

Readlyn Chronicle

Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 13, No. 12, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, December 30, 2020



Santa leaves the fire station to spread Christmas cheer.

Readlyn Community Club does not disappoint!

The evening of Saturday, December 12, Readlyn residences' spirits were raised by attending Santa's Parade and/or fireworks.

Santa, Mrs. Santa, Miss Readlyn, Miss Fairbank, Kat Moyer's music students, First Responders and even an adorable elf, rode throughout Readlyn in lighted vehicles.

The usual Christmas bags packed by former Grumps were handed to spectators brave enough to endure the cool winter

weather. Mother Nature helped by delivering a skiff of snow.

To add to the festivities, Flashing Thunder and the Iowa Pyrotechnics Association gave a preview of what we will enjoy during Grump Days 2021. The fireworks received many rave reviews and kept the crowd in awe.

Thank you, Readlyn Community Club, for all you do!



Miss Readlyn and Miss Fairbank handed out the traditional Christmas treat bags during the parade.

Day and Sickles are honored by Bremer Co. ISU Extension

John Day of Waverly and Tom Sickles of Readlyn received recognition awards for serving on the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Extension Council.

Day served for one four-year term and Sickles served for two terms.

The nine-member council are publicly elected to serve on the council to oversee the local county staff, financial, plus programming in Bremer County. Since 1918, ISU Extension has served rural and urban youth, families, and farms in Bremer County.



Tom Sickles



Grump on a stump rides with Mrs. Santa and one of the elves.

Readlyn EMS reaches goal

The Readlyn EMS Association owes a debt of gratitude to many organizations and community members for helping us reach our fundraising goal of \$22,000 to purchase a new AED/Heart Monitor for our ambulance service. Our old model will no longer be FDA approved after February 2021. Without a new device, we would not be able to provide adequate healthcare services for those who may experience heart related concerns. The new Zoll X series model will allow us to have an all-in-one option for blood pressure checks, oxygen and heart rate readings, and EKG monitoring. New features will provide us with CPR assistance functions, time stamping of events, and the ability to check carbon monoxide levels.

The movie, *The Polar Express*, says, "Sometimes seeing is believing. And sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see" (42:24). These heartfelt moments and invisible traits are the foundation of what Readlyn, Wapsie Valley, and Bremer County are built upon. As a community, you continue to have faith in our abilities, trust our knowledge, and have confidence in our dedication to show up at each call and provide the best emergent healthcare services possible.

In our time of need, we had that same faith in our community's ability to help us reach our financial goal, had trust in your knowledge to understand there is a true need for new medical equipment, and had unwavering confidence in your dedication to provide assistance when someone needs a helping hand.

The Readlyn EMS Association would like to thank the following organizations for selecting us as grant recipients this year.

- \$1,000 - The Gordon Flesch Foundation
- \$11,000 - Bremer County and Readlyn Community Foundations
- \$500 - Waverly Walmart Community Grant,
- \$1,000 - RTC Communications

To our friends and family who make up the wonderful community we serve, thank you for your support. We never would have reached our goal without your heartfelt generosity. Collectively, you provided us with \$12,000 that allows us to purchase the new device outright.

From our family to yours, Happy Holidays!!! Readlyn EMS Association





Grump's Grumblings

By Larry Ladage, 2018 Grump and Roger Deterding, 2006 Grump



Miss Readlyn Comments Trending Now

By Grace Imbrogno

Greetings from the 2018 Readlyn Grump. Since there was no Grump crowned for 2020, some of the past Grumps are taking turns writing a column for the *Chronicle*. Thought it could be my turn this month.

Hopefully, this next year will be better than 2020, although we still have a lot to be thankful for. There have just been too many bad things happening with COVID, etc.

I spent 16 days in the hospital in September (went on my birthday). In December, I was back in the hospital for four days and have been home since earlier this week. I would like to thank everyone in this great town of ours for thinking of me during these hospital stays.

This past week, nine of the former Grumps and some of the wives filled Christmas sacks for the kids to be handed out during the Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 12. There were also fireworks, and they were fantastic. Never been to fireworks during the winter, but the town was full of people to watch the parade and the fireworks. Thanks to the Community Club for putting this all together.

Don't forget the main reason we are celebrating Christmas this year and every year. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ Child.

Merry Christmas from the 2018 Grump, and wife, Janet.
Larry Ladage



Hi, I'm the Grump from 2006.

It really has been an unusual year. I have stayed busy with the Readlyn Gardeners and helping to build the gazebo by laying the rocks around it, along with all the usual mowing our own lawn and outside work.

There were not any trips outside the state, since we were homebound by the COVID-19, which I was fortunate to get, but I was not sick except for a fever for 2 days. My wife was lucky and did not get it.

We did manage to take a couple side trips and checked out seven of the Freedom Rocks; they were all different, but very patriotic. Our goal is to see as many as possible. Marlys and I stayed home for Thanksgiving, which was different.

We have been kept busy getting the Christmas decorations out and helped put them up in the park, and I will help with the Santa sacks for the children. We are looking forward to watching the fireworks next week.

I have also been taking care of the can redemption center with some good volunteer help, since GaryLee Thurm had a stroke and is unable.

This is from the can committee: Since we can NO longer take GLASS BOTTLES, we are still getting some garbage bags with bottles mixed with cans and plastic bottles, and some of the plastic bottles are not completely empty. Please follow the posted rules and make it a lot easier for us and the Redemption Center. Thank you from the committee.

We hope everyone has a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, hopefully without the virus.
Roger Deterding

Hello Readlyn! I would like to start by saying "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

I think it is safe to say that many of us are looking forward to 2021 in hopes of a better (and less socially distant) year. Recently, within high school, my social media, and our community, I have heard and seen many jokes made about how dreadful this year has been. Personally, there is so much that I am looking forward to in the new year, including graduation, Trystan coming home, moving out (sorry Mom, Dad, and bank account), and starting college.

Keeping true to the title, the trends within high school, and specifically, my class, have revolved mostly around graduation and college. So many of us are currently taking online college classes and have all worked together to understand the curriculum as well as compare each other's work.

Seniors have been using the high school commons area that I mentioned a couple of months ago to work on college assignments as well as daydream about moving out and becoming adults (even though people tell us not to). We have many conversations about what college is going to be like, and I am happy to say that most of

us should have similar experiences as we plan on staying close to home.

A good majority of my class plan on attending Hawkeye Community College or UNI, with a few going to Iowa State and Wartburg. There will be many 2021 Wapsie graduates flooding the Cedar Falls area come August, and I think we are all pretty happy to be staying together.

This month, I had the privilege of being in the parade with Santa. I brought my best friend and future roommate with me, who just happened to be crowned Miss Fairbank a couple of weeks ago! We were so happy to see so many smiling faces as we handed out goody bags to kids along the parade route! Coincidentally, our other future roommate, who is from Hudson, was also in the Readlyn parade with her boyfriend in the fire truck. We were all very happy to see each other, as many Readlyn events tend to bring people together in so many fun ways! By the way, the Christmas fireworks were so cool to see in the dark winter sky!

Thank you all for making 2020 a wonderful year, well, at least the last couple of months! I can't wait to see you all in the new year! Happy Holidays!
-Grace, Miss Readlyn 2020

Mitchell is UNI graduate

Austin Mitchell graduated from the University of Northern Iowa on November 28, 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design.



Austin Mitchell

He is the son of Angie and Bob Fritz of Readlyn and Troy and Susan Mitchell of Tiffin and grandson of Dan and Marva Schuldt of Readlyn.

Austin is currently employed by Kwik Star in Cedar Falls, IA and is looking for a full-time graphic design job.

Way to go Austin! Best wishes in your job hunt!



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Obituaries



Luella "Lou" Lois Fortsch

Luella "Lou" Lois Fortsch, 83, of Readlyn passed away on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at Allen Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa.

A virtual funeral was held on S.K. Rogers Funeral Home's Facebook page at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 27, 2020.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn or to UnityPoint Hospice.

S.K. Rogers Funeral Home in Sumner was in charge of the arrangements.

Lou was born in Bremer, Iowa on September 7, 1937, to Fred and Clara (Kueker) Heine. She graduated from Tripoli High School in 1955.

Lou was united in marriage to Ervin Fortsch on July 7, 1957 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Artesian, Iowa. The couple made their home in Readlyn, where Lou was given the honor of being named "Readlyn Grump" in 2008.

After high school, Lou worked for Blackhawk Abstract Company in Waterloo before opening her first restaurant, Lou's Place in Readlyn in 1975. Lou's Place later closed in 1977. In 1979, Lou started her next restaurant, The Center Inn in Readlyn until her retirement in 1996. Lou was known for her delicious potato salad.

Lou was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn, where she was active helping with the church dinner fundraisers. Lou had a knack for decorating and she had a passion for decorating for every holiday. Lou enjoyed traveling, especially her trips to Branson, Missouri and playing cards with her friends at Cobblestone Court Assisted Living. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society.

Lou is survived by her four children, Connie (Scott) Matthias of Readlyn, Barry (Lori) Fortsch of Readlyn, Julie (Tim) Leehey of Waterloo, and Bruce (Deb) Fortsch of Readlyn; a sister, Alice Heese of Urbandale; a brother, Fritz Heine of Waverly; a sister-in-law, Mildred Clark of Readlyn; 14 grandchildren, Brooke (Jeremy Menuey) Myers, Bridget (Aaron) Destival, McKenzie (Travis) Schmitt, Miles Matthias, Adam (Tammy) Kaufman, Andy (Brook) Kaufman, Aaron (Audrey) Kaufman, Abigail (Jacob) Lukins, Alex (Abi) Fortsch, Joe (Brooke) Leehey, Mike (Tara) Leehey, Stephanie (Shawn Schroeder) Rewerts, Susan (Josh) Gilbert, and Tony (Kammy) Mathis; and 40 great-grandchildren and two on the way.

She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, mother-in-law and father-in-law, Harold and Alice Fortsch, siblings, Agnes (Elmer) Henniges, Arlene Schweer, Ervin (Norma) Heine, Alfred (Carrie) Heine, Laverne Heine, Delores (Wayne) Lynch, brother-in-law, Arlyn Heese, and sister-in-law, Connie Heine.



Bruce Dean

"Grandpa Bruce" Fortsch

Bruce Dean "Grandpa Bruce" Fortsch, 54, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Monday, November 30, 2020, at UnityPoint Hospital-Allen Memorial in Waterloo.

Bruce was born on October 18, 1966, in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Ervin and Luella (Heine) Fortsch. Bruce was baptized and confirmed at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn. He graduated from Wapsie-Valley High School in 1985. He worked along with his parents in The Center Inn, at the Readlyn Co-Op, worked for Elton Schutte and worked for Per-Mar Security. He retired after thirteen years from Bremwood in Waverly in 2018 due to ill health.

Bruce was united in marriage to Deborah Burton on July 12, 2010 in Waverly. Together, Bruce and Deb enjoyed going to auctions, garage sales and coin collecting.

The most important thing in Bruce's life was his family. He cherished his time with his children and grandchildren. His nieces and nephews held a special place in his heart, and he will be missed dearly by all those that loved him. Bruce loved his momma so much and he is finally with her again. He also loved his brother and sisters.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Deb Fortsch of Readlyn; two daughters, Stephanie (Shawn Schroeder) Rewerts of Aplington; Susan (Josh) Gilbert of Waverly; and a son, Tony (Kammy) Mathis of Longview, Texas; his grandkids, Jess, Josie, Destiny, Brooklyn, Lizzy, Carson, Cadie, Cassidy, Gio, Carter, and Barrett; a sister, Connie (Scott) Matthias of Readlyn; a brother, Barry (Lori) Fortsch of Readlyn; and a sister, Julie (Tim) Leehey of Waterloo; his eleven nieces and nephews that Bruce loved like they were his children. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ervin and Lou Fortsch.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the services were private and there was no public visitation. Private funeral services were held on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn with burial following in the St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery. The service was broadcasted at 10:00 a.m. on Friday on the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home FaceBook page. Online condolences can be left at www.kaisercorson.com.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

Send news to the *Chronicle* at:
ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com



Larry Dean Hagenow

Larry Dean Hagenow, 79, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Friday, December 18, 2020, at UnityPoint Health-Allen Hospital in Waterloo.

Larry was born on May 22, 1941, in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Wilbert Carl and Ruby Louise (Warnke) Hagenow. He was united in marriage to Doris Ann Thurm on November 13, 1960 at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn. Larry retired after 30 years from John Deere.

Larry enjoyed farming and golfing. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and watching them in their activities.

Larry is survived by his wife, Doris Hag-

enow of Readlyn; three daughters, Paige (Troy) Kuethe of Geneseo, Illinois; Penny (Jeff) Schmidt of Readlyn; Tempest (KC) Hutcheson of Indianola; eight grandchildren, Clay (Jessica) Kuethe and their children, Madison and Avery; Tyler (Brittany) Kuethe and their children, Barrett, Elouise, and Wesley; Holly (Adam) Bierstedt and their children, Emersyn, Eli, Emery and Ethan; Heidi (Duane) Foster and their children, Kambrii and Karlie; Zach (Whitney) Schmidt and their children, Traeton and Terek; Nolan Schmidt; Kalen (Valerie Reimer) Hutcheson; and Seth Hutcheson; two sisters, Connie (Roger) Buhr of Readlyn and Sherri (Doug) Koschmeder of Readlyn; and two sisters-in-law, Ruth (David) Wittenburg of Readlyn and Shirley Thurm of Denver.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Steve Hagenow.

A private funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2020, at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary officiating. Burial followed in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Readlyn. The service was livestreamed on the Zion Lutheran Church Facebook page. For those attending, mask and social distancing were required. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family for a later designation. Online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

Thank you for your sympathy during the loss of our loved ones, Lou (Mom) and Bruce Fortsch.

Your kind words, prayers, cards, flowers, gifts, food and donations in their memory have been a great comfort to us as we try to come to term with our losses. Please remember our family in continued prayer in the days ahead.

Special thank you to Pastor Rabary for being there for us during these difficult days.

Deb Fortsch
Barry and Lori Fortsch

Connie and Scott Matthias
Julie and Tim Leehey

Send news for the *Chronicle* to readlynchronicle@gmail.com

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Staci Buhr
Trent and Nancy Lockard
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Lavern and Jeanette Brase
Ronnie and Judith Leistikow

In Memory of Tom Meier

Trent and Nancy Lockard
RJ and Corlyn Freitag

In Memory of Harold Meier

Jerry and Bonnie Wittenburg
Dean and Lois Buhr
Judy Leistikow
Harold Meier Family

In Memory of Lou Fortsch

Marlene Kuker
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Roger and Connie Buhr
Barbara Meyer
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Nick and Dawn Tobey
Eugene and Shirley Huck

In Memory of Robert Schmidt

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Roger and Connie Buhr

In Memory of Bruce Fortsch

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Dan and Marva Schuldt
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Sherry and John Tiedt
RJ and Corlyn Freitag
Roger and Connie Buhr

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

Merry Christmas from the Readlyn Community Library

We hope you enjoy the holidays with family and a few good books.



Cash Donations Cont.

In Memory of Connie Finder

Jim and Doris Wehling
Sherry and John Tiedt

In Memory Keith Sebilsky

Barbara Meyer

In Memory Lacie Joy Kim Vorthmann

Roger and Connie Buhr

In Memory of Steven Darrah

Roger and Connie Buhr

Book Memorials

In Memory of Patricia Piph

"The Alphabet from the Sky" by Benedikt Gross from Readlyn Farmers Coop
"Yoga Frog" by Nora Carpenter from Readlyn Farmers Coop

In Memory of Lou Fortsch

"Outside In" by Deborah Underwood from Dean and Lois Buhr
"Probably a Narwhal" by Shelley Moore Thomas from Dean and Lois Buhr

In Memory of Bruce Fortsch

"Llama Llama Loose Tooth Drama" by Anna Dewdney from Kevin and Tammi Thurm

In Memory of Ronnie Boevers

"The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be" by Joanna Gaines from Kevin and Tammi Thurm

Thank you for your generosity

Readlyn Reads - Book Talk

Jan's title: And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

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

"Ten . . ."

Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious "U. N. Owen."

"Nine . . ."

At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night one of the guests is dead.

"Eight . . ."

Stranded by a violent storm, and haunted by a nursery rhyme counting down one by one . . . as one by one . . . they begin to die.

"Seven . . ."

Which among them is the killer and will any of them survive?





Readlyn, Long Ago

Compiled by Bob Thran



CGW yard in Oelwein - Note the enormous repair building.

Oelwein — The Hub City

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*

Although Rock Island passenger trains first came through Oelwein in 1877, the company that earned Oelwein its nickname as the Hub City was the Chicago Great Western, which was founded in 1892.

The CGW found that Oelwein's central location between Kansas City-Minneapolis and Omaha-Chicago made it ideal as a hub for its passenger and freight divisions. All mainlines of the Great Western passed through the Fayette County city.

The company began negotiating with Oelwein landowners to acquire 1,500 acres to build its shops in spring 1894, according to the *Dubuque Herald*. With the expected addition of thousands of new rail employees to Oelwein, and conductors and brakemen scrambling to find housing for their families, a Chicago contractor was hired to build 110 cottages to either rent or sell to shop employees. Construction of the 10-stall, 180,000-square-foot roundhouse began in 1898. It was completed in 1899 at a cost of \$250,000.

The shop structures were built of stone, pressed brick and steel with tile roofs. The principal buildings were:

- The powerhouse, 43-by-120 feet with a 130-foot smokestack, had a boiler room with three 200-horsepower boilers to produce steam for the electric dynamos that provided power and light for the complex, the steam pump and the heating for all the buildings. The building included the 43-by-53 foot wheelhouse, where a revolving electric crane picked up sets of wheels and placed them on a moving table for distribution. Tunnels, measuring 5-by-6 feet, contained electric wires, steam and exhaust pipes connected to the pump house.

- The freight car repair shop, 30-by-460 feet, included a storehouse for lumber and a woodworking shop building for repairing cars and coaches. Adjoining the repair shop were the blacksmith shop with a mammoth steam hammer and the paint shops, lighted by glass tiles in the roof.

- The transfer table moved the cars, coaches and locomotives between shops and

placed them on tracks when the work was done.

- The two-story main shop, the monster building of them all, 94-by-702 feet, had the machine, boiler and coach shops. In the main room, 15 to 20 locomotives were always under repair. Two traveling electric cranes could lift 30,000 to 160,000 pounds. The east end had the company offices. The west end contained the coach repair shop.

- The two-story clubhouse for employees had lockers, showers and bathrooms on the lower level and a library/reading room on the upper level. It also was used for social gatherings.

In 1903, construction began on a major addition to the roundhouse.

The Great Western shops and roundhouses were already the largest in the state, where all of the general repair work and overhauling of engines was done. Shops at Fort Dodge, Clarion and Omaha were used only for light overhauls.

When steam locomotives were converted to diesel engines in spring 1948, the railroad needed fewer employees and many workers were laid off from the shops. Some of the now empty space at the facility was marked for rental to local industry. By fall, the CGW decided that some of that space would go to railcar repair and other heavy work, and some employees were called back to work.

The shops had once employed 1,000 workers — boilermakers, pipefitters, foundry workers — and the number dropped to 500, mostly office workers, trainmen, engine men and machinists. Even so, the Great Western was still the Oelwein's main employer with a payroll of more than \$3 million.

Talk about merging the Great Western with Chicago & North Western began in 1961, with an agreement reached in April 1967. The Soo Line contested the merger, delaying it until February 1968 when Soo Line was allowed more access points.

When the deal was finalized, the Chicago Great Western ceased to exist at 12:01 a.m. July 1, 1968, throwing the future of the Oelwein diesel repair shops in doubt.

By 1979, the shops were employee-owned and were again the city's biggest employer with 225 workers doing complete locomotive rebuilds and reclamations.

When the Oelwein shops finally closed in March 1994, the Chicago & North Western left a souvenir for the Oelwein railway museum—a 238,000-pound, faded yellow, 1950s FP7 locomotive.

The Transco Specialty railroad repair branch plant in Oelwein repainted the engine in CNW colors - maroon, red, gold and black - before putting it on display near the museum.

The Transco company continues to repair train cars in shop space it bought from the C&NW in northwest Oelwein.

Most of the shops were demolished in 2010 by the then-owner, the Union Pacific Railroad.

As for the Chicago Great Western, most of its rails were abandoned after the 1968 merger. Today, what remains has been turned into biking and hiking trails.

Recollections of Oelwein from '40s, '50s

In the 1940s and fifties, I really was not familiar with Oelwein. Waverly and Waterloo were the cities with which I had more contact.

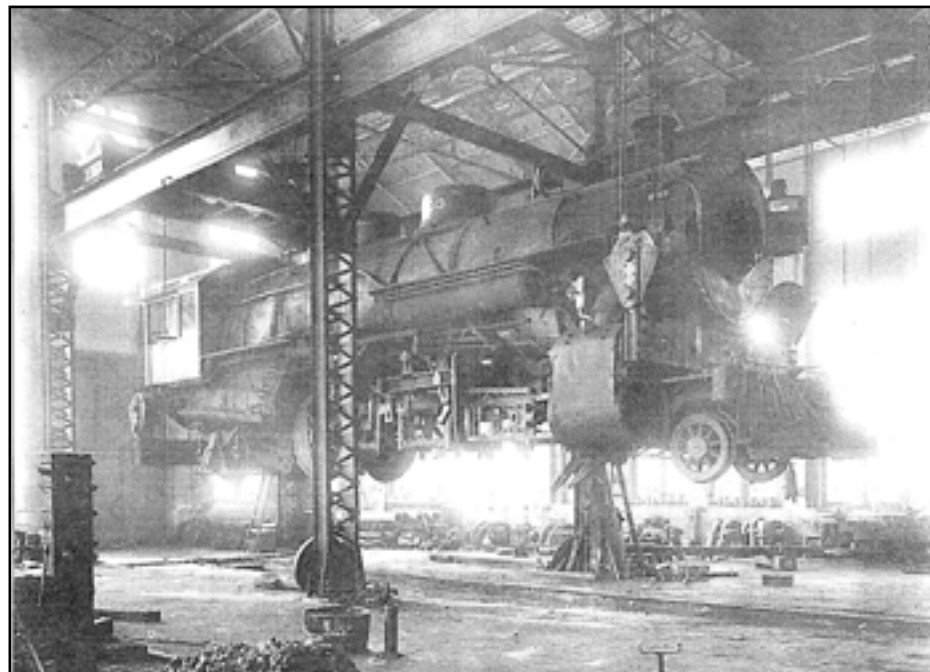
I recall that Oelwein called itself the Hub City. I never knew why. I remember signs along Highway 3 stating Hub City, Oelwein. When I did research on the Chicago Great Western Railway, I finally learned that Oelwein was centrally located in the operational area of the CGW here in the midwest. Oelwein was the hub of the CGW - both the corporate offices and major repair facilities were in Oelwein.

We in Readlyn would go to dances at the Coliseum Ballroom in Oelwein. The spacious Coliseum hosted most all of the famous name bands in the country, Guy Lombardo, Sammy Kaye, Blue Barron, Wayne King, etc. Lawrence Welk would often appear there. Tom Owens and his country music would draw a crowd on Thursday nights.

I now find it hard to believe that, when I lived in nearby Readlyn, I was not aware of the mammoth Chicago Great Western structures and the extensive switching yard in Oelwein. I wish now that I would have had a tour of the facility, or even just driven around that area.

Then there were always stories about the part of Oelwein to stay out of at night. Don't know whether the stories are true. Never spoken to anyone who had any experience there. If Eddie Klemp were alive, we could find out.

Wayne Kuethe and I visited the museum area in Oelwein and found it interesting. It is open on Sunday afternoons with former employees as tour guides.



A crane lifts an engine in need of repairs in the locomotive repair shops in Oelwein.

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Readlyn City Council

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:45PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting. Mayor Wedemeier in the chair and the following named council members present: Keith Brunscheon, Joey Jones, Jason Franck. Rocco Imbrogno. Absent: Nicole Barnes. Others in attendance: Steve Aiello, Barney Wiersma, Austin Matthias.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve minutes from the October 13, 2020 council meeting. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to approve bills presented for payment. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Franck to approve Treasurer/clerk reports. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Imbrogno to approve the budget and library reports. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve agenda as printed. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Franck to approve David Dennler as an

associate member of the Readlyn First Responders. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Brunscheon to reimburse Steve Deterding for tile line repair in the amount of \$400.00 which occurred during construction of the wastewater plant. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Brunscheon to approve Investment Policy for the City of Readlyn. Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Franck to introduce Resolution No. 849 entitled "RESOLUTION NAMING DEPOSITORIES." Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Franck. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 849 duly adopted.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk

CLIP AND SAVE!

Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation Agency

will observe the following holidays in 2021. There will be no garbage pickup on the following days:

New Year's Day.....	Friday, January 1, 2021
Memorial Day.....	Monday, May 31, 2021
Independence Day.....	Monday, July 5, 2021
Labor Day.....	Monday, September 6, 2021
Thanksgiving Day.....	Thursday, November 25, 2021
Day after Thanksgiving.....	Friday, November 26, 2021
Christmas.....	Friday, December 24, 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.

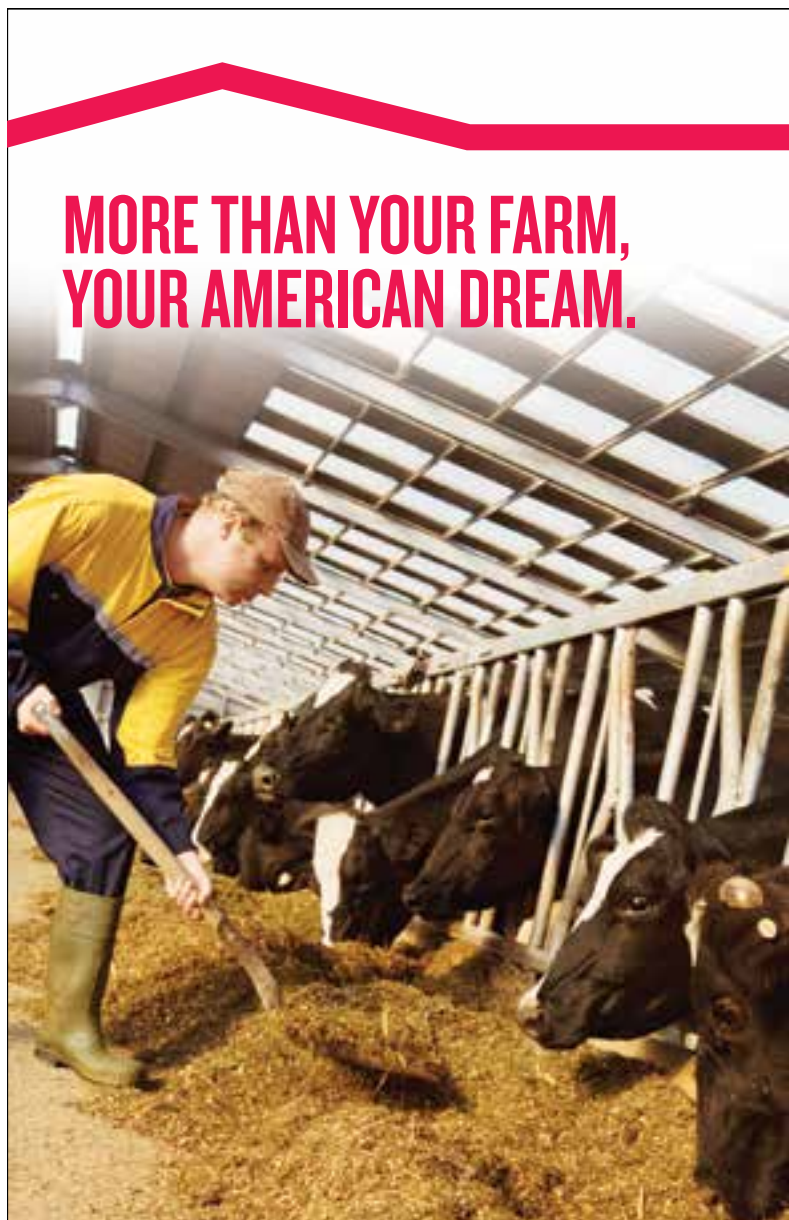
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Wapsie Valley Community School District continues to utilize our On-Site Return to Learn Plan for the vast number of students and families. Some families have elected to participate in the Hybrid Return to Learn Plan that uses Edgenuity as the full-time on-line learning option for their students.

We have seen a large number of students and staff in quarantine situations, as have many of the surrounding school districts. The vast majority of these exposures have happened outside of the school buildings, due to family member exposures or within the general community spread.

We will continue with these learning plans within the present framework unless we see a spike in student illnesses or we are not able to effectively staff our classrooms.

The high school wrestling team, girls' basketball team, and boys' basketball team have started their seasons. It may look different in the bleachers with state restrictions set in place for spectators, but the ability for our athletes to compete is the important part of their experience at school.

We wish everyone the best of luck in

their sporting season. I would also like to congratulate the Wapsie Valley football team on their accomplishments this year in being a Class A State Qualifier.

The Wapsie Valley CSD Mission Statement states, "Guaranteed Learning for Every Student." This is our guiding principle that reminds us of the importance of student achievement at the highest level, even with the many distractions of the pandemic. The staff at WVCSD has continued to offer outstanding instruction, whether students are physically in the classroom or at home in a virtual on-line situation.

I am so thankful for the classroom teachers, support staff and building level principals that keep our students as their main focus.

Stay Warrior Strong and Safe,
Dave Larson
 Wapsie Valley CSD Superintendent



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News from **Community Lutheran School**



Wildcat Wednesday: students in grades kindergarten through six gather to rehearse and film our virtual production of Luke Gambill's Christmas musical entitled "Glory To God in the Highest."



We celebrated November and December baptismal birthdays in chapel on December 9. You are blessed children of God! Above are Ashlyn, Miss Kiefer, Layla, Brooke, Keegan with Pastor. Below are Barrett and Violet with Pastor.



Students in grades KG through six are led by our marvelously talented teacher Pat Hogan during our production of "Glory to God in the Highest." We are blessed to have such dedicated and passionate staff to lead our students in musical praises to our Lord!



The 3- and 4-year-old preschool classes perform their Christmas songs celebrating Jesus' birthday!



A special thank you to Garrett Barnes for being our technical producer of our virtual Christmas musical this year! You are a blessing!

News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



These Readlyn students made some cool turkey hats!



Students having fun at recess and enjoying this great weather we have been experiencing!



During these times, it is sometimes hard to see the good things around us. There are still so many things to be thankful for. Our students helped remind us of all of the good things that are happening every day in our schools by adorning our Gratitude Trees with leaves showing reasons why they are thankful for our staff.




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What's Cooking?

A recipe to share can be sent to billhorn@netins.net

RECIPE: Crab Meat Cracker Spread
 From the kitchen of: Louie Hartman

- 1 can "Pacific Pearl" crab meat, drained
- 1 8oz. pkg Phil. Cream cheese
- 1 bottle Hoffman House shrimp sauce

Whip cream cheese till fluffy. Mix with crab meat. Put in a pan and chill. Top with shrimp sauce right before serving.

Sausage Gravy Breakfast Pizza

From the kitchen of Louie Hartman

- 2 packages crescent rolls
- 1 package cooked sausage crumbles
- 1 envelope Williams Country gravy mix
- 6 eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 oz. shredded pepper jack cheese

Heat oven to 375. Separate crescent dough into 16 triangles and place on an over-sized greased, round pizza pan with points toward the center.

Press onto the bottom and up sides of pan to form a crust; seal seams. Bake for 11 - 13 minutes or until golden brown.

Meanwhile, prepare gravy according to pkg directions in a medium saucepan. Stir sausage crumbles into thickened gravy; set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, salt and pepper. In a large skillet, heat butter over medium heat.

Bake 5 - 10 minutes longer or until eggs are set and cheese is melted.

Cut into wedges.

This makes 8 generous servings and reheats well.

Senior Citizens meet Dec. 17

On December 17, 16 members attended the 11:30 AM meal and meeting at Inspired for Senior Citizens.

Ron Leistikow led the members in prayer before our delicious meal.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Leistikow.

There were no November birthdays.

December birthdays: We sang "Happy Birthday" to Ron Leistikow as his birthday was December 7.

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$288.00.

The secretary's minutes were read by Lois Thacher for the October 22 meeting. Motion was made by Roland Schmidt and seconded by Judith Leistikow to approve the treasurer's and secretary's reports.

Motion carried.

Old Business

Nine grumps filled the 150 Christmas sacks and 145 were given out to the children during Christmas on Main on December 12.

New Business

The Christmas decorations will be taken down the first Saturday in January. Help will be needed.

Charlie Albrecht stated that at the next meeting we will be deciding what organization we will be donating money to out of our Senior Citizen account.

Don Billhorn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Marlys Deterding seconded it. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be January 20.
 Lois Thacher, Secretary

Deadline for the January 27 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., Jan. 14 at 5 PM

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By: Eric Johnston

“Bring on the ice!”

ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com

As fall turns into winter, a lot of folks dread the winter season. I, on the other hand, get excited, with all the cold and snow, the lakes freeze and ice fishing season begins!!!!

Yes, some think we are crazy to sit on a bucket on a frozen lake. But ice fishing can be very productive and a lot of fun!!! Over the years, my ice fishing addiction has grown as I’ve added nicer equipment with flashers, tents and Skandia Tungsten jigs. But it really doesn’t take a lot to get started ice fishing and we have some great opportunities for fishing right here in our area. This month, I’ll take you through getting started in a sport I’ve become so addicted to.

Getting Started

As with any sport, it’s best to get started by talking with sportsmen that are already skilled in the sport, friends, co-workers or family that can get you started in the right direction. Also, the

Internet becomes a useful tool in getting started. There are literally thousands of YouTube videos on ice fishing. Another great place to start is our local outdoor stores. Hanks Live Bait and Tackle in Waterloo specializes in fishing and paying them a visit can get you an endless supply of knowledge on the sport and up-to-the-minute fishing reports. You also may meet other fisherman at these stores that would love to show you the ropes.

Invest in the Basics

Once you decide you want to try ice fishing, you will need the basics to get started. A rod is a great first purchase and the choices are endless on rods. You can spend as little as \$10 to a couple hundred dollars.

Just starting out, I would suggest a nice, modestly price spinning rod such as a K&E Tackle Whippr rod or even a Schooley brand rod with the plastic reel.

Next on the list would be a decent ice auger. Again, there are a lot of choices



out there. Starting out, I would go with a hand auger that can be purchased for \$30-\$50 brand new. Also you will need a five gallon bucket. Not only can you carry your gear with you, but it makes a nice seat too! Also watch Craigslist or other classifieds for deals on used equipment. A lot of times you can get a bundled deal on everything you need.

Next come the jigs — a lot of this will depend on what types of fish you will target. I’m mostly a pan fisherman in the winter, targeting bluegills and crappies. I prefer Skandia Tungsten jigs, moon jigs, and Arnold jigs. These are all great jigs that won’t break the bank. I’ve really started using the Tungsten over the last five years or so. The Tungsten is heavier than lead and shows up on sonar better. The denser material gives you more weight in a small jig to get back in the strike zone quicker and is more sensitive to feel those sluggish bites.

You may also want to add an ice tent to your arsenal, depending on your cold tolerance. Again, there are lots of options when it comes to them and I suggest talking to your local outdoor store salesman and seeing a lot of tents and choosing what best suits your needs and budget.

Safety First

The biggest thing with ice fishing, and I can’t stress this enough, is SAFETY!! Ice can be a tricky animal that is always changing with temperature fluctuations.

Some of your most important gear to own is your safety gear. I suggest, especially early and late in the season, carrying a Spud bar with you. You can use the

Spud bar to check the ice ahead of you. I usually do not venture onto the ice each year until there’s a good four inches of solid, clear ice on the ponds.

It’s important to have a 50 foot throw rope and some ice spikes you can wear around your neck, should the unthinkable happen. I suggest never fishing alone and it doesn’t hurt to wear a life jacket or purchase a striker ice suit that floats you should the ice break.

Where to Go

There are a lot of ice fishing opportunities right here in our area. Lakes like Big Woods, George Wyth, Brinker Lake, South Prairie, and Sweet Marsh are locations that have healthy fish populations and are great places to start.

Look for areas where the water falls off of flats into deeper water. Those drop-offs are great fish holders, and, in lakes like Big Woods, they’ve added lots of structure for the fish, such as brush piles and pallet structures. The structure was placed to attract fish. Find some of these areas and you will be on the fish.

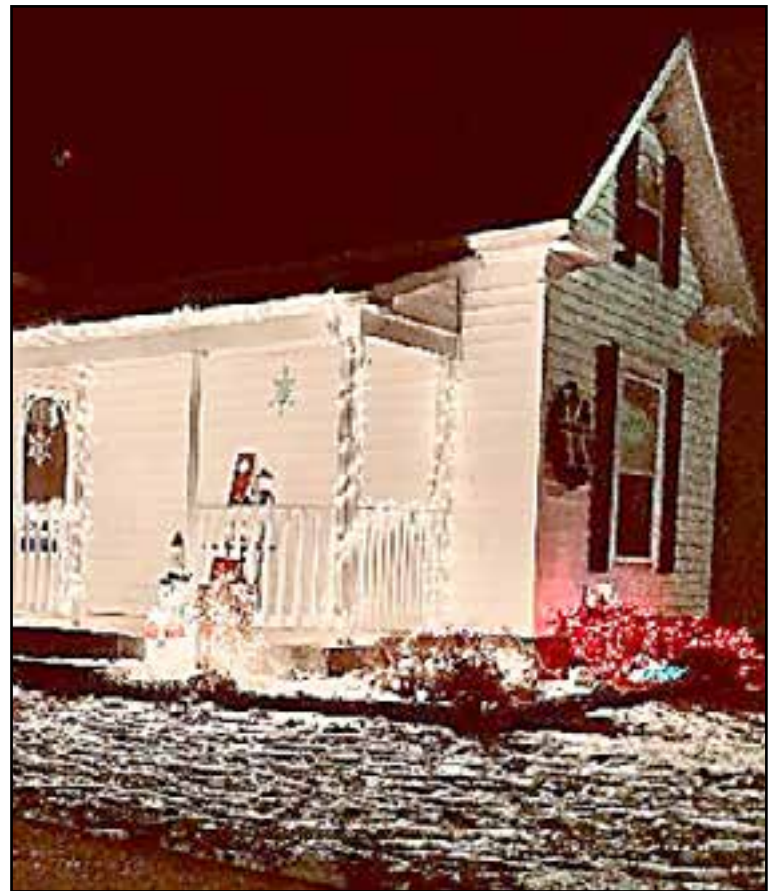
Also always be on the lookout for small, out-of-the-way ponds and backwaters along the Cedar and Wapsi River. Sometimes those small waters can yield big results! And, if you’re lucky enough to access a farm pond, you can get into some phenomenal fishing!

So as the weatherman starts to show those freezing temps heading our way, it’s time to get that ice gear ready and enjoy a sport that gets you through those long winter months! Be safe and, until next time, Get Outdoors!



First place: Larry and Vicki Pavelec, 406 5th Street Place

Since the lights are set to music, out of respect for the neighbors, you need to view this display before 9:30 when the lights are turned off. Bigger plans for next year!!



Third place: Brandon and Andrea Koschmeder, 109 East 2nd

They decorate each season to please their girls Ava and Ashlyn.



(at left) **Second place: Nick Westphal and Amanda McCabe, 520 Elmer Avenue**

The decorations were a family project; Amanda's mom donated the inflatables, Makayla decorated around the door frame, and the rest of the family pitched in to complete the design.

Community Club Lighting Contest winners named

Four Readlynites accepted the challenge of choosing the best of the best lighted residences in Readlyn plus one country entry. After a lot of deliberating, they chose ten favorites. The next challenge was to select first, second and third place winners. Pictured are their top three. Since the pictures do not do the lights justice, please take time to drive by to experience the full effect.

- Honorable mention: Larry and Deb Sauerbrei, 605 Park View Drive
- Kevin and Stacie Price, 247 West Clark
- Kenneth and Bonnie Piehl, 605 West View Drive
- Barry and Lori Fortsch, 421 E. 4th Street
- Scott and Connie Matthias, 225 W. 4th Street
- Blake and Destiny Michael, 441 E. 2nd Street
- Nick and Dawn Tobey, 211 Malone Avenue

Last year's winners: 1st place – Tamara & Jim Wolff – 346 Briggs; 2nd place – Gene & Micki Thurm – 608 Parkview; 3rd place (TIED) – Dan & Connie Wedemeier – 510 West 3rd St. Gary & Connie Sauerbrei – 407 Goodell; are as stunning as ever. We will have three new winners next year.

For any decorated home not selected, we're sure your children, grandchildren, and neighbors appreciate your efforts. Keep up the great work! Our town looks more festive thanks to your efforts.

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Past Readlyn Grumps met at The Center Inn to fill sacks for Santa's visit. They are shown at right, front row, left to right, Roger Deterding, Charlie Albrecht, Ron Leistikow, and Ron Kohagen; back row: Roland Schmidt, Larry Ladage, Don Billhorn, Burton Thies and Verdeen Pavelec. The photo above shows the Grumps with their wives, who also assisted with this project.



Readlyn Community Club meets

December 10, 2020 — **Present:** Hailey Broten, Eric and Aubrey Johnston, Louie Hartman, Jenny Platte, Courtney Hesse, Roger and Marlys Deterding, LaVerne Leistikow, and Pat Wehr.

Treasurer's Report – We may be able to have fireworks twice a year due to pop can success netting \$16,825.41 after paying for the December 12 fireworks.

Old Business:

Christmas Decorating

- 17 kids plus 10 adults made it easy work under the direction of Roger and Marlys Deterding and Ron Leistikow.

- All Christmas decoration thefts have been accounted for; community service will be the punishment for the mischievous kids.

- Christmas tear-down will be January 2, 9:00 AM, with January 9, 9:00 AM, as a back-up date. Meet at City Park.

- Another \$1,000 will be used for decorations after Christmas to take advantage of sales.

- Suggestions so far: Lights on the tennis backstop. Lights on trees on the way to the ball diamond. Please send other suggestions to us.

- Request we have no flashing strobe-like lights.

- LaVerne will donate a live tree for next year.

New Business:

Santa

- He will sit on a bench or on his red chair in the back of the old fire truck.

- Due to possible snow, Rangers will be driven beside the fire truck to hand out candy bags. Miss Readlyn, Miss Fairbank, and Mrs. Claus will help hand out the bags.

- An ambulance will carry the candy bag supply.

- Kat Moyer would like to ride with piano students playing Christmas carols. Any ideas for a sound system?

Jennifer Van Brocklin's \$1500 donation in memory of her dad Richard Richter.

- Ideas for Center Inn: Large, round table and comfy chairs where the corner booth used to be, or a neon "Wall of Warriors" sign possibly on a wooden type bulletin board where cancer and COVID fighters, current sports, speech, and other team pictures, etc. are featured.

- Pat moved, and Eric seconded to use Jennifer's money to develop the "Wall of Warriors;" passed unanimously.

New Businesses - Flowers, \$40 – \$50, to welcome Chaotic Dreams and Center Inn when they open.

Ham drawing winners - Julie Kuker, Judy Henn, Vicki Pavelec, Sue Boerschel, Bridget Destival, Megan Salado, Barb Sowers, Karan Boevers, John Gaylean, Bonnie Thurm, Eldo Moeller, John Tiedt, Ruth Rathbone, Steve Warneke, Marlys Deterding, and Mike Tiedt.

Winners were called and congratulated and told to pick up their hams at Jessica Anderson's, 326 Main Street, between 5 – 5:30 PM, Saturday.


Annual Meeting will be in March.

Donation - LaVerne appreciated his get-well gift from us during his illness; after thanking RCC members present for their countless hours of volunteering, he donated back his \$100 gift to the *Readlyn Chronicle*.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Wehr, RCC secretary

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Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America



Community supports Wapsie FFA at Omelet Breakfast

By Mary Bodensteiner
Chapter Reporter

Thank you to everyone who came out on Sunday, October 25, to support the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter, as we held our biannual omelet breakfast. A special thank you to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, in Fairbank, for the use of their beautiful hall.

The members and parents put in a lot of hard work to make this event possible, and they had fun during the process.

This breakfast is always a great way to raise money for our FFA functions as well as to say thank you for the outstanding support we receive from the community. Our members and parents wore masks and we provided the option of take-out omelets this year, in light of the COVID-19 concerns.


If you missed our fall breakfast on Sunday, we would love to have you join us at our spring omelet breakfast in Readlyn!

At left — Our FFA advisor and parents show off their omelet making skills.

At right — Sydney Matthias and Courtney Schmitz take a break from frosting cinnamon rolls to take a picture.



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Become a sponsor and have your business recognized on this page! Call **RON LEISTIKOW** at **(319) 279-3548.**

Community Foundation encourages generous year-end giving

With the holidays and year-end upon us, many are thinking of how they can help others or support causes they care about. Now is a great time to consider a gift to a fund of the Bremer County Community Foundation or the Readlyn Community Fund, affiliates of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.

Giving a gift through the Foundation is an easy way to impact Bremer County communities and the nonprofits serving the people who live there while also providing unique tax-benefits to the donor.

“Calendar year end is the perfect time for being generous,” said Laurie Everhardt, director of development with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. “There are many different ways to give and charitable giving can be tailored

to how you want to make an impact in your community.”

Giving to a fund of the Foundation is one way to make your year-end gift. Donors can search funds across a 20-county region across northeast Iowa, including hundreds of funds supporting specific nonprofit organizations on the Community Foundation’s website at www.cfneia.org/findafund.

Generous individuals can also consider creating a fund with the Foundation, such as a donor advised or scholarship fund, that will impact your community and the causes you care about forever.

Gifts made to permanent endowment funds with a qualified community foundation, like the Bremer County Community Foundation or the Readlyn Community

Fund, are eligible for a 25% state tax credit on the total value of the gift through the Endow Iowa Tax Credit Program. Approximately \$1 million in credits remain of the original \$6 million available for 2021. All qualified donors can carry forward the tax credit for up to five years after the year the donation was made. More information about Endow Iowa can be found at www.cfneia.org/endowiowa.

Important year-end giving dates can be found at www.cfneia.org. Before making any significant gift to charity, the Foundation recommends you consult your professional advisor to understand the impact on your taxes and to ensure you are maximizing any tax benefits. For questions or help with year-end giving, contact Laurie Everhardt at 319-243-1352 or leverhardt@cfneia.org.

neia.org.

More information about the Bremer County Community Foundation or Readlyn Community Fund can be found at www.bremerccf.org or www.readlyncf.org.

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 help 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.cfneia.org. CFNEIA is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.



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	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church 2683 Quail Avenue Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3977 Pastor Philip Giradin Sunday School 9 am Divine Service 10 a.m.</p>
	<p>St. Matthew Lutheran Church Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor 2649 230th Street Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758 Divine Parish Worship at St. Matthews 10:00 a.m. Sunday School starting Oct. 11 9:15-9:45 a.m. Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM</p>
	<p>St. Paul Lutheran Church 120 West 4th Street Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3961 Pastor Philip Giradin Worship 8:30 AM</p>
	<p>Zion Lutheran Church 240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor (319) 279-3643 Sunday Worship Service 8 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:30 p.m. Evening Circle 1st Thursday 6 p.m.</p>

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