

# Readlyn Chronicle

Volume 14, No. 1, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, January 27, 2021

## Two from Readlyn urge support of UI Dance Marathon



Alec and Brandi Marticoff at the Big Event in February 2020.

By Alec and Brandi Marticoff

My name is Alec Marticoff and I just graduated in December from the University of Iowa. Ever since my first year here, I have been a strong advocate for this student organization and its mission: "The University of Iowa Dance Marathon creates and sustains special projects to provide emotional and financial support and services for pediatric oncology and bone marrow transplant patients and their families treated at University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital."

Through UIDM, I have had the opportunity to raise money for families battling this cancer, meet the bravest children, and hear the many, many stories from parents who have lost a child to this horrible disease. In my four years, we have managed to raise nearly \$9,000,000 as an organization. I have run the Chicago Marathon two times through UIDM to show support for our families on a larger scale. I have been in a leadership position 3 out of 4 years so that I could do more for this organization and continue to learn how I can make an impact as an individual (supported by all of you of course). I am also registered in the bone marrow transplant registry now because of UIDM. I firmly believe that this organization has had an astounding impact on myself as a person and leader, UI Stead Family Children's Hospital, its patients, and everyone involved in this organization.



Alec during the marathon.

### Brandi Marticoff

My name is Brandi Marticoff, I am a junior at the University of Iowa and this will be my third year participating in Dance Marathon! The last two years I have had such amazing and eye-opening experiences as a dancer at the Big Event, a 24-hour dance party that college students and families affected by cancer attend. I also had the opportunity to run 26.2 miles to show my support for the kids and their families at the Chicago Marathon last year. Last year before attending the Big Event, I raised over \$3500 through the support and donations of family, friends, and this wonderful community! During the event, I heard so many inspiring stories, played with kiddos and their families, and was able to show my support for the kiddos by staying up for the entire 24 hours! There's no sitting and no drinking any caffeine for the entire 24 hours. We literally run on adrenaline and hearing the kids' stories. And this year's Big Event will be held February 26th through the 27th.

This year, I get the opportunity to further my involvement in Dance Marathon 27! I couldn't be more excited to take on a leadership role as a Morale Captain, which means I get to work with the dancers to help them fundraise, answer any and all questions they have, get them more involved, and help them connect with some of our resilient families. As Morale Captain, I also get to talk directly with one of our amazing families through emails/snail mail, learn their story during the school year, and get to meet them at some of the various other family events that DM hosts throughout the year. It also means serving as a more personal connection to DM, so they can ask questions about anything our organization does.

Dance Marathon has shown how incredible these kids are and how much fight these families truly have. We have talked with families who have lost a child, we have seen kids hooked up to a hundred tubes and wires in a hospital bed, and we have heard the most amazing stories of survivors and families who have fought through it all and overcome cancer. BUT the best thing about our roles in Dance Marathon is just helping kids to feel like kids again when they or their sibling is going through treat-



The tote board from Big Event in February 2020

ment! That is why we can't speak enough for Dance Marathon and what they do for the people affected by this terrible, terrible disease. That's WHY WE FIGHT for these families and kids, to eventually see the day when cancer is no more.

Not only does UIDM support families emotionally with playtimes and visits during their stays at the hospital, we try our best to provide families with everyday necessities, educational materials, gift cards, copays, scholarships, birthdays, end of treatment parties, wigs for kids going through treatment, summer camps, medications, and funeral expenses for children after their battle with cancer has ended. We believe that families going through the most difficult time in their lives should not have to worry about these things and that is where your donation is going. It goes towards all of this and more (funding for research, new MRI machines, and a chair position at the Children's Hospital).

Our donors are the sole reason that we are able to do everything we do as student organization. YOU are the one providing the financial support which turns into emotional support. YOU are the one that is helping these families to carry on their battle with cancer. YOU are the one making positive impact on a child's life.

Please consider donating to this incredible cause. The great thing about your donation is 100% of it will go to the kids. There are not any fees. This is a student run organization and non-profit, so no money is taken out for salaries like other fundraisers. You can feel good that your donation will directly impact these chil-

dren that have cancer and their families. Thank you for your past support. We really appreciate it. Your donation does make a significant difference.

### How to Donate

If you prefer, checks can be made out to UI DANCE MARATHON and mailed to PO BOX 136, READLYN, IA 50668

You can also go to <https://dancemarathon.uiowa.edu/>

- Click on the DONATE button
- Search the name ALEC MARTICOFF or BRANDI MARTICOFF

OR you can find either of our donation pages by finding our links on our personal Facebook page



Brandi after the 2020 marathon.

## Center Inn to re-open!

The Center Inn is almost ready!

Jim and Bev Collins are planning on opening today, Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Kim Brown and her gang from Inspired will move their operation to the Center Inn.

Brown said, "I am excited to announce that Inspired will be combining forces with The Center Inn at their location."

Initially, lunch hours will stay the same: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Tuesday-Thursday. The menu and staff will also be maintained, but, with the new location, additional menu options will be available.

"There should be no disruption in the

quality and quantity of our cuisine," Brown added. In addition, any formerly purchased Inspired gift certificates will be honored.

Regarding the present Inspired building, "I plan to use the location for some future venue," Brown said. More information will follow.

Many volunteers have contributed man hours to get this project completed. The bar at The Center Inn may not be open on Jan. 27, but, if the liquor license arrives, who knows!

Watch for announcements soon and keep an eye out for a sign out front for new information. The excitement is building!



# Grump's Grumblings

By Don Billhorn  
2007 Grump

Let's go back to the 100th anniversary celebration of Readlyn. I was chairman of the Community Club at that time and our daughter, Jennifer, wrote this address for the celebration.

*Five score years ago, the Ohlendorfs and Townsite Company brought forth on this site a new town called Readlyn. Now we are engaged in a great celebration, proving that a town so dedicated can long endure. We have come to commemorate that occasion, so that we may remember our founders as those who dedicated themselves to this town so that others may live here. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

Well, 2004 seems like a long time ago now, but we, as a community, have continued to grow and prosper. It's fun to see how the site of one of the biggest events for that day, the combine

demotion derby, now has become the Parkview addition, filled with beautiful homes.

Our town has continued in greatness with securing the Freedom Rock for Bremer County. The bike trail connects our town with other communities and is an added activity for all ages.

We are beginning a new year with anticipation of conquering COVID-19, celebrating a weekend of Grump Days, a new grump, and maybe getting our lives somewhat back to what they used to be.

That great community spirit of our founders is evident today in our City workers, firemen, first responders, Garden Club, Community Club, churches and many more who put forth time and effort to make small town, Readlyn, 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump.

Don Billhorn, 2007 Grump

## RTC Communications and Oran Mutual Telephone Company form a partnership

RTC Communications and Oran Mutual Telephone Company (OMTC) have formed a partnership called Little Wapsie Communications, LLC (LWC).

After much discussion between the two Boards of Directors on how we could expand our FIBER footprint to better serve our neighboring community and school district with a state-of-the-art fiber network, it was agreed upon to form this Limited Liability Partnership and begin discussion with the City of Fairbank.

This past fall we worked with the City of Fairbank on placement of the structure

to house all of the electronic equipment along with the engineers with the fiber plant lay-out and bids for construction. A land lease has been completed with the City of Fairbank along with a construction bid with a contractor to begin work in the spring of 2021. We are very excited to begin this new venture of expanding our fiber optic footprint.

RTC and OMTC will continue to serve our communities, as in the past, with state-of-the-art technology for working from home or entertainment, along with great customer service and supporting our communities, schools, and events.

## Alec Marticoff is UI graduate

Alec Marticoff graduated from the University of Iowa on Saturday, December 19 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Physiology and a Mi-

nor in Psychology.

He is the son of Marty and Kristi Marticoff of Readlyn. He is the grandson of Ron and Judy Leistikow of Readlyn, Marlene and Al Bradley of Readlyn and Raymond and Mary Marticoff of Tripoli.

Alec is currently working at Sports Medicine in Iowa City. Congratulations, Alec!



Alex Marticoff  
Photo courtesy Smith Studio



# Miss Readlyn Comments Trending Now

By Grace Imbrogno

Hello Readlyn! Happy new year!

I am sure we are all excited about various events and happenings this year, but one of the most exciting for our little town might be the re-opening of The Center Inn! Recently, my sister and I popped in to assist with some of the preparations that are being made and, without going into too much detail, I am positive that it will be absolutely breathtaking when it is finally open! There are so many people working so hard to make sure of that, and, so far, I know they have done a wonderful job. I really hope that, together as a town, we will all be able to enjoy The Center Inn again!

Another new and exciting change that has happened already this year is the new attendance updates for winter sports! Since the rules have been lifted, I was finally able to go to one of my sister and cousin's volleyball tournaments, and the student body can finally go to basketball games! I can say for sure that we have all missed being able to support our friends and family, and it is nice to be able to cheer in real life again (with a mask of course).

I hope you are all also enjoying the new year and new changes as well. With love!  
Grace, Miss Readlyn 2020



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# Readlyn Community Happenings

## Ryan Tucker is recertified

Ryan G. Tucker, FD, CFSP, a funeral director and co-owner with Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly, Shell



Ryan Tucker

Rock, Denver, and Readlyn, Iowa, has recently qualified for recertification of the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP), by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice. Ryan is a Lifetime Member of the Academy.

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

A select few have distinguished themselves among their peers within the funeral service profession as they continue their education to exceed the highest standards of care. This achievement is especially notable because Ryan has elected to participate in quality educational and service opportunities that far surpass what the funeral service licensing board in Iowa requires. Ryan has committed to a program of lifelong learning to serve you and families in your community with the level of excellence expected of a CFSP.

## Auxiliary News

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary #5661 Readlyn met at the Readlyn Library meeting room 10:00 A.M., January 14, 2021.

The Auditing Committee audited the treasurer's and secretary's books. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. A summary of General Orders and Chairman Reports were read. Volunteer hours were turned in. We wore masks and practiced social distancing.

The Mid-Winter Conference was January 15-16 at Holiday Inn in Des Moines. Eight legislative letters were sent in for the veteran's bill. We received a letter from Kathryn Schreiber. Six Christmas cards were sent to service men. A get-well card and Kwik Trip gift card were given to Marjorie Macken after being hospitalized.

A motion was made by Betty Power and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn, carried. The meeting closed with prayer. Hostess was Wilda Albrecht.



Jolene Meyer

## Jolene Meyer/ 80th Birthday

Jolene Meyer will celebrate her 80th birthday on February 3 with a card shower as well as a family dinner.

Her family includes Janet (Rick) Huebner, Readlyn; Mike (Laure) Meyer, Sumner and Greg (Kelly) Meyer, Sumner. She has 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild with another great-grandchild arriving soon. She is retired from dairy farming.

Her address is P.O. Box 41, Readlyn, IA 50668.

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kwiktrip.com/takehomemeals

MANY MANY THANKS

to all our friends and neighbors for all of the prayers, calls, texts, cards, goodies, and offers of help extended to us after my hand/snowblower episode. Words can't express how thankful we are to all of you. May God Bless each and every one of you!

Gene & Micki Thurm

### Preschool Registration Night

Community Lutheran School

Thursday, February 25, 2021

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

124 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Readlyn

Phone: (319)-279-3541

Email: [office@communitylutheralschool.com](mailto: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)

#### 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 - 3:15pm – Learn more at Registration Night or call the office. Activities include lunch, recess, rest time, interest area choices, and structured teacher activities.

Must be of age on or before September 15 and fully potty trained.  
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 Record
- Annual Physical
- \$50 nonrefundable registration fee
- Registration paperwork\*\*

Masks are required for everyone at Registration Night and we will limit the number of families in the classroom at a time to ensure social distancing.

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

Before and after school care available

For CLS preschool and school age children at \$3/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.

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# Readlyn Community Library

We put the READ in Readlyn

Patrick Brodigan  
Miranda Wheeler

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

## Cash Donations

### In Memory Larry Hagenow

Marlene Kuker  
Barbara Meyer  
Jerry and Bonnie Wittenburg  
Kenny and Bonnie Piehl  
Larry and Carol Strottmann

### In Memory Pat Pippo

Larry and Carol Strottmann

### In Memory of Jusy Lehmkuhl

Judy Henn

### In Memory Milton Happel

Grace Kuethe  
R.J. and Corlyn Freitag  
Douglas and Sherri Koschmeder

### In Memory Darlene Benning

Marlene Kuker

### In Memory Judy Lemkuhl

Marlene Kuker

### In Memory of Ronald Boevers

Douglas and Sherri Koschmeder

### In Memory Chuck Gomez

Ken and Barb Sowers  
Patrick and Melissa Brodigan

### In Memory of Eugene Huck

Duane and Ann Bohlmann

## Book Memorials

### In Memory of Larry Hagenow

"The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein from Farmers Co-op Readlyn and Shell Rock  
"Pirate Stew" by Neil Gaiman from Farmers Co-op Readlyn and Shell Rock

### In Memory of Larry Hagenow

"You Are My Happy" by Hoda Kotb from Alice Sanderson and Mary Brown

*Thank you for your generosity*



**The Bremer County Health Department holds foot clinics at the Readlyn Library on the 3rd Thursday of every month.**

### 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

## Are you up for a blind date?

**A book date that is!** Throughout the month of February, the library will be having a "Blind Date With a Book" program. A selection of books will be wrapped in paper and set on display for your choosing. The only hint to their identity will be the story's first line written on its wrapper. Once you've made your decision and checked out one of the books, take it home, unwrap it, and begin getting to know your "date".



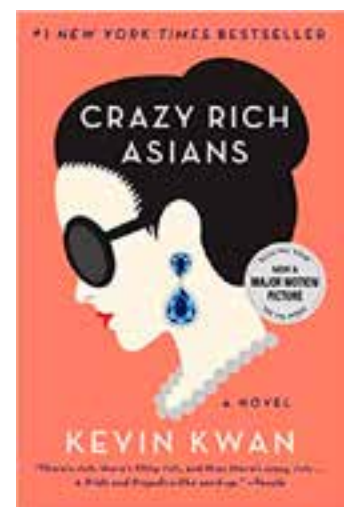
When you are finished, fill out a "Rate Your Date" bookmark to let us know your thoughts. When returned, these bookmarks will be an entry into a grand prize drawing! Feel free to go on as many dates as you'd like before the end of February. We will announce the prize winner the first week in March.

**Hopefully, it will be love at first sight for you and your "Blind Date"!**

## Readlyn Reads - Book Talk

**Jan's title: Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan**

Pick up a copy at the library and join us for discussion on **Feb 25th.**



When New Yorker Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer in Singapore with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, she envisions a humble family home and quality time with the man she hopes to marry. But Nick has failed to give his girlfriend a few key details. One, that his childhood home looks like a palace; two, that he grew up riding in more private planes than cars; and three, that he just happens to be the country's most eligible bachelor.

On Nick's arm, Rachel may as well have a target on her back the second she steps off the plane, and soon, her relaxed vacation turns into an obstacle course of old money, new money, nosy relatives, and scheming social climbers.



Compiled by Bob Thran

# Readlyn, Long Ago

## Growing up in Readlyn, Iowa

I was born in Readlyn in 1929 a few days before the stock market crash that triggered the Great Depression, which lasted during the entire 1930s into early 1940s. I remember World War II well for I was 12 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. I can recall the good economic post-war years. My goal is to inform you what my generation experienced.

We were the last generation who grew up without television. This article deals with the period from 1935 to World War II. The Depression caused much misery, especially for the farmers and those who had loans on their property. Banks and insurance companies foreclosed on many farms, businesses and homes.

I can remember talk of corn at 11 cents a bushel.

I have little knowledge of my early years until I was six in 1935. Candy bars were big and cost a nickel. Two dip cones were a nickel. Haircuts at Herb Wittenburg's were 30 cents with a nickel back to kids for a treat.

This was a time when hand-me-down clothes were in fashion. It was a time when patched-up overalls were commonplace. We children were not spoiled and demanded little. We had little access to money. Finding a penny was a thrill.

We obeyed, and, if we didn't, we could expect a spanking, with the hand not as bad as with a stick. Some parents kept a well-displayed stick in their house for that purpose. If we used foul language we might get our mouth washed out with soap.

We played mostly outdoors. The climate was much different when we were growing up. Snow came earlier, it seemed like we always had a big snowstorm before Thanksgiving. We put our bikes away in the middle of October.

In winter we wore 4-buckle overshoes. Girls wore snow suits. Mittens kept hands warm. We wore long underwear. Caps had ear flaps and we were bundled up with a scarf.

Winter weather did not prevent us from playing outside. Readlyn had no hills. We had to run, carry our sleds in front of us, do a belly flop on the sled, then coast.

The fireman would construct an ice skating pond where we could skate and play hockey using a can for a puck.

I was with a group of kids that walked two and a half miles on a cold day to Crane Creek to skate on the gravel pit in Wehling's pasture. We walked back to Readlyn. We did our ice skating on skates clamped on our shoes. It was often difficult to keep them attached.

Other fun in winter: when we had a wet snowfall and a milder temperature, we would form a bigger snowball, roll it in the snow making it bigger using more rolled up snow to build a snowman. After a fresh snow, we played fox and goose by creating paths in the snow. Running in these paths we played tag. With the right texture of snow, we had snowball fights, some in fun and some were vicious.

Riding in cars, we bundled up for the

cars had heaters that gave out little heat. On a longer trip blankets were often a necessity in the back seat.

Parents did not organize our fun. We chose our fun. Softball was popular. If there weren't enough for sides we played work-up, with two or three batters in the beginning and, when a batter made out, he would go to left field and, as more outs were made, he would again become a batter. Other games played were Annie, Annie Over, Red Rover, Simon Says, and Track the Rabbit using chalk on the sidewalks to indicate to those tracking us the path to follow.

I think almost all of us in town had clamp roller skates. Most of the sidewalks were smooth enough for skating. Our bicycles had 22 or 24 inch wheels, no small-wheeled bikes like there are now. We had to be in 5th or 6th grade before our legs would reach the pedals.

For entertainment, we would go to the depot at 8:30 in the morning to watch the freight cars being switched onto and from the sidetrack and to watch freight being unloaded.

In summer, off with the shoes, we went barefoot, except to church, and we went to church every Sunday. Women sat on the left side as you came in and men on right side. In summer, men would visit outside, then file in when the bell started ringing. Kids would sit up front, girls on the left and boys on the right. Women had to wear hats! We behaved!

I whispered something to Vernon Stumme and Reverend Freese looked down at us and asked in a harsh tone, "Boys, are you paying attention?" What I remember most about my early church years was that the theme of most of Rev. Freese's 45-minute sermons was, "SINNERS, IF YOU DON'T CHANGE YOUR WAYS YOU ARE GOING STRAIGHT TO HELL" and sometimes we might be "CONDEMNED TO ETERNAL DAMNATION TO THE UTTERMOST DEPTHS OF HELL." Later ministers were more subtle.

Our mothers had a different life than mothers now. They stayed home, took care of us kids, did housework, tended to a big garden, canned many fruits and vegetables and prepared wholesome meals, with potatoes at every dinner and supper. We ate as a family and said the table prayer at each meal. They did not have to worry about our getting into trouble and did not have to call us for meals. If we were away from home when the whistle blew at noon or at 6:00, we beat it back home.

Dads who worked in town spent 60 hours per week on the job, six days a week, 7:00 AM to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 6 PM. Those were the hours stores were open, and they were open later on Wednesday and Saturday nights.

Our mother's household tasks fell on certain days of the week. Monday was washday. Wringer wash machines were in use. Clothes went through the wringer into a tub to be rinsed then through the wringer into the second tub. Clothes were hung outside on the clothesline to dry. In



Bill and Mary Everding at their Standard gas station located 1/2 block west of Main Street on Third Street. Bremer County 1930 license plate. Guessing auto is a newer model Chevrolet.

a big family this was an all-day process. Wringer wash machines were dangerous. If your hand got caught in the wringer it would pull your arm in up to the shoulder. There were accidents. Al Fortsch's arm got caught in the wringer, and, years later, two inches of the bone in his upper arm was removed at the University of Iowa Hospital. He was in a ward with more than 20 people. I was a student at Iowa and visited him every day.

Tuesday was ironing day. No wash and wear. Shirts and other apparel had to be ironed. A collapsible ironing board was stored in a closet. It's much easier now, we do not need the greater part of two days for laundry.

Wednesday, in summer, was movie night in Readlyn, Thursday night in Denver. More on the movies in a later issue.

Friday was baking day. Bread, Kaffee Kuchen (coffee cake), cookies and apple pie were my Grandmother Thran's specialties. She loved to bake.

Flour was sold in 49 pound cloth sacks that were dyed and made into clothing. Every home had a sewing machine. Patterns were purchased and flour sacks were sewed into clothing. Flour was put in the flour bin. Everybody had apple trees. We had eight on our property.

Saturday night was bath night. We would throw the dirty clothes that we wore that entire week into the clothes basket, then take a bath. Clean clothes would be laid out for us for the following week's wearing. We did not need many clothes. Like Lavern Brase said, "And we didn't stink so bad either."

Sunday we put on our Sunday clothes and got dressed up for church. On Sundays we often visited relatives or they visited us. I remember those meals — roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, etc and a big slice of pie.

We ate mostly beef and pork. Chicken was not as popular as now. Duck and goose was often the main course for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sunday evenings and other evenings were often spent listening to the radio. One of the most popular programs was "Fibber Magee and Molly." Every home had a radio. There were not many radio stations in Iowa. Important stations that I remember were WHO and WMT.

I would hurry home from school to lis-

ten to the radio program "Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy," sponsored by Wheaties, Breakfast of Champions. I ate Wheaties. Almost all automobiles until 1937 models had no radios.

Denver children had the same experiences as we Readlyn children with one exception. As I talked to Art Kurtt, I discovered one great advantage of growing up in Denver over growing up in Readlyn. Denver children had a creek running through their town in which they could catch fish such as bass, swim and wade, and also ice skate on. We, in Readlyn, lived approximately 2-1/2 miles from both Crane Creek and the Wapsi, too far away. When we were older we swam in those streams.

More differences between our old folk's generation and now: There were no supermarkets. There were no big box outlets. Main streets were vibrant. Stores were family-owned. Grocery stores had a counter. Buyers came with a list and workers would gather items on the list. Much merchandise was ordered through Sears-Roebuck and Montgomery-Ward catalogs.

There were no fast food eating places. McDonalds, with nickel hamburgers, came in the 1960s. We never heard of pizza or tacos. There was no prepared food available in grocery stores which could simply be put in the oven to heat. Our mothers made everything from scratch.

Our lives were more simple. We grew up with few distractions — no TV, or Internet. Our worst distraction, that darn phone ringing on the party line. We, as children, were active. We were fed a well-balanced diet and drank lots of milk. There were few of us that were, to put it bluntly, fat. Adults who were fat often had the nickname of Fat, Fat Meier, Fat Klemp, Fat Beisner, etc.

Our parents usually married someone they had known their entire life, probably from the same church. They made their home close to where they grew up. We had the benefit of our grandparents nearby. They did not dote on us like grandparents do today. They retired, were not active, and age 62 was considered old.

I enjoyed writing this article, thinking about old times. I hope it brought back memories. The next issue will deal with Readlyn and Denver during World War II.

# Readlyn City Council Meeting January 11, 2021

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. 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, Nicole Barnes. Others in attendance: Steve Aiello, Cassandra Hesse, Randy Klieitsch, Tammy Thurm, Patrick Brodigan.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to approve minutes from the December 14, 2020 council meeting. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Jones and seconded by Barnes to approve Treasurer/clerk reports. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to approve the budget report. Library report was not available. All said

yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to approve Police Chief, Steve Aiello as Readlyn's representative on the Bremer County E-911 Board. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Jones to approve Police Chief, Steve Aiello as Readlyn's representative on the Black Hawk County E-911 Board. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve pay request from Kirvan Enterprises, LLC for \$21,000.00 for

work completed at 244 W 1st Street under the Readlyn Housing Rehab Program. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Council received budget request from the various departments for the FY21/22 Budget Year. All were taken under advisement. Council will have a special meeting on January 25, 2021 to work on the budget.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded

by Franck to set the date for the Max Tax Public Hearing on February 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Council reviewed plans for the building at 307 Main Street.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor  
ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk

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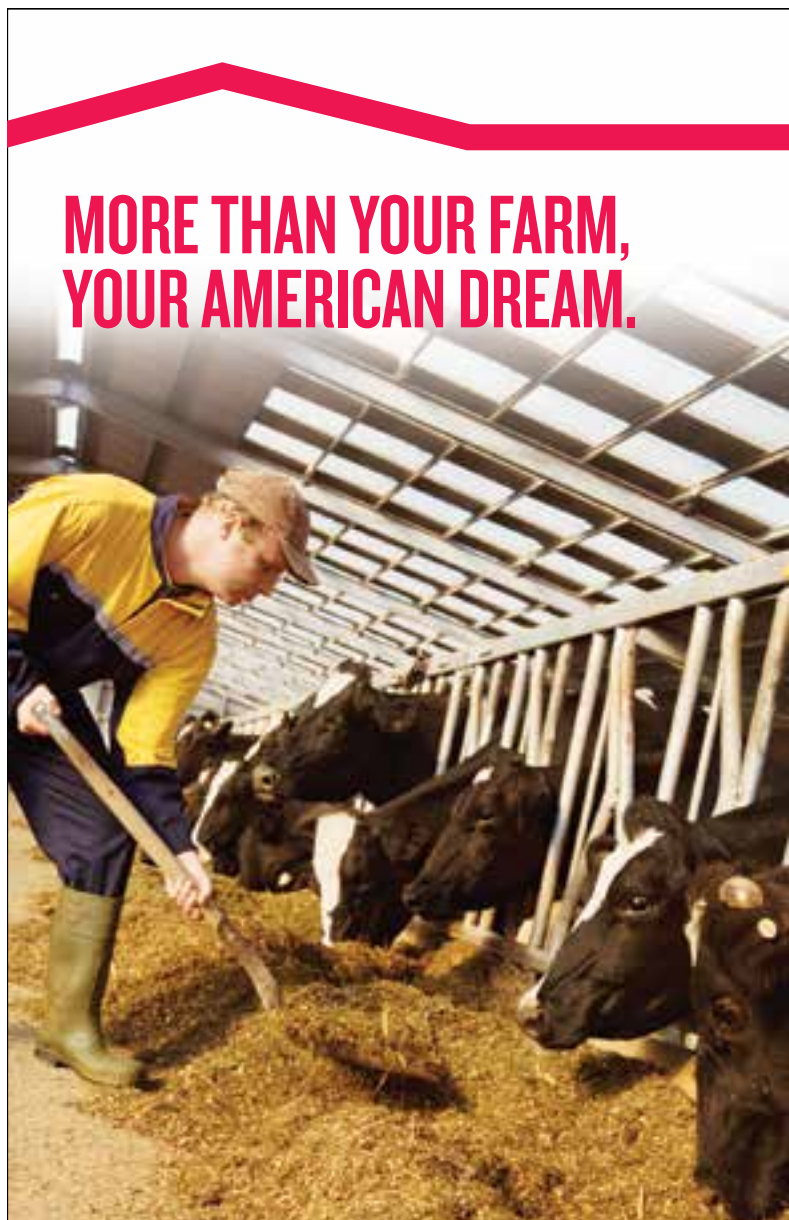
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# Warrior Way & More

Wapsie Valley CSD made it through the 2020 calendar year with many positives as a school community. Even though the pandemic in March forced all Iowa school districts into uncharted territories of virtual learning modes, the Wapsie Valley staff, students, and district families stepped up to face those challenges head on.

We would like to thank the Wapsie Valley Building Leadership Team, school board members, district staff, Nurse McKayla Bellis, and the student body for establishing and facilitating strong learning plans that enabled the school district to provide uninterrupted on-site learning opportunities for all Wapsie Valley families. We have also provided a full-time virtual

learning option for those families that chose that option.

As we progress into the second semester of school and spring activities, our focus will continue to be following our Wapsie Valley Mission Statement: Guaranteed Learning for Every Student. We are anxious to support our winter and spring athletes, the FFA program, band, music and all fine arts events, plus prom activities and the 2021 graduation ceremony. Our hope is that COVID-19 vaccines on the horizon will facilitate a gradual transition back to less restrictions put upon the education system.

We at Wapsie Valley CSD wish all a safe and healthy 2021!

*Dave Larson-WVCSD Superintendent*

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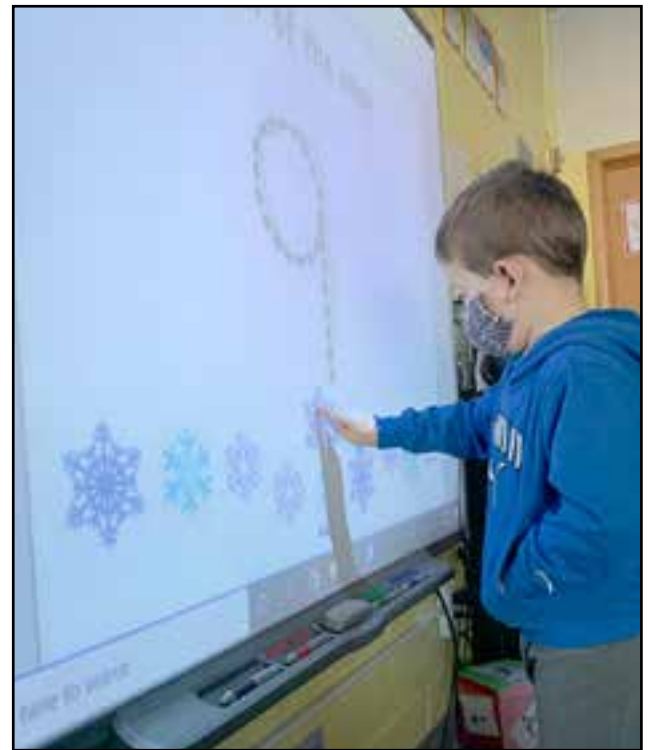


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# News from Community Lutheran School

The students in the 4-year-old preschool work on cooperation and taking turns as they manipulate game pieces and building structures.



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We celebrate baptism birthdays and being children of God!



# News from **Community Lutheran School**

The students at the Klinger campus enjoy working together creating snowmen and playing in the sparkling winter snow!



Writing down our ideas.



We are all friends in preschool.

# What's Cooking?

A recipe to share can be sent to [billhorn@netins.net](mailto:billhorn@netins.net)

**RECIPE: Egg Scallop**  
 From the kitchen of: Meier Cookbook by Mrs. Erna Mattias

Cut hard boiled shelled eggs into eighths and arrange in a well-buttered baking dish. Gently heat several tbsp. of chopped onion in butter until onion is clear. Add 4 Tbsp. more butter, then stir in 4 tbsp. of flour. Cook a minute, then stir in 2 cups of milk and 1 cup of chicken broth. Season with salt and pepper and cook until thick. Pour over eggs and top with buttered bread crumbs. Bake at 375 for 15 to 20 minutes or until brown. Serves 6. The recipe doesn't say how many eggs to boil.

**Crock Pot Beef & Broccoli**  
 From the kitchen of Jenny Platte

2 lbs. sirloin steak or boneless chuck roast (thin sliced)  
 1 c. beef broth  
 1/2 c. soy sauce  
 1/4 c. brown sugar  
 1 Tbsp sesame oil  
 3 cloves minced garlic  
 4 Tbsp cornstarch  
 4 Tbsp water  
 1 (12 oz.) bag fresh broccoli

In crock pot, whisk together broth, soy, brown sugar, sesame oil & garlic. Place the sliced beef in the crock pot, coat with sauce and cook about 5 hrs. on low heat.

Once meat is cooked, whisk together cornstarch & water in a small bowl. Add into crock pot and stir well. Add in fresh broccoli and stir. Cook for another hour until broccoli becomes tender.

Serve over white rice or just eat as is.

# Obituary



**Henry William Tiedt**

Henry William Tiedt, 92, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away from natural causes on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at the Denver Sunset Home in Denver.

Henry was born on March 31, 1928, on the family farm near Readlyn, the son of John and Louisa (Wolfram) Tiedt. Henry attended country school 80 rods from his home and to this day the original swing set from that school sits on Henry's farm. After his schooling he helped his parents on the family farm and later became a trucker. Henry was united in marriage to Arlene Nerge on April 28, 1946 at Grace Lutheran Church in Tripoli. In 1956, Henry and Arlene started Tiedt Trucking. Together they operated the business until Arlene's passing on June 18, 1989. Henry continued with the business until his retirement. Henry was united in marriage to Winifred Nolte on May 24, 1997 on the Tiedt family farm. Winifred passed away on September 13, 2014.

Henry enjoyed fishing in Canada, playing Schafkopf and polka music. Arlene

and Henry attended many polka dances in the area.

Henry is survived by a daughter, Diann (Les) Finke of Naperville, Illinois; a daughter, Rebecca (Lyle) Fette of Grapevine, Texas; a son, Joel Tiedt of Waucoma; a daughter, Lynnette Tiedt of Mitchellville; a son, Lonnie (Shannon) Tiedt of Dunkerton; a daughter, Lorie (Bill) Smith of Westgate; a daughter, LaNae (Barry) Nielsen of Denver; a daughter, Debbie (Scott) Kroeze of Denver; a son-in-law, Jim Stanbrough of Dike; 17 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren with two on the way and one great-great-grandchild; a sister, Janetta Schellhorn of Oelwein; a brother, Paul (Marrillee) Tiedt of Readlyn; a sister, Violet Schuldt of Tripoli; a sister, Delores (Melvin) Joens of Dunkerton; a brother, John (Sherry) Tiedt of Readlyn; a brother-in-law, Arnold (Karen) Averhoff of Waterloo; and a sister-in-law, Marvel Busch of Tripoli.

Henry was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Arlene Tiedt; his second wife, Winifred Tiedt; a daughter, Mary Ellen Stanbrough; a grandson Alexander Smith; a granddaughter, Baby Girl Finke; and a sister, LaVera Averhoff.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions there was a private funeral service at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Jean Rabary officiating. Burial was held in St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. Public visitation was on Sunday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly. Masks and social distancing were required at the church and funeral home. The service was livestreamed on the St. Matthew's Facebook page. Online condolences may be left at [www.kaisercorson.com](http://www.kaisercorson.com) Memorials may be directed to the family for a later designation.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

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**“The Elusive Shed Antler”**

*ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com*

It’s mid-winter and I’ve been getting some ice fishing in, but, as we move towards late winter, I’ll be getting out into the timber to participate in another of my favorite wintertime activities — shed antler hunting! This month, I’ll break down how I look for the elusive shed antler.

I still remember every detail of my first shed antler find. Although I was only thirteen or fourteen years old, I was on a mission to figure out how to find shed antlers on the property we deer hunted. I had been watching VHS videos, (yes I said VHS) by Drury Outdoors and, on their videos, they always spoke of finding shed antlers to help them figure out the bucks they hunted. My Dad and I started hunting them; it was something we could learn together as my Dad had never shed hunted either, even with all of his years of deer hunting experience at that time.

We started out walking deer trails and would put on literally miles of walking without finding so much as an old deer skull. We hunted many weekends that late winter and couldn’t find any. It became very frustrating, but made me more determined than ever. I started going after school by myself searching.

Then, late that shed season, I was hunting a local public hunting ground. I searched hard that afternoon and came upon a thick deer-bedding area. I searched every part of it and started to follow a deer trail leading out of it along a steep river bank. As I neared the top of the steep hill

I noticed little white tips sticking up out of the late winter dead grass. I ran the rest of the way up the hill to my first ever shed find!!! I was so excited I rode my bike home as fast as I could and ran in the house and showed my mom.

“Mom I finally found one!!!” I said, excitedly waving it in front of her. I could tell she wasn’t nearly as excited as I was, but as always, she was happy I had accomplished a goal I had worked hard at. I immediately called my Dad and, if I remember correctly, he had to tell me to slow down a couple times. I relayed the story to him and we were both excited! What I didn’t realize at the time was that little four-point shed had unlocked many more sheds over the years. When I sat back and thought about how I had found that shed, the puzzle started to come together.

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

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

What a lot of folks don’t realize is ant-



lers typically drop with the amount of daylight changing or photoperiodism. Animals’ clocks all run by photoperiodism, and, while cold weather and stress on deer can make them drop earlier or later, that window I gave is a good one to follow. You may want to adjust that time frame slightly if areas you shed hunt have pressure from other hunters. You’ll want to be the first one out, but be mindful of intrusion on the deer and work hard to not

spook them out of the area.

Next, let’s talk about the most productive areas to shed hunt. What I like to do is, first, find out what fields the deer have been using the most over the winter to feed. I’ll watch from a distance in the late afternoon to see where the deer have been herded up. Once I find that, I’ll begin the process.

I’ll start by combing the fields first. The nice thing about hunting a field is a lot of times you can spot them from a distance. I’ll basically grid search the field where I find the most tracks and deer sign. Once I’ve checked the field, I’ll start to walk the fenceline where they enter the field. A lot of antlers get jarred loose when a buck jumps the fence, so fencelines are very productive places to look. Then I will plunge into the bedding areas.

When I say bedding area, I’m talking the thickest part of the timber you are hunting. Search until you find spots where the deer have been bedding. If you have a bedding area on a south-facing slope, those are very productive areas as bucks will bed up in these areas and take advantage of the winter sun. The biggest tip to finding shed antlers is think about where a deer will spend a lot of time, which is typically the food source and the bedding areas.

One bonus to shed hunting, and what the Drury’s were relaying to me on those VHS tapes, was late winter is a great time of year to scout for the next fall. As the snow melts, all of the deer sign from last fall is once again visible and has been preserved, so to speak. You can now follow that deer trail or plunge into a bedding area you were once afraid to last fall because you didn’t want to spook deer out of the area. You can use this time to solve the puzzles you had the season before. And, when you find a shed, you know that buck made it through the seasons.

So as we roll into mid-February, lace up the boots and start putting some time in. And with these tips you should be successful in finding some sheds. It’s also great exercise! Until next time, Get Outdoors!



# Obituary



**Ruthmarie (“Ruthi”)  
H. Beisner**

Ruthmarie H. Beisner, 87, Anaheim, California died early on the morning of December 15, 2020 after a brief hospitalization unrelated to COVID-19. A graveside service was on January 7, 2021 with her immediate family at Loma Vista Memorial Park in Fullerton, California.

Mom was born to August and Blanche (Strempe) Meyerhoff on January 10, 1933 in Readlyn, Iowa. She completed the Meyerhoff family, with her twin sisters Darlene (Milius) and Arlene (Stone) having been born a few years earlier.

She grew up on the edge of town, so there were long walks to school and friends’ houses. Mom grew up with a great love of books, which could take her to new places, allow her to meet new people and give her the opportu-

nity to explore. She never lost her love of reading, even as her eyes began to fail. She gave that gift to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also was blessed with a great voice and an appreciation of music. Singing gave her great joy. While none of her kids were blessed with that talent, we all enjoyed listening to her sing, especially at Christmas when she would sing in German.

Early on she showed the independent streak and the ability to always find a way that would become the hallmarks of her life. She befriended those others shied away from. She studied math. Although small in stature, she was a fierce defender on Readlyn High School’s very successful girls’ basketball team. Music and her love of learning took her first to St. Olaf College in Minnesota and then to Iowa State, where she graduated in 1954. She completed graduate coursework in elementary education at the University of Iowa and Western Reserve.

After college, mom taught for two years at elementary schools in Dubuque, Iowa and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She then left teaching for a short stint in the business world as a “Junior Executive Trainee” selling children’s clothing for a retail store in Cleveland, Ohio. Training for that position required a stay at the renowned Barbizon Hotel for Women in New York, which led to several other adventures. She quickly realized that her heart was in the classroom, so she resumed her teaching career at an elementary school in Cleveland, Ohio. She then taught one year at a military base in Vilsech, Germany. She left Germany with many great memories and a 1959 Volkswagen Karmen Ghia

she shipped to New York.

Mom drove across the country in her new car after arriving from Germany and weighed two teaching jobs, one in Northern California and the other in Southern California. She chose the job in Anaheim, California. There she met Jim Beisner, who had also grown up in Bremer County, Iowa. For both, it was love at first sight. After a quick engagement, they were married in Santa Ana, California on December 5, 1959. The three of us followed quickly thereafter, and our wonderful journey with mom began.

Growing up a banker’s daughter shaped her in many ways, from learning to never give up on anyone—especially those facing difficult challenges—to having the house just so and always ready for unexpected visitors. Mom loved to decorate and cook, especially new dishes from cultures other than her own, and was very fastidious about details. Oh, the lists she would prepare! One of our great discoveries were notebooks filled with meal plans and recipes, seating arrangements, and decorations for every holiday from the early 1970s to just a couple of years ago when cooking for several families just became too much.

Once we were in high school and junior high school and able to take care of ourselves, mom went to a local community college where she studied library science. After graduating, she was hired by U.S. Borax in Anaheim. Until her retirement 14 years later, she worked side by side with researchers and chemists to provide them the academic research they needed to support their work. For someone who loved books and was so curious about everything, it was the perfect job.

Upon retirement, mom was able to do with dad all of the things they had dreamed of doing, which primarily involved traveling to see family and friends and helping us establish our families. The farmer’s son and the banker’s daughter truly enjoyed being with the other, and together they created new memories related to their visits all across the country. Even when dad was diagnosed with Parkinson’s and then Lewy Body dementia, they still had many, many good memories. Those challenges drew them closer than they had ever been. Taking care of our dad full-time took a tremendous toll on mom’s health. After moving dad to a skilled nursing facility, she caught pneumonia. That led to a lengthy hospitalization and more than a year in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. She scoffed at those who told her she would never be able to return home and fought hard to get there nonetheless, which she eventually accomplished. She taught us so much during this period, especially that love can give you the strength to face challenges so much bigger than yourself.

Despite missing her soulmate every day due to dad’s death, upon returning home she found a way to enjoy and appreciate her new circumstances. Elaborate meals at home gave way to family gatherings in restaurants and coffee and cookies back home. Coordinated decorations were replaced by simpler, more meaningful displays. Even as she lost her ability to sing, she would listen to music with a singer’s ear. New traditions were born, such as a white elephant gift exchange that became that most anticipated part of our family Christmas gatherings. Mom always found a way to adapt and keep the family bonds intact. Her last hospitalization was sudden, and for the first days, when the prognosis was good, she was planning her return home and implementing the changes that would allow her to do that. Even with that positive outlook, her heart began to fail and she passed a few hours later.

Throughout her life, mom taught us the value of hard work, the importance of always being open to learning new things, the fruits of persevering through difficult circumstances, the power of gratitude and treating every day as a gift. We miss her greatly. We know that we will one day be reunited with her in heaven.

“Come good home,” mom.

Ruthmarie is survived by her three children, Becki Thompson (Dan), Tom (Jody) Beisner and John (Susan) Beisner; her five grandchildren who knew her as “Grams” or “Grammi,” Jacklyn, Mandy (Andrew), Michael, Alli and Jazz; her two great-grandchildren, Lucas and Brielle; three brothers-in-law, Floyd (Betty) Beisner, Robert Stone and Erwin Koschmeder; and many, many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her loving and adoring husband, Jim, who died on June 19, 2014; her parents and sisters, one brother-in-law, Paul Milius, and one sister-in-law, Carol Koschmeder.

Memorials may be given in her name to any library or reading program.

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# News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Students and staff at Wapsie Elementary Schools were ready for Winter Break!



## Bremer County Community Foundation and Readlyn Community Fund grant applications now available

January 4, 2021 – Grant applications can now be submitted to the Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund’s 2021 grant cycles. There is one application process for both grant cycles and detailed information can be found within the grant guidelines. The online grant application and guidelines can be found at either [www.bremerccf.org](http://www.bremerccf.org) or [www.readlyncf.org](http://www.readlyncf.org). The deadline to submit applications is 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2021.

Grants are awarded to projects in the following areas: arts and culture, community betterment, education and youth development, environment and animal welfare, health, and human service. Grant applicants must be a 501(c)(3) designated organization or a government entity serving Bremer County in order to be considered for funding. First-time grant applicants should contact Dotti Thompson, program manager for the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, at (319) 243-1358 prior to submitting an application. Grant recipients will be announced in June 2021.

In 2020, a total of \$161,285.67 in grants were awarded to 46 area nonprofits and government agency projects serving Bremer County. Since 2005, the Bremer County Community Foundation and the Readlyn Community Fund have awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants benefitting Bremer County residents and communities.


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

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# Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

## Wapsie Valley FFA Holiday Drive-in Movie

By Mary Bodensteiner, Chapter Reporter

This year, since our Wapsie Valley FFA chapter was not able to have our normal Christmas party, we tried a new event!

FFA members were invited to the Wapsie Valley High School parking lot Sunday night, December 20, where the members and officers in charge set up a drive-in movie. The movie shown was "Home Alone" and it took some creativity to set up the screen on the side of the school, but everything turned out extremely well!

Cars pulled up and tuned into the radio station to hear the movie from their cars and everyone had a great time. Snacks were provided and hot cocoa was available to purchase. Only Wapsie FFA members were allowed to attend and they were asked to stay in their vehicle for the duration of the movie.

Because of how successful the drive-in movie was, the chapter would like to hold some more drive-in movies like this in the future for our members.



Cars lined up to watch the movie at Wapsie Valley High School Dec. 20.



FFA members Kali and Elle watch the movie while enjoying their bags of snacks.

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Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM



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**Zion Lutheran Church**  
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