

Melda, The Great Pumpkin: A dream come true

Submitted by Jaci Hogan

The journey started last October. A recent birthday gift of \$50 had triggered the impulsive purchase of seeds from the Michigan state record giant pumpkin. Ben Hogan's dream of growing a great pumpkin was starting to come to fruition, but it would take a year to see this dream through.

It was a long winter to wait, but when spring finally came, the seeds were ready. To make things more interesting, Ben distributed some of the seeds he purchased to other peers at TruServe as well as some family and friends. The dream was now a competition for him to prove his master gardening capabilities. He would be up against many well-known farmers and gardeners in our community. However, he knew if he succeeded in growing the largest pumpkin, going against professionals would only sweeten the victory.

After the final frost in May, it was time

to put a couple seeds in the ground. The strategy was to have a few plants start and see if any of them would dominate in growing vines and producing fruit. Three seeds were planted behind the TruServe office building. Within days, the plants started to grow and branch out. After a few weeks, it was clear that one plant was going to produce the giant pumpkin Ben was hoping for. All focus and effort would now be directed to the one plant.

Ben worked day and night, relentlessly tending to the plant and the small pumpkin that was starting to grow. He would oftentimes be seen behind TruServe pulling weeds and hauling five gallon pails to make sure his plant was staying hydrated. YouTube and Facebook pumpkin groups became constant open tabs on his work computer so he could get expert advice on how to kill any pest that bothered his precious plant.

Rain was scarce as the summer went on. Ben enlisted the help of his friend, Andy,

who engineered and constructed a state-

Continued on Page 2

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

By the order of The Readlyn City Council.

Chapter 77 Golf Cart Ordinance

& Chapter 78 UTV Ordinance Will be enforced.

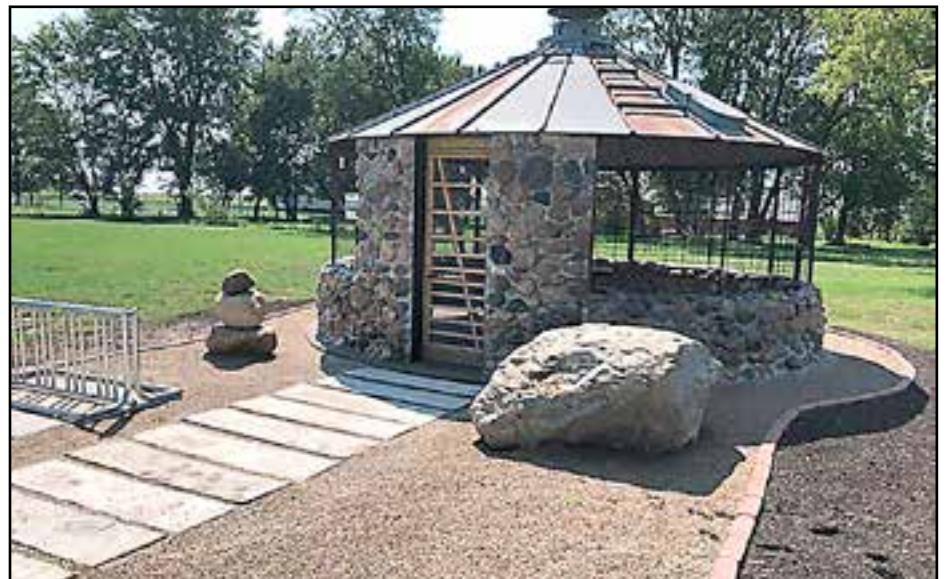
Every person who intends to operate a golf cart or UTV on city streets needs to contact Chief Steve Aiello (319-279-3999) and set up a time to have him inspect it for the following things.

- Proof of Insurance - Adequate Brakes - Slow moving sign (Golf Carts only)
- Rear or side mirror - Orange safety flag (5ft. or higher off ground)
- Adequate exhaust

You will then be able to purchase a permit sticker (\$20 a year) to place on your golf cart/UTV. Without this permit, your golf cart/UTV is no longer legal on Readlyn Streets.

Some new rules. It is your responsibility to learn them. After I inspect your golf cart/UTV I will give you a copy of the new ordinance. Or stop by City Hall and I will give you a copy.

Fines for both are as follows. 1st offense \$100 plus surcharge & court costs. 2nd offense \$200 plus surcharge & court costs. 3rd offense \$300 plus surcharge & court costs. Also after 3rd offense, the permit will be revoked for 180 days and not allowed on Readlyn streets by any operator.



Gazebo on the Bike Trail nears completion

The gazebo on the Readlyn Bike Trail just keeps looking better and better thanks to several dedicated and ambitious volunteers and generous donations. Pavers donated by Craig Hesse, crushed quarry rock, rocks, soil and a bike rack were recently added to enhance the already awesome appearance of the gazebo. Driving his skid loader, Charlie Hesse first filled in the area with the crushed quarry rock between the gazebo and the area where the pavers were to be placed. Craig, Gene Thurm, Bonnie Erickson and David and

Ruth Wittenburg assisted him in this step and then they properly laid the pavers. Barney Wiersma moved the large rock on the right into place. The bike rack on the left was secured. It was donated by Jane Meier in memory of her son, Steve Meier.

The birch tree to the left of the large rock was donated last year by Denver's Garden Club. Inside the gazebo is a comfortable picnic table donated by funds that remained in the Wapsie Ridge Ladies' League account.

Finally, soil was added outside the

pavers in preparation for making Ruth Wittenburg's dream of a butterfly garden become a reality. David and Ruth, who have played a major role in the creation of the gazebo, donated memorial money in honor of David's mother, Marie Wittenburg, six years ago for the creation of the butterfly garden. Work on this garden will begin once the clay-dirt pile near the gazebo is leveled. The final step to complete the gazebo will be the addition of screens.

Please be aware that the gazebo is

meant to be enjoyed by all. Bicyclists, walkers and anyone looking for a place to relax and enjoy fresh air are all invited to "sit a spell." Not long ago someone left some small figures after visiting, it has become a bit of a game to find new and interesting locations for these small objects. If you haven't had a chance to visit the gazebo, please add it to your bucket list. The gazebo has proven to be a worthy labor of love for many individuals and seems to be appreciated by all who stop by.

Readlyn Savings Bank-We're Expanding!



You may have noticed some big changes happening to the west of the Readlyn Savings Bank. The excavation of the existing parking lot is underway and excitement is in the air. Readlyn Savings Bank has steadily grown over the years thanks to its many loyal customers. For that reason, we are adding on much needed space ensuring growth and success as well as Readlyn Savings Bank's continued excellent service to our community. Access to the drive up will still be available from the south entrance of the alley. Thank you for your continued business!

Weigh-in for Melda will be October 16

Continued from Page 1

of-the-art irrigation system that would allow a slow drip to the plant. The consistency of the irrigation system allowed a steady growth for the plant and the growing pumpkin.

It was not long before the pumpkin started showing impressive growth. So much so that Ben decided to name "her" as if "she" was one of his own. Melda was to be her given name going forward. He began treating her like a daughter; clothing her to avoid the hot summer sun and documenting her growth on social media. Checking on her and admiring her size is his new favorite thing. He is one proud papa!

As we write this article, we are still about one month away from the official weigh-in date and knowing if Ben will see his dream come true by winning the giant pumpkin contest with Melda. With that, we'd like to invite everyone to TruServe on Saturday, October 16 at 3:00 pm for the official weigh-ins and some fun we are going to call SPOOKTOBERFEST. We will also be taking information for anyone that would like to participate in next year's giant pumpkin contest. Please watch the TruServe Snapchat and Facebook page for more information. If you are unable to make the weigh-in celebration, make sure you drive behind TruServe to see Melda in all her glory!

Ben's nerves may continue to increase as we get closer to cutting Melda from her vine and determining her final weight. There is no doubt the competition is fierce. But win or lose, she will still be Melda, The Great Pumpkin.

Save the date

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn is planning on having their annual Fall Dinner on Sunday, Nov 7. More to come on this...

Deadline for the October 27 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., Oct. 14 at 5 PM - Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lydia Imbrogno

Hello again! This is my third month of the mystery object game. Last month's mystery object was the metal bicycle on the Readlyn Bike Trail entryway! (Picture below)



Trick or Treat In Readlyn Sunday, October 31

4:00 - 6:00 PM

This next month we are going to be looking at something that is: on Main Street, has to do with water, and part of it was formed it 2014. Good luck! (Picture of zoomed in object below)



- Oct. 1-3**
Wapsie Road Trip, Fall Shop Hop, 10 AM-4 PM.
- Oct. 1-Nov. 15**
Leaf burning allowed in Readlyn.
- Saturday, Oct. 2**
Pepper Tournament, 2 PM, Center Inn.
- Thursday, Oct. 14**
Deadline for the Oct. Chronicle, 5 PM.
- Saturday, Oct. 16**
Official weigh-in of Melda, The Great Pumpkin and SPOOKTOBERFEST at TruServe, 3 PM.
- Sunday, Oct. 17**
Sounds of Nashville, 2-5 PM, Center Inn.
- Sunday, Oct. 24**
Fall dinner at Zion Lutheran Church, 11 AM-12:30 PM.
- Thursday, Oct. 28**
Grumptoberfest, 4:30-8:30 PM, Readlyn Event Center.
- Sunday, Oct. 31**
Trick-or-Treat in Readlyn, 4-6 PM.
- Sunday, Nov. 7**
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Readlyn, annual Fall Dinner.
- Sunday, Nov. 21**
Immanuel Lutheran-Klinger Pie Auction, 11:15 AM, Klinger Commons.
Darrell, Jacque, Connie Live Music at Center Inn, 2-5 PM.

FEATURING: Broasted Chicken; 1/2# burger; Jim's Famous Tenderloin; Wed. Lunch Buffet

FEATURED Fri. & Sat. Night Smoked Baby Back Ribs 1/2# Rack
With choice of hash browns or baked potatoes, salad, and roll w/ butter-**\$17.95**

FEATURING Favorites from Inspired at Noon

- Rueben
- Chicken Salad
- New Andy Kaufman Wrap (chicken, bacon, & swiss)

Plus many more

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Fri. 4-close
Sat-Sun. 11-close



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Readlyn Community Happenings



Bonnie and Kenny Piehl

Piehls/60th anniversary

Kenny and Bonnie Piehl recently observed their 60th wedding anniversary.

The couple was married at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Readlyn on September 10, 1951.

They are the parents of two sons, Trent (deceased), and Darrin. They have three grandchildren, Drew (Angela), Zach (Allison) and Autumn, and six great-grandchildren, Alena, Aspen and Everlie Piehl, and Aubrey, Lorelei and Clara.

Kenny is retired from H&W Motor Express and Bonnie is retired from cosmetology.

They celebrated with a family picnic. Cards may be sent to:
PO Box 185
Readlyn, IA 50668

Notice! It's Pepper Time!

The first pepper tournament of the season will be Saturday, October 2, at 2:00 P.M. at the Center Inn. Entry fee is \$3.00. Bring a partner!

Any questions, call 319-279-3451 or 319-279-3725. Hope to see you there!

Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger VFW Auxiliary #5661 Readlyn met at the Library on September 14, 2021 with 5 members present at 7:30 p.m. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. No bills. The secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were read and accepted. The General Orders and Chairman reports were read by members. Volunteer hours were turned in.

The poppy wreath was taken by Ellen Thies to the 3rd District meeting at Mason City on September 11, 2021. She reported on the meeting.

We received letters from congressman for Veterans Bills. September 5-11 was National Suicide Prevention Week. National President has a pin for \$3.00. Arlyce Heideman's 96th birthday is September 23. A motion was made by Wilda Albrecht and seconded by Melissa Brodigan to order a Ritual Book and an Auxiliary pin. Carried. A thank you was read from Loann Happel for get well card and Kwik Trip gift card after having surgery.

The National President, Jean Hamil of Florida, will be visiting Iowa September 15-17. Fall Pow-Wow conference will be September 25-26 at the Sheraton hotel in Des Moines.

The Big Ten conference will be October 15-17 hosted by Department in South Dakota in Rapid City. Mid-Winter Conference will be January 22-23, 2022 in Des Moines. Our Auxiliary is 104.17% in membership. The missing man table was presented by Verdeen Pavelec. The single red rose in a vase is there as a reminder of the lives of each of the missing and a reminder of the lives of each of the missing and their loved ones who keep the faith, still waiting for answers. The red ribbon symbolizes our continued determination to account for our missing. A slice



The missing man table was presented by Verdeen Pavelec.

of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate; captured and missing in a foreign land. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families who long for answers after decades of uncertainty. The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return, alive or dead. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted, symbolizing their inability to share a toast. The chair is empty, the seat that remains unclaimed at the table.

A motion was made by Ellen Thies and seconded by Melissa Brodigan to adjourn. Carried. Hostess was Wilda Albrecht.



Leaf burning Oct. 1-Nov. 15

The City of Readlyn will permit burning of leaves, but not the burning of building materials or other household wastes.

Burning can take place Oct. 1 to Nov. 15, 2021.

Reminder: No burning will be allowed on paved streets or sidewalks.

Please be considerate of your neighbors when burning and do not burn wet leaves.

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bacon
mac &
cheese

spicy chicken
penne

TAKE HOME MEALS

A few of our faves.

See the full menu at
kwiktrip.com/takehomemeals

We're Back!

Readlyn Savings Bank

invites YOU to Our 15th Annual

Grümptoberfest 2021

“A COMMUNITY Appreciation Party!”

October 28, 2021— 4:30-8:30 pm

@ The Readlyn Event Center

- FREE Brats & Dogs Dinner 4:30-7:00 pm
- Live Music, Raffle & Prizes, Oktoberfest Beer
- MAIN EVENT: Costume Contest 6:30 pm sharp!

All Ages Welcome to Participate!

Member FDIC



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

Cash Donations

In Memory of Joyce Hartman

Tom and Betty Power
Barbara Meyer

In Memory of Florence Luloff

Marlene Kuker

In Memory of Robert Schmidt

Kim and Martin Happel

In Memory of Craig Schmidt

Kim and Martin Happel

Book Memorials

In Memory of Dixie Hennig (Ed Traeger's Mother)

"Trying" by Kobi Yamada from Lauri Phelan

In Memory of Mary Lockard

"Little Love Book" by Mary Engelbreit from Nancy Erhardt

10 Reasons to Join Our Readlyn Reads Book Discussion

1. It's Free!
2. You meet new people.
3. We read good books!
4. Lively discussion & good debates.
5. Read outside the box.
6. A reason to turn off the TV.
7. Get out of the house.
8. Everyone's welcome.
9. Might learn something new.
10. You learn to read critically.

We are always looking for new or improved programming. Let us know if you have any program, class, event, or service ideas!

Have a favorite program? Let us know that too.

Programs

- Book Talk - Last Thursday of the Month, 7:00-8:00
- Adult (and youth) Coloring - Second Tuesday of the Month, 1:00-5:00
- Novel Knitters - Every Monday, 6:00-7:00
- Foot Clinic - Third Thursday of the Month, 10:30-11:30

Services

- Fax / Print / Scan
- Conference Room
- Test Proctoring
- Interlibrary Loans
- Internet/WiFi

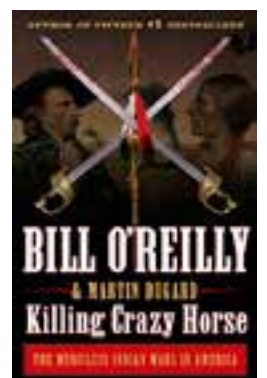
Readlyn Reads - Book Talk

October's title: Killing Crazy Horse

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

The bloody Battle of Tippecanoe was only the beginning. It's 1811 and President James Madison has ordered the destruction of Shawnee warrior chief Tecumseh's alliance of tribes in the Great Lakes region. But while General William Henry Harrison would win this fight, the armed conflict between Native Americans and the newly formed United States would rage on for decades.

Bestselling authors Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard venture through the fraught history of our country's founding on already occupied lands, from General Andrew Jackson's brutal battles with the Creek Nation to President James Monroe's epic "sea to shining sea" policy, to President Martin Van Buren's cruel enforcement of a "treaty" that forced the Cherokee Nation out of their homelands along what would be called the Trail of Tears. O'Reilly and Dugard take readers behind the legends to reveal never-before-told historical moments in the fascinating creation story of America.



Thank you for your generosity



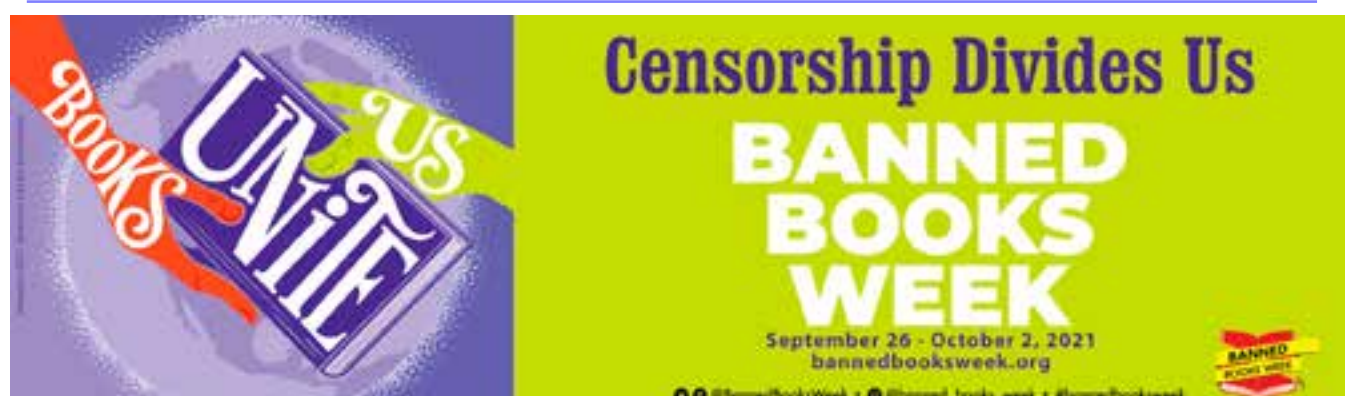
The Bremer County Health Department holds foot clinics at the Readlyn Library on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Visit Our Webpage!
<https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us/>



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





Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago



Deluxe Model A -- stainless steel radiator and headlamps were not standard.

By Alfred Janssen of
Waverly, Iowa - Born 1931

NOTE from Bob Thran: Al Janssen, 91, a friend of mine, grew up on a farm near Aplington. He graduated from Aplington High School and Iowa State University. Al was in feed and fertilizer sales. He wrote this article which was included in the book *Country Schools and Classic Cars* published by Hometown Memories LLC, Hickory, North Carolina. The book was promoted by the *Waterloo Courier*. Unfortunately, Al died in July before he was able to see his article printed in the *Readlyn Chronicle*.

As a small boy, I was always fascinated with cars. My only means of transportation at that time was either the pony or a bicycle. I would often sit in a car and pretend that I was driving. My Dad, although I didn't know he was watching, told me later that, as a nine-year-old, I would get in the family car, put it in neutral, start it up, and let it idle.

By the time I was ten, I had learned to drive the 1929 Model A that we had as an extra car. My driver's training took place during some afternoons when my parents were gone. With the help of my older brother, I would get into the Model A and drive it around the buildings, always being careful to park it where it had been parked before.

The Model A was a unique vehicle because there was a lever on either side of the steering column. One was called the spark lever and the other was the throttle lever. To start it you would put the spark lever up and the throttle lever down a few notches. Then you would hit the starter and, as soon as it started, you would put the spark lever down and the throttle lever back up

The Day I Tipped the Model A

and use the "foot feed" for acceleration. Sometimes you had to "prime" it with the choke lever, but the A usually started without any problem.

One fall day in 1942, when I was 11 years old, my older brother, Harley, was plowing at a farm that was located about a mile and a half from where we lived. After the noon meal, he suggested that I take him to the field, since he would finish plowing and would bring the tractor and plow

home that night. We didn't bother to get permission from our parents since they wouldn't have approved anyway. On the way, I remember Harley trying to talk me into staying in the field with him. I did not want to pass up the opportunity to drive the car, so I dropped him off and away I went.

There was about a half-mile of smooth dirt track with no ruts heading east toward the gravel road. Although I was small, I folded the "bucket" seats down so I could see better and still reach the pedals without too much difficulty. I started in low and got into second. By this time, I was up to 20 miles an hour, so I brought it into high gear. Now I was really rolling and feeling good, thinking how I would tell my buddies all about this when I saw them again. Surely they would be envious and yet very proud of me. The fence posts were flying by and I got it up to 30 miles an hour, with the dust really kicking up behind me.

Suddenly I realized that I was approaching a gravel road, which was a T-intersection. I was supposed to turn right on that road, but was going too fast. Although there were many good things to be said for the Model A, the mechanical brakes were not one of its biggest assets. I pushed on the brakes as hard as I could, but not much happened. I even pulled on the handbrake as I had seen my brother do once, but I still was moving too fast. Turn! I thought, Turn-turn; you can make it! The car began sliding as I was headed for the ditch. It began to tip very slowly and finally came down on the driver's side.

I lay there for a moment and began to draw from my 11 years of total life experience and thought, how am I going to get

out of here? Luckily, the windows were open and I jumped out of the window on the passenger side. I was about 100 yards from my Uncle Hank and Aunt Lula's farm. I ran as fast as I could and pounded on the door, "Aunt Lula," I sobbed, "I tipped the Model A." "Are you hurt?" she asked. "I don't think so, but please call my Dad." She told me to lie down on the davenport while she called my folks. Laying there, crying, sometimes hyperventilating, I kept thinking that my life would soon be ending after only eleven years. I remembered how my Dad treated horses that misbehaved and it wasn't a pretty sight. What could I say? Driving without permission, driving too fast, I had no defense! The verdict would surely be GUILTY! I thought maybe I would only get a life sentence of never being able to drive again. After what seemed like an eternity, Aunt Lula said, "Your Dad is coming down the road with the tractor." "Oh, good," I said, and then started to cry again.

I walked slowly to meet my Dad who said nothing to me. He looked the situation over, put the chain around the doorpost, and

pulled it back on its wheels. He got in the A and had to coax it a little bit, but it started up and he drove onto the road. Then he motioned me to come to the car and I thought I was going to be punished. But here's what he said to me: "Now drive it home and drive it decent!"

Boy, did I ever! I probably never got it out of low gear. When I got home, my mother was very upset and had many questions for which I had no answers. After that, my parents never dwelt on it and that became a lesson I took with me when I became a parent. I'll never forget that day-the day I tipped the Model A and was told: "DRIVE IT HOME AND DRIVE IT DECENT."



1929 Ford Model A pick-up

History of The Model A Ford

The Model A Ford replaced the Model T Ford which had been in production for 18 years. When introduced on December 2, 1927 the Model A caused a sensation. Millions were drawn to the Ford showrooms. The Model A was a radical change from the Model T. It was available in four standard colors, andalusia blue, balsam green, grey and black. Cost for the tudor was \$500, the high end Town Car, \$1,200. A Roadster cost \$385. Top speed was 55-60 miles per hour and could travel 20 to 30 miles on a gallon of

gas. Production ended in March, 1932. A total of 4,855,644 Model A Fords were sold.

Having been born in 1929, I was not aware of who drove a Model A in the area. However, I recall that Albert Gruber drove a four-door black Model A. I remember an incident vividly. On a Saturday night I was sitting on the south side of my grandfather's butcher shop which was next to Aug and Em Wilkening's Champlin Station. Glen Wittenburg pulled up in his Model A coupe that had a rumble seat. He checked his tires for air, then sped away, roaring his motor and squealing his tires. As a pre-teen, his departure left quite an impression on me.

The Model A hauled many students to Readlyn High School. Theodore Schmidt, who farmed south of Readlyn, had 10 children who attended Readlyn High School. Ted Schmidt, brothers Arlen and Lawrence, drove the same Model A for seven years. Arlen was not certain whether the rest of the Schmidt family rode to Readlyn High School in that same Model A. In 1946-48, Irene Pavelec, Pete Moeller, Elton Schutte, Ervin Koschmed, Laverne Spier and possibly others drove Model A's to Readlyn High School, picking up students along the way. These Model A Fords were still in use 15 years after the last Model A was manufactured.

Duane Schломann graduated from Denver High School in 1947. He is the proud owner of a Model A. Duane described the Model A as an inexpensive, durable, reliable automobile requiring little maintenance. The auto was simple in design and easily repaired. Only Carroll Woodrick drove a Model A to Denver High School. Duane drove a 1928 Plymouth.

A Challenge To Chronicle Readers

Few of you citizens of Readlyn, Denver and the surrounding area have had any contact with Henry Ford's Model A or his Model T.

These autos are so much a part of our history. It would be awesome if the Readlyn Historical Society possessed a Model A and a Model T.

Both autos would be an outstanding attraction in parades. They would even stand out in the Iowa State Fair Parade. They would also draw much interest when on display. It would be an unforgettable experience to ride in the Model A and the Model T.

I am proud that I was instrumental in the founding of the Readlyn Historical Soci-

ety. A committee was formed. When the subject turned to raising funds, ice cream socials were proposed. I informed the committee that I planned to donate \$1,000. Silence! Substantial donations followed.

I issue a challenge to you readers of the *Readlyn Chronicle* and my articles. I will donate the first \$1,000 to a fund for the acquisition of a Model A and a Model T to be presented to The Readlyn Historical Society. I do this because I feel these two vintage automobiles would enhance the town of Readlyn, and, selfishly, I would again cherish the experience of riding in a Model T or driving a Model A. I am hoping a fund to receive our donations will be established.

Wapsie ROAD TRIP
2021

FALL SHOP HOP
OCTOBER 1 - 3
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, & SUNDAY

Brainard Hollow
210 Main St. East
Fairbank, Iowa

Dusk to Dawn
8912 N. Raymond Rd.
Dunkerton, Iowa

Inspired
314 Main St.
Readlyn, Iowa

Saved For More
103 Halpin Ave
Fairbank, Iowa

Visions
101A S. 4th St.
Fairbank, Iowa

*Pick up your SHOP HOP PUNCH CARD (for prizes) at any of these locations!
Check out our Facebook page for more details!! www.facebook.com/wapsieroadtrip

Wapsie Valley School Board accepts Petition

Wapsie Valley voters will have the opportunity to vote. A “yes” vote will give WV taxpayers the opportunity to vote for every candidate in all five districts that are running for school board on the November 2, 2021 ballot.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Deadline for the October 27
Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., Oct. 14 at 5 PM - Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

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News from **Community Lutheran School**

Community Lutheran School is blessed to serve our community teaching God's Word every day to our students and families. Our theme this year is "In all things" from Colossians 1:15-20.



Kindergarten



First through sixth grades



Four-year-old preschool



Three-year-old preschool



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Dr. Jonathan Smiley and family

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Immanuel Lutheran (Klinger's)

'Blest Be the Pie That Binds'

PIE AUCTION

Sunday, November 21st

11:15 AM, KLINGER COMMONS

Accepting pie donations of any flavor. Bring to Commons area by 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 21st.

Funds provided by Thrivent Action Team.

All proceeds from the Pie Auction will be directed to the Brook Kaufman Family.



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

For more info contact Barb Forsyth at 319.939.1469



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News from **Wapsie Valley Elementary**



Readlyn Elementary students participated in the Be Academy where they learned school expectations and do's and don'ts in the restrooms, assemblies, on the bus, recess, hallways, and lunch room.

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Deadline for the October 27 Readlyn Chronicle is Thurs., Oct. 14 at 5 PM - Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com



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I want to thank staff and community members for a super start to the 2021-22 school year at WVCSD. Even though we had to call a no school day on the third day of school, everyone seemed to understand the need for a day to refocus our efforts. We had no electricity to our Fairbank Elementary building and partial power to the high school building until 7:15 am on that Wednesday after the storm. I was not surprised to see the community efforts taking place the next few days as cleanup efforts by so many were seen throughout the district. I heard many stories of our students showing up to help those in need. I believe this speaks volumes of the attitude in our communities when people are in need. Then Mother Nature responds with torrential rains to the north causing extreme flooding on the Wapsipinicon River. We also weathered that situation as a community.

I would like to introduce and welcome many new staff members to WVCSD. Readlyn Elementary welcomes Laura Giberson as the Library Associate and Emily Beecher as the Title I/ESL teacher. Fairbank Elementary welcomes Grace Cutsforth (Associate), Sierra Delance (Associate), Katelyn Gann (Associate), Katie Dirksen (5th Grade Teacher), Sydney Roth (4th Grade Teacher), and Nicole

Troyer (Special Ed Teacher), and Emily Beecher, who also serves this building. Our rural buildings welcome Beth Rochford as a Reading Specialist. The 7-12 building welcomes Bruce Huckins (Study Hall Monitor), Kelsey Whitney (Math/Science Teacher), and Chase Weber (PE/Health Teacher). At a district level, we welcome Gary Mueller (Van Driver), Carol Westphal (Van Driver), Ben Hogan (JH Football Coach), Kerrigan Riley (Assistant Volleyball Coach), Jason Helgens (Full-time Sub), Jayme Hurley (Elementary Principal), and Lindsay Fox (Rural Principal/Special Ed Director). We do have a few current employees taking on different roles including Alicia Hesse as a 2nd Grade Teacher, Amy Nosbisch as a 1st Grade Teacher in Fairbank, Heidi Shannon (Instructional Leader-Fairbank), Alyson Forsyth (Lead Teacher-Rural/Readlyn), and Leslie May (Associate-Readlyn).

I wish everyone an outstanding school year and thank you for your continued support of our staff and students. Good luck to our students and coaches as the volleyball, cross country, and football seasons progress.

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

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What's Cooking?

A recipe to share can be sent to billhorn@rtc279.com

Zucchini Muffins

From Burton Thies-2004 Grump

Make a well in the center of dry ingredients

- 2 Cups flour
- 2 tsp. soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Mix together
2 eggs

- 1 Cup sugar
- 1/3 to 1/2 Cup oil
- 1 T. vanilla
- 2 Cups of shredded zucchini

Stir into the dry ingredients:

Optional 1/2 c. nuts, raisins, chocolate chips.
Fill paper lined muffins cups 2/3 full.
Bake at 350 for 20 min.



Knief First Cousins Reunion — Tuesday, August 24, 2021 the descendants Will and Sophia Knief gathered for a second reunion of first cousins, first one held in 2014. Marlene Kuker, the hostess, had Jim Collin's Catering serve us a delicious dinner. Guests were from Cumberland and Oconomowoc, WI., Waucoma, Maynard, Sumner, Fairbank, and Readlyn, Iowa. We reminisced, each telling a bit of themselves and extended family. Pictured is the group, front row, left to right: Glennys Wedemeier, Carol Krueger, Marlene Kuker, Marilyn Helmuth, Karen Winter, Vicky Knief, Deb Schnadt; back row: Kathy Howard, Jim Krueger, Mary Ann Munger, Terri and Ron Edman, Roger Winter, Joe Helmuth, and Dennis Schnadt.



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RECIPE: BT Fried Eggs

From the kitchen of:

Burton Thies-2004 Grump

- 6" frying pan with flat bottom
- 1/4" melted butter

Medium heat or higher.

Break egg in pan, careful not to break yolk.

Add salt right away.

Turn egg over before top gets done and enjoy!
Have toast made up.

NOTE: Wife cleans stove!

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By: Eric Johnston

“No Nonsense”

ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

No nonsense. You're probably thinking I've gone rogue and I'm starting a complaint article. Fortunately, I would never do that to my readers. When I say "no nonsense," I'm talking about a new business venture I've started along with my wife, Aubrey Johnston, my long-time friend, Adam Farmer, and his wife, Monica Farmer. We just completed our inaugural season and this month I'd like to tell you all about it.

No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series L.L.C. is the full name of our business, to be exact. We are a five-event bass tournament series based in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

As many of you may already know, I was president of the Cedar Valley Bassmasters for 12 years spanning 2006 to 2018. I still have many great memories and met a lot of great people in my time with that club. As the years progressed with my time served in the club, I started to see things that worked and a lot of things that did not work within running a bass tournament. Around 2014, my long-time friend and tournament partner, Adam Farmer, started to help me with these club events. As he helped, he started to see and form an opinion on how things should go as well.

Here's where things started to get tricky. Through the years, we found that, as you try to change things within the "club" dynamic, there's always a lot of opinions, arguing, and not much follow-through or action taken and it always seems to end up back at the same ways. This doesn't just apply to this club, it can be any kind of club out there for anything. The club dynamic is tough anymore, no matter what the activity.

In 2018, we both left the club and started fishing other series on the Mississippi River. We were involved in everything from marshaling for the elites, down to small club derbies. All the while, what we didn't realize is we were both compiling notes on things that were cool in a bass tournament or worked well, and things that went wrong or anglers really didn't like.

For two years, I missed running a series. The comradery and getting to know everyone was what I truly missed. In the spring of 2020, I started jotting down an outline of a new series that I felt everyone could get excited about. I was reluctant to bring it up to Adam, as I thought he would

instantly reject the idea of running a series again. But I knew I needed and wanted his help in the venture.

In July of 2020, I finally got up the nerve to pitch this idea to him. My anxiety over it was for nothing as Adam's eyes lit up when I started pitching this idea to him. He started giving me ideas and what he would like to see. BOOM! No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series was born!

Within the next few weeks, we put together a draft of the series, one pool (pool 10, Mississippi River) one sheet of rules, and a 90% payout to the anglers, No Nonsense. We both kept using this phrase as the draft came together and the name was decided upon. An easy set of rules to follow, and a committee of just us four (myself, Adam, Aubrey and Monica) would have final say on all matters. Cut and dried, black and white. We also decided the entry fee would be small at only \$100 per boat and, with the 90% payback, the checks would still be large for top finishers with decent sized fields of boats.

Around September 2020, we launched a Facebook page and nervously started to see what kind of interest we would generate. The interest wasn't exactly a slam dunk to start with, but seemed to be enough for us to move forward with the business. We then filed for permits with Wisconsin DNR and created a five tournament schedule starting in April and ending in late August. Next came the paperwork part that was not exactly fun, but, to protect ourselves and families, we filed and received an L.L.C. and things became very real as we were a legitimate business with the state of Iowa. I remember telling Adam, "If we can get 20 to 25 boats each tournament, I'll be ecstatic and we will make a little money doing what we love to do."

As time rolled on through the winter, we decided to hold a Facebook live meeting on our page in February showcasing how everything would be run and what we were all about. We advertised it for a month beforehand and the anxiety soon crept back in. We weren't sure if anyone would even tune in, but, as we went live that cold winter evening, we had around 50 viewers and a lot of questions and interaction with anglers. We once again felt good about what we were putting together!

At the end of February, we opened registration and had a few entries early, but for a while we sat around 13 boats. If you haven't gathered yet, Adam and I are both very nervous people and kept doubting



No Nonsense is a business started in 2021 by Eric Johnston and Adam Farmer and their wives. Pictured above are, left to right, Adam, Monica and Logan Farmer, and Aubrey, Delana and Eric Johnston.

ourselves at each step. Our wives kept bringing us back up. Sponsors kept a lot of interest and we didn't have to put a lot of salesmanship on sponsors. Everyone we approached seemed to fully believe in what we were doing. Blackhawk Systems Tooling bought us the scale we needed for weighing the fish, Julin Printing Company put up a large Angler of the Year Award and St. Croix Rods and Hank's Live Bait and Tackle did the same.

About two weeks before our season opener April 25, we still sat at 13 boats and I was spun. "Had we not advertised enough or in the right places?" "Did our time in the club leave us with a bad reputation we don't know about?" All these thoughts ran through my head each day at work. As we approached a week or so to go, I'm not sure what happened but my phone exploded. I suddenly starting taking entries almost hourly. We hit 20, then 30, then 40. We were blown away, we felt good at 25 and now were at 46 boats for that first tournament.

Now came the true anxiety, we realized everything had to go perfect or we would look like laughingstocks of the tournament world. We checked and rechecked everything before takeoff that first Saturday morning. At our tournaments each morning, we have a boat number issued to each boat that we draw for the Thursday evening before. Each tournament day, each team checks in with us and they get a receipt and their number on card stock. Their number is the order they take off and at the same time we check their live wells to make sure they're empty.

That first morning everything went flawless, we got everyone checked in, went Facebook live and played the National Anthem (we start every event with the National Anthem live on our Facebook page), started boat number 1 at 6 am and had all 46 boats out by 6:08 am. We were so excited, step one went flawless!!

Now came the weigh-in at 2 pm. We broadcast the weigh-ins live on Facebook as well so friends and family at home can

watch their favorite anglers weigh in. Everything once again went smoothly and our inaugural winners were good friends, Andy Sommerfelt and Jim Mastain, with a 5 fish limit of 14.6 pounds.

At the end of the tournament, all our nerves and anxiety were laid to rest as we took so many compliments it became overwhelming. Sponsors in Prairie Du Chien started calling that week wanting to help as they told us No Nonsense Bass Series was the talk of the town. Sponsors like Destination Outdoors, Johnson Sox, and Precision Automotive all jumped on-board that week and Mossy Oak Fishing doubled down on their sponsorship. We couldn't believe how it was taking off.

The series continued to grow all summer and our last tournament had 59 boats. We had small hiccups here and there, but everything went well. On August 29, we had our fifth and final tournament of the season and the points were very tight among the top five. This brought a lot of excitement and drama as we weighed the final day's fish. Our overall Anglers of the Year were Joey Renner and Kevin Schultz by a mere two points over Rick Miller and Nathan Huss. Talk about dramatic!!

As the season closed, we've had non-stop encouragement and bigger and even better things in the works. Over the season, not including any sponsor money paid out, we paid out over \$25,000 to our anglers over 5 tournaments on a \$100 each tournament entry fee. We had 208 different anglers fish our series over the season.

We couldn't be happier and Adam and I couldn't be happier having the support and most importantly the help from our wives, Aubrey Johnston and Monica Farmer! They made this whole deal run smooth. We can only hope that things continue to go well as we all love doing this and what we all love the most is all the new people we've met and become friends with. If you have interest in checking out No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series, look up those exact words on Facebook.

Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!!



Andy Sommerfelt and Jim Mastain were the Inaugural tournament winners.



Joey Renner and Kevin Schultz earned the Anglers of the Year award in the No Nonsense Prairie Bass Series.

Readlyn City Council Minutes August 16, 2021

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 5:15p.m. for Finance Committee to review bills and at 5:30PM for the regular meeting. Mayor Wedemeier in the chair and the following named council members present: Keith Brunscheon, Nicole Barnes, Joey Jones, Rocco Imbrogno, Jason Franck. Others in attendance: Barney Wiersma, Steve Aiello, Dave Panos, Sarah Hoveland.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve minutes from the July 12, 2021 council meeting. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Jones 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 Barnes

to approve the budget report and library reports. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to introduce Ordinance No. 358 for its first reading entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF READLYN, IOWA, BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER FOR REGULATING THE OPERATION OF OFF-ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES". Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared the first reading of Ordinance No. 358 duly adopted.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Franck to introduce Ordinance No. 359 for its

first reading entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF READLYN, IOWA, BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER FOR REGULATING GOLF CARTS". Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared the first reading of Ordinance No. 359 duly adopted.

Discussion on nuisance properties/ordinance abatement.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Franck to approve signing a three year contract with Keith Oltrogge, CPA, PC for auditing services. Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Shive-Hattery representative, Dave Panos,

reviewed the project with the council.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve signing a Professional Service Agreement with Shive-Hattery, Inc. for the Main Street Reconstruction Project. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to raise park shelter rent beginning in 2022 to \$25.00 per shelter. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Jones to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk

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patdillon@50674law.com

Kurt R. Leistikow
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 Readlyn, IA 50668
 (319) 279-3961
 Pastor Philip Giradin
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 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor
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