
(319) 239-6455

Happy Holidays



Peace On Earth

Rock On Wheels
Roger Wheeler (319) 404-0407
Randy Wheeler (319) 231-3859

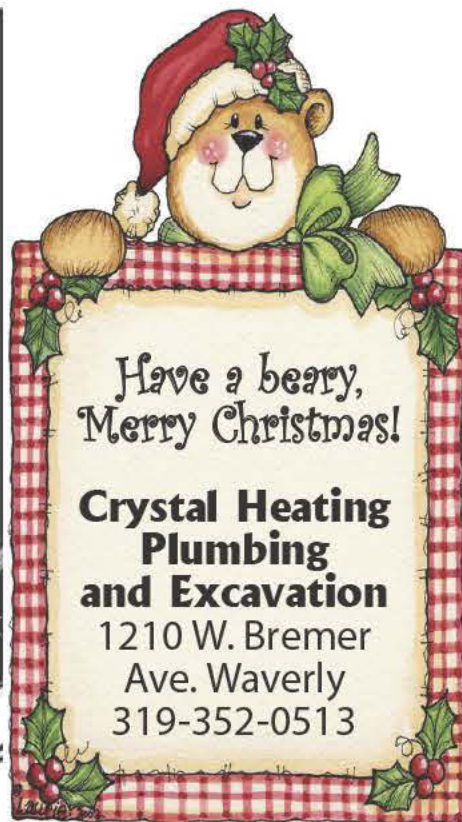


Happy Holidays

Readlyn Vet. Association
2636 230th St.
(319) 279-3867



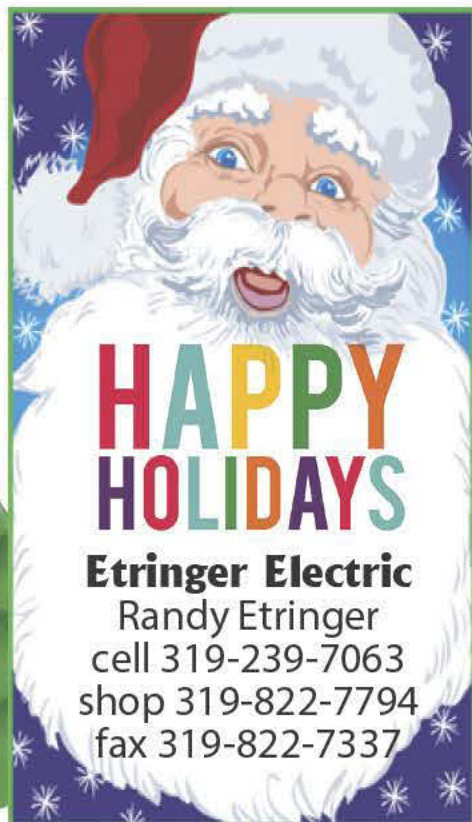
Merry Christmas
Edgeton Hardware & Repair
 5104 Main St.
 Oran
 (319) 638-7206



Have a beary, Merry Christmas!
Crystal Heating Plumbing and Excavation
 1210 W. Bremer Ave. Waverly
 319-352-0513



Wiley Construction
 Denver, IA
 (319) 404-3518
 (319) 279-3518



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
Etringer Electric
 Randy Etringer
 cell 319-239-7063
 shop 319-822-7794
 fax 319-822-7337



Readlyn Savings Bank
 141 Main St.
 (319) 279-3321

Merry Christmas

Season's Greetings
Meyer Construction
 1781 Viking Ave., Sumner, IA
 (888) 578-5985
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Merry CHRISTMAS
Snelling Construction
 309 Railroad Ave., Tripoli
 319.290.0256
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Merry Christmas
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Town & Country Real Estate
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louiehartman@netins.net
www.towncountryhome.com
 215 N. Railroad, Sumner, IA
 Connie Rochford, Broker
 Office 563-578-8899



Merry Christmas

Denver Drug and Photo
 340 S. State St.
 Denver
 (319) 984-5691
 (800) 974-5691

Peace On Earth

Quarter Ave. Storage
 2310 Quarter Ave.
 (319) 240-1122

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Readlyn Community Library
 309 Main St.
 PO Box 249
 (319) 279-3432



JOY! JOY! JOY!

Sunrise Catering
 201 Main St.
 (319) 279-4089

Happy Holidays
Farm Bureau
 David C. Matthias
 Office: (319) 352-3667
 Home: (319) 279-3545

The Joy of CHRISTMAS
 CELEBRATE THE SEASON
Readlyn Mutual Ins. Association
 234 Main St.
 (319) 279-3893

Merry Christmas
Farm Bureau
 Jim Peters
 Office (563) 578-8054
 Office (319) 352-3667
 Home (319) 279-3266

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TruServe Insurance Group
 143 E. Main St.
 Suite F, Denver, IA
 877-418-3090

Peace on Earth
VanDaele Insurance, Inc.
 119 E. Main St.
 Fairbank, IA
 319-635-2526

Happy Holidays
Newy's Wireless Communications - US Cellular
 Jeff Neuendorf
 1022 Skyler St.
 PO Box 681
 Denver, IA
 (319) 240-7150

Merry Christmas
Tenenbaum's Jewelry
 219 E. Bremer Ave.
 Waverly
 319-352-4112

Panther Lanes
 502 7th Ave. SW
 Tripoli, IA
 (319) 882-3753

Season's Greetings
Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home
 205 Highland Ave.
 (319) 279-3551
 www.kaisercorson.com

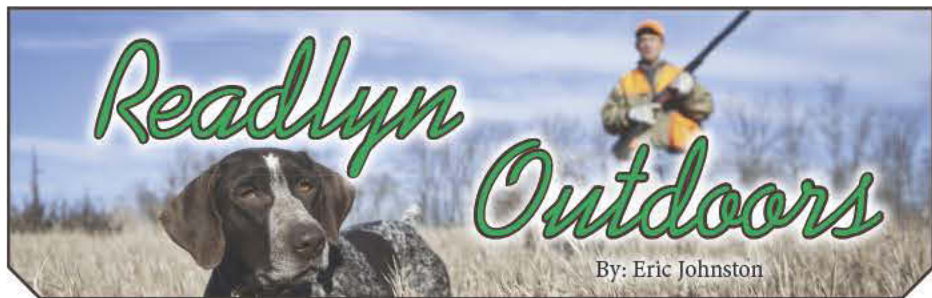
Joyous NOEL
RTC Communications
 121 Main St.
 (319) 279-3375

Happy Holidays
The Accel Group
 Waverly • Cedar Falls
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 (800) 369-3525
 www.AccelAdvantage.com

Peace on Earth
Fairbank Food Center
 www.FairbankFoodCenter.com
 Dolan & Kristi Burreson
 102 4th St. N., Fairbank
 (319) 635-2139

Rejoice!
Mane Event Family Hair Salon
 269 Main Street, Readlyn
 Salon: 319-279-3060
 Becky South
 319-464-2614

Happy Holidays
Reiter Repair LLC
 3501 East Cedar Wapsie Rd.,
 Waterloo
 319-279-3876
 Cell 319-231-2452



“Outdoor Traditions”

As I sit down to write my column this month, I have come to the realization that I need a little more time on my article. I have also come to the realization that a lot of Readlyn area residents have discovered and read my article each month. I thank you all so much for reading my articles and so as I continue to work on my article, I have pulled up one of my favorite articles I’ve written and would like to share it with you this month.

It’s hard to pinpoint exactly when my infatuation with the outdoors started, I do know it came at a very early age. I’m often told stories from my parents and family of times of pretending my wagon was a boat or my first word being Mississippi. I grew up idolizing my Dad and Grandpa Bob and my uncles with their outdoor experiences. I remember as a very young boy daydreaming of my outdoor adventures when I got older and could not wait to get started! My Dad started my fishing addiction at about three years old fishing for chubs in a local Creek. My Grandpa Bob helped fire the passion by paddling me around a local pond for hours because I wanted to troll rooster tails for bluegills. Some of my earliest memories are fishing that creek with my Dad and watching that red and white bobber, or waiting for the rod to load up while trolling, all the while dreaming of the day I could get my own baitcasting reel and start bass fishing. You see, my Uncle Rick had started bass fishing in a local club level and was teaching my dad everything he was learning fishing for bass in the local tournament scene. Naturally, my dad started to pass this knowledge on to me and it was on from there! I wanted to learn everything I could about bass and spent as much time as I could fishing the local pond and Maquoketa River. At seven years old, I caught a five pound largemouth out of the pond and I was completely hooked on bass fishing. I introduced friends to it and my team tournament partner to this day is Adam Farmer that I met in seventh grade. We

spent most of our time in the summers off of school fishing the Maquoketa, learning everything we could about smallmouth bass. Most of that knowledge we still use today in our tournaments on the Mississippi River.

As far as my love of hunting goes, that was also started at an early age. I remember shooting my suction cup bow and dreaming of hunting whitetails like my dad and uncles did. Hunting in my family has always been a strong tradition, my grandpa taught my dad about waterfowl and pheasant hunting. My Grandpa Bob taught my uncles pheasant hunting and deer hunting. My dad sort of went his own path bowhunting for whitetails and really learned it by the school of hard knocks. He often tells me of mistakes he made early on that he had to learn from. By the time I was old enough to bowhunt, he had learned from those mistakes and I didn’t have to make so many early on in my bowhunting career. I also loved waterfowl and upland bird hunting. Dad passed on his waterfowl knowledge from his dad to me and I still remember every detail of my first duck, a green-winged teal. The smallest of waterfowl, I recall the shot. The duck was out a good forty yards, but after a lot of shooting over the summer, dad told me to try him. With a shot from my single shot twenty gauge the teal folded in the air! It fell in heavy cattails and dad was worried he wouldn’t find it, he walked over and it was right on top! I still see the pride in his eyes as he retrieved my first duck! I’ll never forget how proud he was of me that day and how excited I was! I also hunted a lot of upland birds such as pheasant and quail. I remember the early days of being the dog and crashing through the brush before I was old enough to carry a gun.

What I’m getting at with this week’s article is that I was lucky to have a family with a strong outdoor tradition and all the passed down knowledge. From my mom driving me around to go hunting or fishing before I could drive, to dad, grandpa, and uncles often taking me hunting or



That’s me on the left, at around age five or six, with my dad.

fishing. I always had that support behind me when it came to the outdoors. I’m almost certain it kept me out of trouble as a youth when all I could think about was being outdoors. Not all people have that behind them. There’s many people out there that have interest in the outdoors but don’t know how to take that first step. I try to pass my passion on wherever I can, from passing our family traditions down to my daughter, to passing it on to friends or anyone who shows an interest. What I’m saying is, be that person that invites a friend, neighbor, coworker, or the neighborhood kids that might not have someone to introduce them to the outdoors. Pass on your passion whether it be hunting, fishing, camping, or hiking and biking the great trail systems throughout the Cedar Valley. Offer to pass it on, some people may have interest

but are afraid to ask or don’t know where to start. And if you’re the person with interest in the outdoors, don’t be afraid to ask someone you know. More than likely they will lend a hand to get you started. Also, do a Google search of clubs in our area such as Cedar Valley Bassmasters, Cedar Valley Walleye Club and Tuesday Night Bass Series. Also hunting clubs such as Blackhawk Archers or local chapters of Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation or Whitetails Unlimited. Most members of these clubs will gladly help get you started. Also most outdoor stores such as Hanks Live Bait and Tackle always welcome new people to the sport. You may just start family traditions of your own and I’m certain you will make many new friends along the way as I have in the outdoors. Until next time, Get Outdoors!

PEACE ON EARTH

Tiedt Nursery
2419 E. Bremer Ave.
Waverly
(319) 352-0418

Happy Holidays

The Jig & Fly Shop and Gary’s Wood & Craft
Garylee Thurm
405 5th St. Place
Readlyn
(319) 279-3228

WE wish YOU A Merry CHRISTMAS

RA Machine
2504 230th St.
(319) 279-3161

Merry Christmas

L&L Ag Repair
2220 Reed Ave.
(319) 279-3363

News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Mrs. Sullivan, media center associate, helped the 4th grade students at Fairbank Elementary with book reports that involved turning pumpkins into book characters.



The October Readlyn Warrior Way All Stars (below and below right) are being recognized at an assembly for being kind, respectful, responsible, safe, and always doing their best!

Fairbank and Readlyn Preschools had a great day exploring Fontana and feeding the animals.



Happy Holidays

Myers Polaris
 304 E. Main
 Fairbank, IA
 (319) 635-2311
 (888) 282-9992
 www.myerspolaris.com

Kristi S. Demuth Agency, Inc.
 408 W. Bremer Ave.
 Suite A, Waverly
 (319) 352-5530
 kdemuth@amfam.com

Nick's Repair
 211 Malone Ave., Readlyn
 (319) 279-3517 or
 (319) 269-5604
 Service & repair of small engines & outdoor power equipment

News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



The Fairbank October Warrior Way All Stars were acknowledged for showing the Warrior Way the whole month of October. They got to go play Bingo with residents at the Fairbank Assisted Living.



EWALU & Volga State Park

While spending two days in an outdoor learning environment, at EWALU and Volga State Park, 5th grade students from Readlyn and Fairbank learned how to build a survival shelter in the woods, used GPS units to locate geocaches, had opportunities to practice teamwork and communication in teambuilding activities. A few other highlights of the trip were ziplining, canoeing and fishing. The students did a great job showing the Warrior Way while representing the school and communities.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
Inspired Luncheonette
 314 Main St.
 (319) 279-3051

Hillcrest Living
 915 W. First St. Sumner, IA
 (563) 578-8591
 www.hillcrestsumner.com

Willow Winds Assisted Living
 121 Bremer Ave., Denver
 (319) 984-5867
 Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas
K.C. Auto Body, L.T.D.
 1701 East Bremer Ave.
 Waverly
 (319) 352-0881
 kcautobody@aol.com

Happy Holidays
Smith Excavating, Inc.
 1417 Whitetail Ave.,
 Sumner
 (319) 269-0952
 Fax (563) 578-1008

Schumacher Elevator Company
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 Denver, IA
 800-7795438
 www.schumacherelevator.com

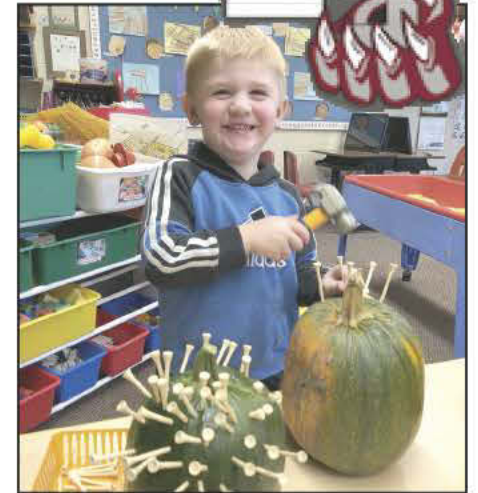
News from Community Lutheran School



Kaden Hesse shows off his colorful leaf he found on the leaf and acorn hunt at Readlyn City Park with the three-year-old preschool class!



Celebrating Pastor Appreciation Month with Pastor Phil in three-year-old preschool!



Ryker Burgart works his fine motor and eye-hand coordination skills hammering golf tees into pumpkins donated by Gary and Betty Matthias! Thank you for supporting our learning and school!



Trunk or treat - 150 kids tracked through the St. Paul Readlyn parking lot! Thank you to the CLS PTO for sponsoring this festive community event. A special thank you to the Readlyn First Responders for showcasing the ambulance! Thank you, Dan and Connie Wedemeier, for loaning the trailer for a wagon ride around town trick or treating!



Community Lutheran School
presents

One Starry Night


"AN INTERACTIVE JOURNEY IN BETHLEHEM"

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

CLS PTO will serve a free will donation meal of pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, green beans, strawberry fluff, and desserts from 5:00-6:15pm

The Starry Night children's worship begins at 6:30pm
Immanuel Klinger Church commons

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!



News from Community Lutheran School

Community Lutheran School k-gr. 7 celebrated Reformation Day immersed in the 1500s, October 31, 1517 to be exact, as they walked back in time with worship, fellowship, crafts, games, food and fun! Special thanks to the congregations of Immanuel and St. Paul for making this happen!!!



STO tax credits nearly gone

News from the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education

The School Tuition Organization Tax Credit program is a great way for taxpayers to help lower-income and working-class families afford the accredited, nonpublic school of their choice. Donors to an STO receive a 65% state income tax credit, and those funds are then used to give tuition grants to qualifying students.

The STO program also saves the state money - as estimated by the Iowa Department of Revenue, the program pays for itself AND saves the state an additional \$12.5 million!

Each STO has only a certain number of tax credits available and as of November 15, 5 of the 12 School Tuition Organizations (STOs) have given out all their tax credits. We anticipate that all credits statewide will be exhausted well before the December 31, 2018 deadline, so you need to hurry!

If you're interested in helping students and receiving a tax credit, contact an STO today. Please consult the STO directory on the ACE

website, as well as the current list of those STOs who no longer have tax credits, available on our home page. Thank you for supporting students!

Legislative Session Starts January 14

Elections are over and legislators are preparing for the 88th General Assembly, which convenes on January 14, 2019. Our partner organization, Iowa Advocates for Choice in Education will be there all session, working alongside coalition members to expand school choice for the benefit of Iowa's children.

Make sure you're signed up for legislative alerts on the Iowa Advocates website.

Proposed IRS Rule Could Impact STOs

Many of you responded to the action alert asking you to contact Federal legislators regarding a proposed IRS rule that would affect Federal deductibility of donations to School Tuition Organizations (STOs). Thank you for your action!

Best Wishes

Buhrow's Floors N' More
 240 South State St.
 Denver, IA
 (319) 984-5301 • (866) 984-5301
 bfloorsnmore@msh.com

balance
 Massage Therapy & Reiki
 Sheila Rosengarten,
 LMT, RMT
 136 Main St, Readlyn, IA
 (319)290-3392

Cedar Valley Portables, LLC
 Nashua
 (319) 535-3456 or
 cedarvalleyportables@gmail.com

PEACE ON EARTH

Doc's Knifeworks
 127 E. Main St.
 Denver
 319-984-6396

Merry CHRISTMAS

CrawDaddy Outdoors, LC
 Owner:
 Darrin Siefken
 107 E. Bremer Ave.,
 Waverly
 (319) 352-9129

JOY! JOY! JOY!

Schuldt Repair
 2261 Reed Ave.
 (319) 279-3539

'Tis the Season

KT Shrimp Farm
 101 1st St NW,
 Tripoli, Iowa
 (319) 483-8408

Zion Lutheran
Sunday School
Presents:

Wild West Christmas

When:
Sunday,
December 16
@ 6:00

Join us
afterwards for
cookies,
refreshments, and
fellowship!



Cowboys and Cowgirls
from the Wild West
ride into Readlyn to
watch the celebration
of Baby Jesus!

Pearls of Wisdom

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

“Christmas with Jesus in the ICU”

The following story is taken from our family diary back in 1991. At the time, we lived in Carbondale, Illinois, while I was completing my graduate study in Telecommunications at Southern Illinois University. Our son Jonathan was scheduled for his second heart-bypass that early December, but his surgeon broke a finger at a golf tournament. That mishap delayed the surgery for a week. The surgeon told us that Jon would be discharged right before Christmas.

The surgery took place as scheduled and everything seemed to go as planned. After five days, they moved him to the floor. Then, out of the blue, he got the flu. We thought that the place was sanitized and all the medical staff was very cautious about things like that. But, it did happen, so they moved him back to the ICU. Christmas was now a few days away, and we started to bargain with the Lord: “Lord, we would like to celebrate Christmas at home. Please, give Jon a speedy recovery.”

We thought that the Lord would not mind hearing a prayer like that. Meanwhile, we started to connect with few families around the ICU waiting area. We were all in the same boat and could easily connect by sharing stories about our sick children. The daughter of one African American lady fell down on an icy sidewalk and broke her femur. She happened to be a Southern Baptist and enjoyed talking about Jesus. She had the gift of encouragement and we thank the Lord for that.

Another woman had a daughter who suffered from a viral infection of the heart. The doctors gave her a few months to live. If that were not bad enough, she just found out that her husband was having an affair with her close friend living down the block. He served her the divorce papers while their daughter was being admitted in the ICU. “Lord, this is inhuman,” I said

to myself, as I listened to her story.

I was working in the computer lab one Wednesday afternoon when Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital of St. Louis called in. It was Dr. Ruis, a pediatric cardiologist, who informed me that Jon stopped breathing during a minor procedure on the general floor. Therefore, they had to put him back to the ICU again.

Now Christmas was just two days away. So, we resigned to the fact that this would be a Christmas at the hospital. On the way to St. Louis, I started to unload on the Lord. “Lord, didn’t you say that you would never leave nor forsake your people? Look at us, spending Christmas at the hospital of all places! Far away from families and friends on Christmas! Were we more sinful than others to deserve this Lord?” I could vividly remember hearing the echo of my prayers!

Jesus answered our prayer, “You will spend time with other families in the ICU.” That Christmas morning, the lady with a dying daughter was waiting for me to pray with her. Another family from Illinois was pretty depressed and needed encouragement. The ICU families huddled together and encouraged one another that Christmas. Looking back, Jesus was in our midst.

God taught me through that adversity that Jesus did not come to a happy perfect world, but a sin-sick world; a world plagued with suffering and pain, flawed with greed and indifference. Christmas is not about food, drink, and getting stuff. It is about God’s Son becoming one of us, living our harsh condition, giving special meaning and purpose to our life. Christmas is not always a happy holy-day for those who lost loved ones or job or health or relationship. Christ comes to them as well in their grief, loneliness, brokenness, and depression. Thick or thin, Jesus is God with us, our Emmanuel. May you experience his saving presence this Christmas!

Pastor Jean Rabary



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 9:15 a.m.
Divine Worship Service 10:30 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 8:00 AM



Zion Lutheran Church
240 Elmer Avenue
Readlyn, IA 50668
(319) 279-3643
Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
Sunday Divine Worship Service 8:30 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.

a season for **peace**

Parkview Assisted Living
Fairbank, Iowa
(319) 635-2585

Smiley's Family Dentistry
2024 3rd Ave. NW,
Waverly
319-352-2270

Helping Hands Clothing Closet
2029 Viking Ave.
Hwy. V56 - Sumner
Hours: Tuesdays, 9-11 AM
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM
First Saturday of the month 9-11 AM
Brief application required;
providing FREE clothing to those in need

His Hands Food Pantry
5002 Main Street
Oran
Hours: Tuesdays, 5-8 PM
Fridays 9 AM-12 Noon
Brief application required
Currently serving Readlyn, Sumner,
Fairbank and Oran area residents