

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 13, No. 1, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, January 29, 2020



This is the group of volunteers that deliver the *Readlyn Chronicle* to area communities. Left to right are Charlie and Wilda Albrecht, Roland Schmidt, Ron Leistikow, Don and Marylou Billhorn and Verdeen Plavelec

Chronicle Committee says 'Thank You' to all sponsors

The *Readlyn Chronicle* Committee met on Jan 8 to look at the past year of donations of current sponsors and to see if those total donations will be enough to continue printing and distribution of the *Chronicle* in the future. Of course, the

Chronicle will continue.

Committee members cannot say enough thank yous to all of this past year's sponsors of the *Chronicle*. Without your support, it would not be possible to continue this publication.

In addition to the sponsors, all of those who contribute news items deserve thanks along with staff at the Readlyn Library that sends news to the publisher. We also have many volunteers that deliver the *Chronicle* to area sponsors each month

that need to be thanked.

Lastly, a big thank you to Kim Adams, Robin Harms and staff at Horizon Publishing in Jesup for editing and putting the paper together and for printing and distribution of each issue of the *Chronicle*.

It's time to caucus!

The Republican caucuses will be held for the City of Readlyn, Maxfield and Franklin Townships at Denver High School 541 E Eagle St, Denver.

Republican caucuses will be held on Monday, Feb 3, at 7:00 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE: Readlyn Community Club Dinner and Trivia Saturday, March 28, 2020 Readlyn Event Center

The theme is "20/20" and we will have eyeglasses as our decorations. Please wear fun eyeglasses and/or donate glasses for decorations.

Community Calendar

Mondays - Novel Knitters
6:00 pm at the library

Saturday, February 1: Pepper Tournament, Readlyn Library (use back door) 2:00 pm

Tuesday, February 11: Coloring at the Library 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Thursday, February 13: Readlyn Community Club meeting -6:30 pm for board members and 7:00 pm for all members; meet at Inspired

Thursday, February 13: Deadline for the Feb. 26 issue of the *Readlyn Chronicle*, 5 pm

Friday, February 14: Happy Valentine's Day!



Thursday, February 20: Foot Clinic 10:30 am at the Library

Thursday, February 27: Book Talk 7:00 pm at the Library

Grump's Grumblings

By Roland Schmidt



Hello everyone! Not much to say this month. The holidays are over but I had a great time passing out Christmas treat bags to all of the children at Christmas On Main. It looked and sounded like everyone had a good time.

With the colder weather upon us, please, remember to check in on your loved ones

and your pets to make sure they are warm and safe.

Like I said, there's not a lot to talk about. That's what happens when it's wintertime in Iowa. Be careful in the snow and on the ice. Remember, spring training isn't too far off. Go, Cubs!

BCCF and Readlyn Community Fund grant application available

Grant applications can now be submitted to the Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund for their 2020 grant cycle. The deadline to submit applications is 11:59 p.m. March 31, 2020. 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 both grant cycles and detailed information for each cycle can be found within the grant guidelines. The online grant application and guidelines can be found at either www.bremercfc.org or www.readlyncf.org. Completed applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm March 31, 2020 to be considered for funding. Grant recipients will be announced in June 2020.

First-time grant applicants should contact Dotti Thompson, program manager at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, at (319) 243-1358 or dthompson@cfnea.org 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.

In 2019, a total of \$158,788.16 in discretionary grants were awarded to 50 area nonprofit and government agency projects serving Bremer County communities. Since 2005, the Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund has awarded more than \$2.2 million in grants benefitting Bremer County residents and communities.

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

About BCCF and RCF

The Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund are local organizations making grants to organizations creating a stronger and more vibrant quality of life in the community and helping people establish permanent funds for the causes they care about in their community. The Community Foundations are affiliates of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, a nonprofit committed to creating long-term impact in 20 counties in Iowa. For more information, contact 319-287-9106 or visit www.cfnea.org. CFNEIA is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

Email news to:

ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com



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CLIP AND SAVE!

Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation Agency

will observe the following holidays in 2020. There will be no garbage pickup on the following days:

- Memorial Day Monday, May 25, 2020
- Independence Day Friday, July 3, 2020
- Labor Day Monday, September 7, 2020
- Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 26, 2020
- Day after Thanksgiving Friday, November 27, 2020
- Christmas Friday, December 25, 2020
- New Year's Day Friday, January 1, 2021

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.



www.readlynsavingsbank.com
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Readlyn Community Happenings

Auxiliary meets January 14

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary #5661 met January 14, 2020 at the home of Darlene Peters with 5 members present. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and treasurer's reports were read from November and December 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 a bill. Carried. A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Ellen Thies to pay another bill. Carried. Volunteer hours were turned in.

A thank-you was sent to Jim and Tammy Wolf for using their office for Auxiliary's Christmas on Main. 110 poppies were

handed out and some pictures and cards of the Freedom Rock were sold. Five members helped Darlene Peters frost cookies for Santa Claus.

A thank-you was read from Verdeen Pavelec for a Kwik Trip Gift Card after hospitalization. Fourteen Legislative letters were handed out about Veterans bills to Congressman. We are still a nation at war, with troops actively engaged in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and in 167 other countries around the world. 6617 pop tabs were turned in and 119 canceled stamps.

The motion was made by Ellen Thies and seconded by Marjorie Macken to adjourn. Carried. Closed with prayer. Hostess was Darlene Peters.

~ Obituary ~



Ruth Venzke

Sumner, formerly of Readlyn

A remarkable life has ended at 104 years as Ruth Elnore Venzke transitioned to her heavenly home on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, at Cobblestone Court Assisted Living in Sumner.

Ruth was born on October 16, 1915, in Eldon, Iowa, the eldest of three daughters to Dr. Harold and Marietta Johnston (Brownlee). She graduated from the Washington, Iowa high school in 1933, and from the University of Iowa in 1938 with a Liberal Arts Degree in General Science and a fondness for Chemistry. After college, Ruth worked at the Animal Science labs at Iowa State University in Ames, where she met the love of her life, Carl Venzke, who was a 1936 ISU College of Veterinary Medicine graduate doing research there. The couple married in Boone, Iowa, during a blizzard on March 20, 1940.

Carl's service in World War II brief-

ly kept the pair apart, but following the war, the Venzkes established a successful large-animal veterinary practice in Readlyn, Iowa where they supported many of the dairy, cattle, and hog operations in Bremer County. There they raised their two boys, Craig and Richard, and looked after her parents who lived next door. Ruth and Carl enjoyed a marvelous 69 years together until Carl passed in 2009.

On top of managing the large veterinary practice, Ruth kept a meticulous home—her family often joked that even the furnace and basement water heater were kept well-dusted! Ruth loved to entertain family and friends, often hosting her bridge club members at her Readlyn home. She purchased a new car at age 95 and continued driving until age 101. This independent and determined lady resettled to Cobblestone Court in Sumner in early 2017, where she resided until her passing.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Harold and Marietta; husband Carl; two sisters, Rachel (Johnston) McGarry Miller, and Etta (Johnston) Case; and eldest son, Craig. She is survived by son Richard of Waterloo; granddaughter Katie (Venzke) Flores of Dubuque; four grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews.

Per her wishes, Ruth has been cremated and memorial services were held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 27, 2019. A private burial of remains will be held at a later date in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages friends to remember Ruth by donating to St. Paul's Church, Community Lutheran School in Readlyn, or by being kind to animals and donating to an animal rescue operation/humane society of their choosing.

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

Pepper Tournament held Jan. 4

The first pepper tournament of 2020 was held at the Watering Hole on Saturday, January 4. The winners and their scores were:

1st Place: Suzanne Heineman and Judy Henn - 220

2nd Place: Karan Boevers and Shirley Kuker - 206

3rd Place: Connie and Roger Buhr - 172

4th Place: Joan Matthias and Tanya Brunscheon - 158

Our next pepper tournament will be at the Readlyn Library (use back door) on Saturday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$3.00. Bring a partner!

Thank You

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to those who expressed condolences after the loss of my brother, Dan. I can't thank you enough for making me feel a part of your community. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work at the Readlyn Post Office as your clerk. Thank you.

Jennifer VanBrocklin

Thank You

to my children, family & friends, for all of the help while in Allen Hospital and at home with pneumonia and again when I had a pacemaker put in. Thank you for all of your prayers, get well wishes, cards, phone calls, visits and gifts. I greatly appreciate it. Thanks again and God bless you.

Verdeen Pavelec

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Valentine Pancake Breakfast

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Sunday, Feb. 16, 8 AM-12 PM

American Legion Hall, Sumner

Menu includes:

All-you-can-eat pancakes with sausage, milk and coffee

Free-will donation

Proceeds will go to Sumner Emergency Medical Services

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319-279-3375 M-F 8-4:30 pm

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Asking \$13,000 • Offers will be considered



Readlyn Community Library

We put the READ in Readlyn

Patrick Brodigan
Nancy Lockard
Tina Ristau

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

In Loving Memory

Cash Memorials

In Memory of Ruth Venzke
Roger and Connie Buhr

In Memory of Diane Oltrogge
Don and Mary Lou Billhorn

In Memory of Larry Kuhlmann
Rex and Barb Blaylock

Book Memorials

In Memory of Lawrence Judisch
"Three Cheers for Kid McGear" by
Sherri Rinker from Farmers Co-op
Readlyn and Shell Rock

"This Book Just Stole my Cat" by Richard Byrne from Farmers Co-op Readlyn and Shell Rock

Thank you for your generosity

Foot Clinics Are Back

The Bremer County Health Department have began having foot clinics at the Readlyn Library on the 3rd Thursday of every month.



Winter Weather Advisory

Although the library rarely closes, Iowa's winter months can be notoriously unpredictable.

We may be closing unexpectedly due to road conditions and travel advisories.

In severe weather, we urge you to call the library (319-279-3432) to make sure we are open. Closings will be announced on KWWL and Facebook page.



Color Us Creative

JOIN US

Tuesday, February 11th
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Hours:

Monday	10:00 - 7:00
Tuesday	10:00 -5:00
Wednesday	10:00 -5:00
Thursday	10:00 - 7:00
Friday	10:00 -5:00
Saturday	9:00 - 12:00

What Libraries Do for You

Libraries are community hubs. In addition to connecting people to information, libraries connect people to people. They are safe havens for kids when school is not in session, offering after school homework help, games and book clubs. Libraries offer computer classes, enabling older adults stay engaged in a digital world. Bookmobiles and community outreach programs keep those living in remote areas or those who are homebound connected to the larger community.

Public libraries also help communities cope with the unexpected. Libraries play a key role in the wake of natural disasters; after Hurricane Sandy, for example, people left homeless by the storm were filling libraries in New York and New Jersey, using library computers to complete federal forms and communicating with loved ones using the library's internet connections.

Libraries level the playing field. As great democratic institutions, serving people of every age, income level, location, ethnicity, or physical ability, and providing the full range of information resources needed to live, learn, govern, and work.

How has the Community Library impacted your life?

Readlyn Reads - Book Talk

February's title: Being Mortal by Atul Gawande

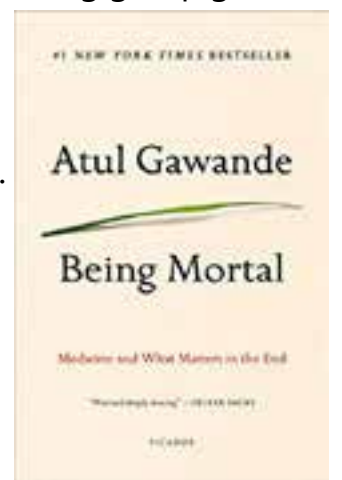
Pick up a copy at the library and join us for discussion on **February 28th**

Named a Best Book of the Year by *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times Book Review*, NPR, and *Chicago Tribune*, now in paperback with a new reading group guide

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming the dangers of childbirth, injury, and disease from harrowing to manageable. But when it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should.

Through eye-opening research and gripping stories of his own patients and family, Gawande reveals the suffering this dynamic has produced. Nursing homes, devoted above all to safety, battle with residents over the food they are allowed to eat and the choices they are allowed to make. Doctors, uncomfortable discussing patients' anxieties about death, fall back on false hopes and treatments that are actually shortening lives instead of improving them.

In his bestselling books, Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, has fearlessly revealed the struggles of his profession. Now he examines its ultimate limitations and failures-in his own practices as well as others'-as life draws to a close. Riveting, honest, and humane, *Being Mortal* shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life-all the way to the very end.



We are Empty Without You!

Do you have any interesting hobbies or collections you would like to share? Please ask us about having a month long showcase in the library display. This is a great opportunity to share an interesting passion with the community.





Compiled by Bob Thrane

Readlyn, Long Ago

The Readlyn Savings Bank was robbed June 3, 1981, 28 years ago. Nancy Erhardt

and Sue Seedorf collaborated in providing an excellent report of this exciting episode

in Readlyn history. The following story was published in *The Forum* of June 9, 1981.

Readlyn Bank robbed

By Nancy Erhardt and Sue Seedorf

"At approximately 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, 1981, a white male, 6'1" to 6'2", slender build, in his late twenties, dark hair, blue jeans, cap, gray shirt and a handkerchief mask, entered the Readlyn Savings Bank displaying a long barrel, small caliber handgun and demanded money.

"The money, an undetermined amount, was placed in a black leather bag and the gunman left the bank in an unknown direction. The Bremer County Law Enforcement Center is soliciting the public's help."

Those few words were the official statement released by the Bremer County Sheriff following the robbery of the Readlyn Savings Bank Wednesday afternoon, June 3.

Unofficially, the shock and disbelief of what had happened spread throughout Readlyn within minutes as the news, "The bank's been robbed!" was repeated up and down Main Street, via phone and person-to-person in town.

Within minutes after the robbery, county law enforcement officials converged on the Readlyn Savings Bank, ordered the doors locked and business was brought to a halt. The hand-written "closed" sign on the door verified the story that spread rapidly through the community.

Sheriff William Westendorf and Detective Richard Greenlee were the first officials on the scene. They were followed in a relatively short time by officials of the FBI, the DCI, and news media people from throughout the state.

For the residents of Readlyn, the robbery will be a topic of conversation for a long time. Following is the story as pieced together by representatives of this newspaper.

There were three employees on duty at the bank during the normally quiet noon hour: assistant vice-president Virgil Matthias, and tellers Glenyce Bruns and Grace Kuethe. Bruns was working the inside counter alone. Kuethe was on the drive-up window.

According to Matthias, he left Bruns attending the counter when he went outside to check on a workman who was repairing the bank sign. As Matthias walked out of the bank, he noticed a stranger enter the bank, but suspected nothing and proceeded outside to speak to the workman for about three or four minutes. The workman asked Matthias to plug in an electrical cord for him inside the bank and, as Matthias entered the bank with the cord, Bruns called to him.

As Matthias responded to her call, he found that she was already being held at gunpoint behind the counter. The gunman instructed them to put money from the cash drawer into a black leather bag. According to the bank employees, the gunman then went into the vault. While the robbery was taking place, Grace Kuethe walked from the drive-up window area to a meeting room between the window and the lobby of the bank. She saw the stranger standing behind the checkout counter with his back to her and saw the gun aimed at Bruns.

Undetected, Kuethe left the bank by the back entrance and went to Fluff's Salon, where she reported that she thought there was a robbery going on. Kuethe and Julie Albrecht, an employee at Fluff's, phoned the



bank. When there was no answer they knew something was wrong and decided to call the sheriff's office. Before the call was completed, however, Matthias emerged from the bank.

In addition to Bruns and Matthias, an unidentified customer who had entered the bank just as the gunman was leaving was also ordered to lie on the floor for a certain length of time before leaving.

Matthias recounted later that, "The gunman didn't appear to be nervous. He seemed to know what he was doing." The time of the robbery, according to Matthias, was 12:15, as he recalled noting the time when the robber asked the employees to lie down behind the counter.

Following a request by Bremer County Sheriff Bill Westendorf for any information residents might have, many local persons have offered information that they hope might aid officials in their search for clues. Bremer County Deputy Sheriff Thomas O'Brien, Detective Rich Greenlee, Agent Bill Dion of the Waterloo office of the FBI and agents from the DCI were on hand Wednesday afternoon canvassing the immediate area for evidence and information that might lead to an arrest and conviction.

Area residents were able to offer information about seeing a man fitting the description of the gunman shortly after noon rummaging through a dark colored bag; another couple reported seeing a man walking through their yard on the block behind the bank sometime Wednesday morning; and proprietors of Randy's Café said two strangers had been to their restaurant prior to the robbery.

Officials were continuing to question anyone who might be able to shed light on the person or persons responsible for the theft. Speculation was that the gunman fled on foot to a car which was parked a short distance from the bank and left town.

Last Wednesday's robbery was the first for the bank which has served the community for 77 years, and has been the topic of conversation for residents since. Although the bank recently added a camera system to their existing silent alarm system, both were ineffectual in the robbery June 3.

Although no dollar figure has been released, Sheriff William Westendorf said that the gunman escaped with "a substantial amount," and vice-president of the bank Virgil Matthias verified that.

As the investigation continued, representatives from the news media converged on the

town with television cameras, recorders, etc., to carry the news to papers, radio stations and television stations throughout the state.

When official statements were made available to the press, WMT's Berry Butters, KW-WL's newsman Gary Sarnoff and cameraman John Dodge, and Waverly's Linda Moeller, as well as representatives from the *Waterloo Courier*, were actively pursuing their stories and following up leads in time to meet deadlines for late afternoon and early evening news.

The notoriety of the afternoon's events brought curious people out on the streets for a firsthand look at the investigation that follows a bank robbery. For them it was being a part of something they had previously only read about in the papers, or watched on television as it happened in somebody else's town.

As law enforcement officers continued to work, the Readlyn residents came to grips with the fact that the unthinkable has occurred in this small town. The routine of daily life resumes, but the impact remains. Residents agree with bank president Burton Stumme that first thoughts were for the safety of bank employees and he was relieved that no one was hurt. (Stumme was returning from a trip to Illinois when he heard the news on his car radio.)

The initial reaction of Readlyn residents ... "I can't believe it! — In Readlyn? — You're kidding!" has subsided, but townspeople are now very much aware —

It can happen here!

Citizens react

The following information about the holdup was offered by area citizens:

After leaving the bank without being recognized, the robber walked to his getaway car which was parked across the street from the Readlyn Historical Society addition. He then drove to a nearby town and hid the car under blankets in his parent's garage. This same car was used to transport workers to John Deere. Citizens were not aware of the identity of the Readlyn robber until he was apprehended after his second bank robbery, which took place in the area.

They were shocked to find out the Readlyn robber was a mild-mannered young man, a student at the University of Iowa, whose behavior was completely out of character. The suspect was perceived as an upstanding young man from a good family being influenced by his friends to do something absolutely stupid. The rumor was the loot from the Readlyn robbery was used to finance a party in Chicago.

The young man was sentenced to a multi-year term to be served at the Iowa State Reformatory in Anamosa. People who visited him said he should not be there — he was no hardened criminal. He was released and is now living somewhere in the East.

My observation: I spent more than 20 years as a high school guidance counselor. On several occasions, I appeared in court as a character witness at hearings of students. Two boys were hunting, and, as a lark, fired many shots into an overhead cable. This interrupted communication throughout the entire Midwest for an extended period at great cost to locate and repair the damage. At the hearing I stated that the two students were fine young men who did something really stupid. They were not charged.

I feel that this was the same type of young man who did something totally stupid, however, his transgressions could not be overlooked.

Editor's Note

The name of the bank robber has been purposely omitted from this article. He served his time, hopefully learned from this mistake, and has moved on. But, for a day, he was undoubtedly the most famous unknown man in the city of Readlyn, Iowa.



Wednesday, June 3 began as just another normal working day for Readlyn Bank employees Glenyce Bruns and Virgil Matthias until 12:10 p.m. when a lone gunman entered the bank, held them at gunpoint, demanded money, and forced the two to lie down as he fled.



News from Community Lutheran School

Joy to the World! On Wednesday, December 18, all of the students of Community Lutheran School led the worship service entitled, "A Christmas Alphabet." The evening was filled with hymns and memorized Bible verses that tell the message of God's eternal love and gift of forgiveness through His Son Jesus Christ!



The interactive alphabet stage



Three and four-year-old preschool students sang songs, led a prayer, recited a Bible verse, and led a responsive reading.

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



Preschool Registration Night

Community Lutheran School 

Thursday, February 20, 2020
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
124 West 4th Street, Readlyn
Phone: (319)-279-3541
Email: office@communitylutheralschool.com

3 Year Old Options

- M - F 8:00 - 11:30am - \$150/month
- M,W,F 8:00 - 11:30am - \$125/month
- T ,TH 8:00 - 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 8:00 - 11:30am – No Tuition, covered by grant
- **Extended Day Preschool Program:**
M - F 8:00am - 3:30pm – Learn more at Registration Night or call the office. Activities include lunch, recess, rest time, specials, interest area choices, and structured teacher directed Kindergarten experience activities.

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 Annual Physical
- \$50 nonrefundable registration fee
- Registration paperwork**

Before and after school care available
for preschool and school age children at
\$2.75/hr per 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.

News from **Community Lutheran School**



*Deadline for February 26
Readlyn Chronicle:*

Thurs., Feb. 13, 5 PM

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News from **Wapsie Valley Elementary**

Preschool through 6th grade students showered us with music at the Winter Concerts this year! A huge thanks to Mrs. Howerzyl and Ms. Stanbary for putting on two great nights of entertainment!



Proceeds from Fall Dinner/Auction are distributed to classrooms

Members of the WV Education Foundation board of directors met on Wednesday, Jan. 15 to review classroom enrichment grants submitted by WV faculty. All of the applications were excellent and reflected the purpose for what they were intended, "to develop innovative, motivational, and educational experiences for their students." Each application was presented by Samantha Thorton, 7-12 principal, or Dana Harskamp, PreK-6 principal, who also answered questions that board members had regarding each application.

By the end of the meeting, the following enrichment grants were awarded:

Elementary PreK-6
Kindergarten
2nd Grade
All Grades
Hallway Sensory Paths
Math Kits & Classroom Libraries
6th Grade
Rural Schools
Elementary Music-Grades 4-6
Readlyn TAG/Title 1
Readlyn PreK-6
Fairbank K-6
Rural Buildings
Secondary
7-12 English/TAG/Communication
Industrial Technology
Physical Education
7-12 Math
7-12 English Classrooms
English
Social Studies
Art
Total

Notes

Osmo Genius and Little Genius are an extension of the use of an iPad in the classroom.	\$377.94
2nd Grade - Brain Pop Subscription and Flexible Seating	\$997.73
Literacy Week	\$2,000.00
A hallway sensory path used by a student when needing a break from the classroom.	\$718.98
Early skill development in math and enhancement of classroom libraries.	\$1,000.00
Increased reading options to include classroom novel studies/mentor texts in reading	\$1,000.00
Rural Literacy Assessment System	\$1,000.00
MalMark Choir Chimes.	\$1,275.00
Whiteboard Table for classroom	\$405.09
IEP "Really Great Reading"-phonics boost classroom setup	\$1,974.00
IEP Math Curriculum	\$1,700.45
Alternate Seating Options	\$750.00

Notes


Extended technology in classroom-2 additional iPads	\$750.00
Replacement JET combination disc/belt sander	\$1,700.00
2 iPads for instructors	\$700.00
Hands-on instructional tools in areas of geometry and algebra	\$511.26
Increase reading options for all reading levels.	\$750.00
Flexible seating options for small groups	\$252.38
Current world and US wall maps	\$497.98
Ceramics Tools	\$1,900.03
Total	\$20,260.84

News from **Wapsie Valley Elementary**



2020 Town Hall Meetings with House Representative Sandy Salmon

Date	Town	Location	Time
Feb. 1	Sumner	Library 206 N. Railroad St.	9:00-10:00 AM
Feb. 1	Readlyn	Library 309 Main St.	11:00-12:00 PM
Feb. 8	Denver	Community Room 100 Washington St.	9:00-10:00 AM
Feb. 8	Dunkerton	Library 203 E. Tower St.	11:00-12:00 PM
Feb. 15	Plainfield	Community Room 723 Main St.	9:00-10:00 AM
Feb. 15	Frederika	Community Room 113- 3 rd St.	11:00-12:00 PM
Feb. 22	Janesville	City Hall 227 Main St.	9:00-10:00 AM
Feb. 22	Tripoli	Library 101-4 th Ave. SW	11:00-12:00 PM



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Readlyn Senior Citizens hold meetings

On December 18, 2019, 19 members attended the 11:30 meal at Inspired for the Senior Citizens lunch and meeting. Ron Leistikow led everyone in prayer before the meal. The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow.

The Meeting

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$181.00. Motion was made by Larry Ladage and seconded by Don Billhorn to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The minutes from the November 20 2019 meeting were read. Motion was made by Roland Schmidt and seconded by Judy Leistikow to approve the Secre-

tary's minutes. Motion carried.

We all introduced ourselves to the new member Marilyn Lampe as she moved here from Frederika. There was one birthday for the month of December. We all sang Happy Birthday to Ron Leistikow on his 80th Birthday. Those in the hospital were Verdeen Pavelec and Henry Tiedt with pneumonia. Ron Leistikow had ankle surgery. They are all back to their places of residency.

Old Business

December 3 at 5:30 it was reported that 14 grumps, 10 spouses and 1 guest attended the annual Grump dinner at the Watering Hole.

Christmas on Main was Friday, De-

ember 13 and was a hit! Santa and the Grump handed out 125 sacks and cookies. Thank you to GaryLee Thurm for helping out that evening and to Darlene Peters for making all the cookies for the children.

New Business

The Annual Meeting for the Readlyn Community Club will be in March, 2020. Grump candidates are needed so the new 2020 Grump can be voted on.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 15 at 11:30 at Inspired.

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

Lois Thacher Secretary

January Meeting

On January 15, 2019, 16 members attended the 11:30 meal at Inspired for the Senior Citizens lunch and meeting.

Ron Leistikow led everyone in prayer before the meal. The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow.

The Meeting

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$197.00.

The secretary's minutes from the December 18, 2019 meeting were read. There was a correction that the Annual Grump Dinner on December 3 was reported as taking place at the Watering Hole but it was at the Readlyn Community Library. Correction was made.

Motion was made by Don Billhorn and seconded by Marlys Deterding to approve the treasurer's report and secretary's minutes with the one correction. Motion carried.

We all signed and sent a get-well card to Verdeen Pavelec as she was in the hospital for pneumonia and came home and then returned to the hospital and she is

recovering at home again.

The members all sang Happy Birthday to Wilda Albrecht as her birthday is January 20.

Old Business

Pat Wehr reported that the Annual Meeting for the Readlyn Community Club will be March 28, 2020 and it will start at 5:30 PM at the Watering Hole. The theme will be 20/20 this year and old pairs of glasses are needed. Please contact Pat Wehr if you have any old glasses to donate for that evening to decorate with.

New Business

Roland Schmidt, the 2019 Grump, reported that Sunrise Catering catered the meal for the December 3 Annual Grump Meal. A thank you was sent to Sunrise Catering for the great meal they catered that evening and for donating back their tip money to the Library. This was not brought up at the December 18 meeting.


An addition to the Christmas on Main that was held on Friday, December 18: a big thank you was not mentioned to Brent Leistikow for donating the tree that was lit up that evening and also for the Telephone Company for decorating the tree.

February 13, 2020 will be the 7:00 PM meeting for the Community Club at Inspired. Plans will be discussed on different ideas for the Annual Community Club meal, meeting and fun night at that time. This was not mentioned at the December 18 Senior Citizens meeting as New Business at that time.

The Next Senior Citizens Meeting will be February 19, 2020 at 11:30 AM at Inspired.

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

Lois Thacher Secretary

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Santa poses with two of the large number of children attending Christmas On Main December 13.



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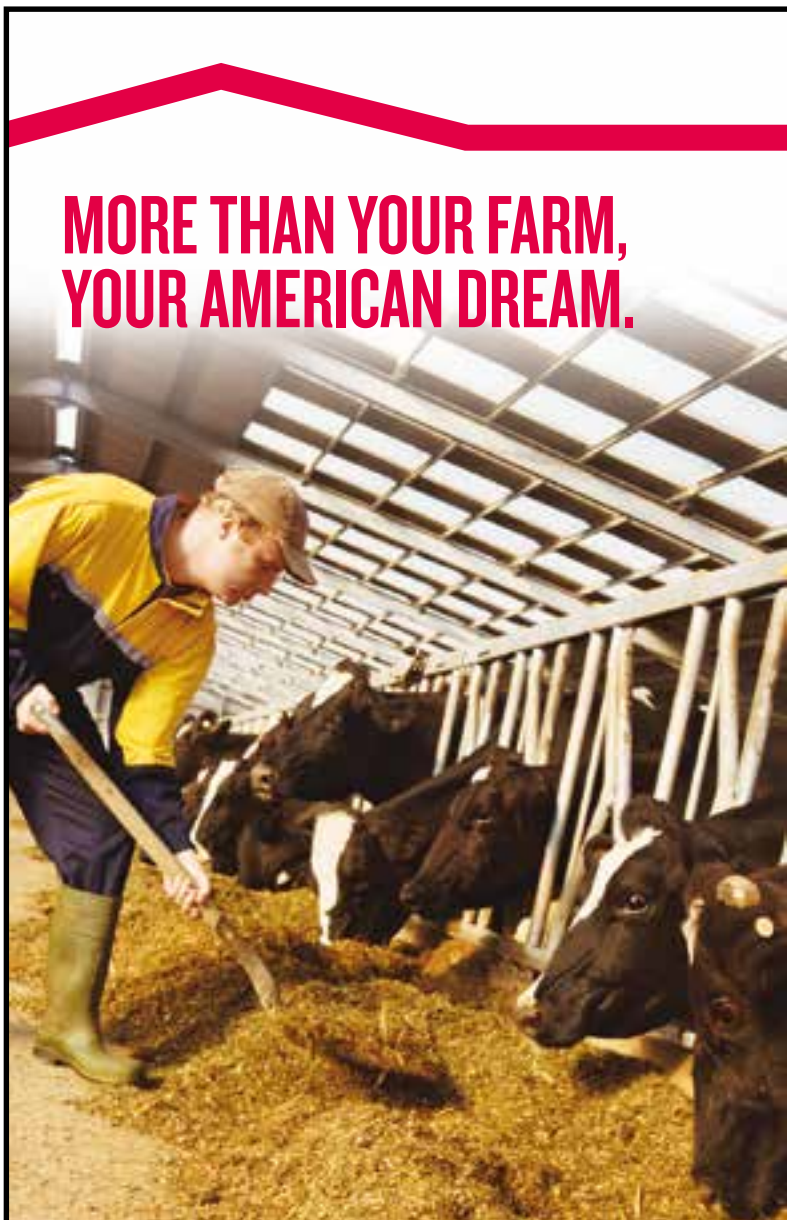
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Its hard to believe we are already at the end of January! I hope you all had a great holiday season and are having a great start to the new year! A couple of months ago I profiled my 2019 waterfowl season and the fun I had over the course of the season. This month I'm going to share the ups and downs of the 2019 deer season.

My 2019 deer season really began late last winter/early spring with the activities of shed hunting and scouting new areas. As I've noted in past articles, I've recently tried to start hunting closer to home right near the Readlyn area. So last spring I put the boots to the ground and started checking out the many acres of public hunting areas within minutes of Readlyn.

Late winter is the best time to scout. As the snow melts, last fall's deer sign is all right in front of you preserved from the snow. With the season months away, you can push into areas you wouldn't want to penetrate near the season in worry of pushing deer out of your area. I had thought of talking with local landowners and farmers in search of an area to bow hunt, but held off for now and accepted the challenge of hunting public land.

By the end of spring, I had found a handful of areas I felt had high big buck potential and hopefully low human activity. My plan was to hunt with my Dad at our hunting cabin in Delaware County on weekends he could hunt and spend the rest of my time hunting close to home. I'm primarily a bow hunter, but do pick up my Traditions Muzzleloader for the late season. As October 1 rolled around (Iowa's Bow Season Opener), my anticipation was high and I found myself in full Mossy Oak Camo overlooking a DNR food plot on a local piece of public ground. That evening

after work was a great sit with cool temps and lots of deer movement. The does made their way out first and soon to follow were three bucks, the biggest being a beautiful 140" 10-pointer that I had a few pictures of from my trail camera over the summer. The evening ended with no deer in bow range, but was quite a show watching the deer in the field. I hunted that same area a few more times through the early season and had great deer activity. I had opportunities at smaller bucks, but nothing I was wanting to take.

As I got further into October, my dad and I began preparing the cabin for the three-week window of late October/early November. We had talked a lot throughout the year about changes we needed to make in our area down there. We have hunted that area for over 25 years now and had begun to become somewhat complacent on stands and strategies. I spent most of late October moving tree stands, some only a distance of 20 yards. We hoped by changing some things up we could take the deer at a little more of a surprise. We had decent deer activity the last weekend of October and were very excited heading into our four-day vacation the first week of November.

Friday, November 1, arrived, and along with it came a fresh early snow. I was pumped and even left work early to start vacation and get in the stand that afternoon. I sat in the stand a long time that afternoon with minimal deer activity. With about 45 minutes left of legal time, I caught movement coming out of the woods and into the hayfield. It was a buck and one of the bigger ones we had on our trail cameras over the summer.

He worked his way slowly from my

right to left out in the field at about 50 yards. As he made his way across the hayfield, I videoed him and realized he was not going to come any closer unless I made something happen. I pulled out my grunt call and gave him a couple soft grunts. This got his attention and he immediately started to come into the timber towards me. He made his way 25 yards standing straight on looking my way. He turned his head briefly and I drew my bow to full draw. I patiently waited at full draw for him to turn broadside. He took a long time and finally started to turn for my shot. He ended up turning completely around and I couldn't stop him for a shot. He walked away and headed toward a stand my dad was sitting in 200 yards away. I later would find out my dad saw him briefly and he turned to the east and walked away. I would ultimately have three more close calls with him in the next three days, but he was always just out of range.

On the morning of Monday, November 4, I had a great opportunity at a beautiful doe for the freezer and I took the shot. It was a quick track job and I had a doe that my wife and I processed into burger and steaks. The vacation weekend ended with me and dad having opportunities at small bucks but again nothing we were after. You can check out my video journal of that weekend on my YouTube channel, "The EDJ Outdoors."

The next few weekends dad had other obligations and couldn't go to the cabin which opened the door for me to try my areas near Readlyn. My plan was to go into each area with a climbing stand and setup over areas I found the previous spring. My first few hunts proved productive and I saw a lot of deer. One particular morning, I hiked nearly a mile back into a public section and set up in the dark. After daylight, I was quickly rewarded with turkey and pheasant sightings. It was a lot of fun to watch the birds do their thing while I waited for deer. Soon after watching the turkeys and pheasants, I spotted some movement and a small herd of five does moving towards me. The does were in range and I had a Bremer County doe tag, but being that far in I elected to pass

on the does and wait on a buck. Shortly after the does moved through, an awesome 130" eight-pointer was on the same trail as the does and heading my way. He moved to within 25 yards, but never presented a clear shot, so again I let him go.

I continued to hunt local and saw lots of deer and surprisingly little human activity. I would sit twice the last weekend of bow season and had a crazy encounter the last weekend of the bow season.

I had sat an afternoon hunt and had only seen one doe and climbed down from the tree at nearly dark. As I started to take my climbing stand off the tree, I heard a deer start to snort very loudly. This is typically a warning call for deer of danger and I thought, "There's no way they could be blowing at me," when suddenly I heard crashing through the woods and a buck grunting at a doe. The running got closer and I grabbed my bow out of self defense! The doe ran by so close she brushed against my arm. Then came the buck and he stopped at five yards and then ran again. Probably one of the craziest times I've experienced in the woods and something I won't soon forget!

As the bow season came to a close I ended with my buck tag unfilled, but many memories! As the shotgun seasons passed, I anxiously awaited the Iowa late muzzleloader season. With the holidays and family obligations, I would have to wait until early January to be able to hunt. As you remember, we had a very unseasonably warm Christmas season and the deer just weren't moving with my normal bed-to-feed pattern tactics. I hooked up the last weekend of the season with good friends Jason Swanson, Joe Bellis, and Nycholas Swanson in hopes of filling our tags with some does. We implemented a tactic we call wind bumping.

Wind bumping is similar to a shotgun deer drive, but much slower and, in Iowa, you can't share tags during muzzleloader like you can shotgun hunting. The tactic is to post two guys on the downwind side of a section and have two walkers walk through the woods with the wind at their backs blowing their scent through the woods and "bumping" them to the posters. Many times the walkers will get shots because they move so slow.

We wind bumped on the last day we were able to hunt and Jason was able to take a big doe with a phenomenal 175-yard shot! I soon connected on our last bump on a 40-yard shot on a big doe. The shot was great, but she made her way 100 yards and all the way in the bottom of a ravine. Fortunately, we had Nycholas and his 17-year-old legs and back to help get her out!! It was a great way to end the 2019 deer season and I was able to drop some meat off at the Oran Locker to have sticks and sausage made.

This was a successful season for me even without taking a nice buck with my bow. The memories made are a trophy to me.

I hope you enjoyed my recap and as always feel free to email me at eric250ex@gmail.com and lets talk outdoors! Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!



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Annual appreciation breakfast held for Wapsie FFA supporters

By Kaylee Kleitsch, Chapter Reporter

If you just happened to be driving past the Wapsie Valley High School around 5:45 AM on December 18, you would've noticed more cars parked there than on a typical day. That morning, twenty six dedicated FFA members were in the school preparing food for their supporters. The Appreciation Breakfast is a yearly event hosted by the members of the Wapsie Valley FFA chapter in order to show their thanks to the community that supports them throughout the year.

The process starts about a month before the event. The committee members in charge of this project write and send over one hundred invitations to teachers, community members, and businesses who have showed their support throughout the years. After the invitations get sent out, supplies are ordered and bought by the committee. Fast forward to the morning of the breakfast, and the students are busy cooking eggs, sausage, and hash browns, frosting donuts and sorting fruit. A few members start serving at 7:00 AM, and by the time the school bell rings at 8:15, everything is wrapped up and everyone goes on with their day.

Ethan Oltrogge, an FFA member in his junior year, says, "We may have had

a few downfalls, but we were able to gather and pull it off as a team! The meal was great and those who ate loved it!" A huge thank you goes out to everyone who shows support for this chapter. None of what we do would be possible without our amazing community!



Sam Schnor, a Wapsie senior, cooks sausage patties for the breakfast.

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Fairbank native receives 2019 Indie Book Award

Fairbank, Iowa native Betty Brandt Passick announces her third book, *Gangster in our Midst* (2017), was named a Top 100 Notable Indie Book in the Shelf Unbound 2019 Indie



Betty Brandt Passick

Best Awards competition. The novel tells the neglected true story of a middle-aged Italian man, Louie La Cava, who comes to Fairbank (called "Oxbow" in the book) in the early 1920s, after marrying an area farmgirl he met in Chicago. Locals quickly suspect he works for Chicago Kingpin Al Capone.

La Cava and his wife continue to frequent the town off and on for the next 60 years.

Passick says she put a lot of effort into writing a historically accurate story, and those from the township and beyond will recognize people, businesses, and landmarks. And there is plenty of intrigue. Everyone is caught up in Prohibition in one way or another, and unfolding just under the surface is La Cava's connection to Capone. Whenever La Cava shows up in the town, locals are left to wonder who might have followed him and whether their children might be caught up in a shoot-out on Main Street."

Passick interviewed about a dozen Fairbank locals for the book, many who were young children when they had accompanied La Cava to the Opera House to attend silent films and talkies.

"I'm not sure why parents would let their children in the '20s and '30s attend movies with an alleged gangster, but those were different times," she said.

"Verlie (Hahn) Trower, 99, was probably my most interesting interviewee," Passick said. "She was the eldest daughter of Bill Hahn, Fairbank's town marshal for 33 years, 1916-1949. Verlie recalled the night at the dinner table her father announced he had received a police bulletin informing him 'a bad man was in the area...he'd robbed and shot someone.' Within a short time, Louie La Cava showed up on Main Street."

Ninety years later, Fairbank residents still didn't know with any certainty whether La Cava had worked for Capone. She found factual Capone-La Cava connections in Bureau of Investigation/FBI and police reports, and in newspaper accounts from across the country.

"The interviews with Fairbank locals became the fictional piece of the book. These stories really happened, but perhaps not exactly as I've told them," she said.

"Verlie was born in Fairbank and never left. It's a good thing I got the interview with this 'spitfire' of a woman when I did," Passick noted, "as Verlie, along with two other long-time residents she interviewed, had since passed away. Verlie died in December 2018."

Passick is the eldest daughter (of eight children) of Wilbert and Doretta (Bartels) Brandt, who moved their family of nine from a rented farm southwest of Fairbank into the town in the fall of 1956. She was nine years old at the time.

"I soon heard neighbors talk about the town's 'gangster,' but I didn't know what a gangster was so I didn't think anything more about it," she said.

As she and her two older brothers grew into teenagers, they got town jobs. Her brothers said they saw La Cava when he stopped by Bentley's Chevrolet (now Don's Truck Sales) and the Texaco station (now Myers Polaris). Passick worked for Scott's Café (formerly the Coffin Café) on Main Street all during high school. "I never waited on the gangster—that I know of," she said.

Passick graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in the mid-'60s and married within a couple years.

The marriage ended 15 years later and, with two children, she relocated to St. Paul, Minn.

Although she has tackled a few projects in the past, Passick didn't get serious about writing until retiring from a career as a project coordinator for 3M Company.

With two historical books under her belt, Passick was looking for a new book project in 2016. On her short list of book ideas was researching Fairbank's gangster.

"I wanted to know whether the stories locals had told me were fact versus folklore—and what a story I found!" she said, adding: "I wouldn't have predicted my first historical crime novel to be about a gangster. Still, I had a good time writing it."

Passick launched *Gangster in our Midst* at the Fairbank City Library on August 5, 2017, the same site where in 2015 she launched *We Are Eight, a Memorial*, her family's 400-page

book of history which traces four ancestral lineages from Germany to America, the first arriving in 1846. Each lineage eventually settled in Bremer County, Iowa. It took five years to research and write this book.

Gangster in our Midst went through three editions. As soon as Passick published the book in 2017, people came 'out of the woodwork' with additional stories about La Cava. She rewrote several chapters and re-ordered them to accommodate those stories for a second edition. When the book wasn't selling as well as she thought it should on Amazon, she hired a professional to create a new cover for the third edition.

Still, Passick is considered a "one percent" author for selling \$5000 worth of books in the first twelve months. Only one percent of authors in America achieve this milestone.

"I am very grateful for the Indie book award for *Gangster in our Midst*. I acknowledged Five Fairbank historians who helped with the research for the novel, along with friends and former neighbors—all who informed me I had written a good story. A book award says the book has literary merit. Mostly, I'm grateful this Unknown Author has been given a chance to earn positive regard in the eyes of the community at large," she said.

Passick is currently writing a sequel to *Gangster in our Midst*, plus the screenplay. *Gangster in our Midst* is available for \$16.95 plus tax/shipping and handling through local bookstores, Amazon, Walmart, Barnes and Noble, or www.bettybrandtpassick.com.

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