

The Contest honors area growers

On Thursday, February 24, 2022 at the Readlyn Event Center, the awards banquet was held for the 31st Annual Readlyn Savings Bank & American Savings Bank Bremer County Master Corn & Soybean Growers' Yield Contest: a.k.a. "The Con-



(L to R): Doug Sheppard, RSB Vice President, Jeff Brunscheon, Farmers Co-Op Manager, Ed Traeger, RSB President, Andy Sexton, ASB CEO



(L to R): Doug Sheppard, RSB VP; Conventional Corn--Adam Kleiss 1st Place; Eric Smith 2nd Place; Dave Schumacher 3rd Place



(L to R): Doug Sheppard-RSB VP; No Till Corn—Jamison Steege 1st Place; Brad Steege 2nd Place; Jim Fettkether 3rd Place



(L to R): Conventional Beans: Dave Schumacher 3rd Place; Adam Kleiss 2nd Place; Bill Kerr 1st Place (John Moellers accepting for Bill Kerr); Ed Traeger—RSB President



(L to R): No Till Beans: Jason Moellers 3rd Place; Brian Meyer 2nd Place; Dean Buhr, Spring Center Farms, 1st Place; Ed Traeger, RSB President

test." Years ago, there were a number of such county yield contests, but today, "The Contest" is the only one of its kind in Bremer County – and perhaps the entire state of Iowa.

Sponsored by the two local, rural Bremer County banks in Readlyn and Tripoli, The Contest is a friendly competition between area farmers. The Contest Banquet provides Bremer County area farmers an evening of camaraderie and celebration of the previous year's harvest: Harvest 2021. The Banquet is held annually before spring at Center Inn with Sunrise Catering providing great appetizers, a superb prime rib buffet and dessert.

Following dinner, the bank heard from Jeff Brunscheon, general manager at Farmers Co-op in Readlyn. Brunscheon visited with the 60 banquet attendees and answered questions concerning the grain markets. Brunscheon emphasized diligence when making grain marketing decisions this year. This was Brunscheon's fifteenth straight year speaking at the banquet. We would like to recognize Jeff for all of his years of speaking his words of wisdom at the banquet. He plans to retire this June 2022 from the Co-Op and we wish him the best in retirement!

Doug Sheppard, Vice President of Readlyn Savings Bank, presented the first award of the night: The 12th Annual Vernon L. Tonne Spirit of the Contest. The Award annually honors the long-time enthusiastic and good-natured participation of a Master Grower who exemplifies The Spirit of the Contest. The Award for Harvest 2021 was given to Adam Kleiss of Fredericksburg, IA. Along with attending the contest for many years as a contestant, Adam was recognized for his enthusiasm for the contest and his passion for farming.

The Contest publishes results that include variables such as seed company brand and hybrid number, traits, dates

Continued on Page 12

Weeds on Fire to sponsor Yard of the Month

For the fourth year in a row, Weeds on Fire will be sponsoring the coveted Yard of the Month award to thank four Readlyn residents for adding to the town's visual appearance.

As in previous years, for the months of June, July, August, and September, one attractive yard will be selected by impartial judges each month.

Winners will receive a "Yard of the Month" sign to display on their property as well as a monetary gift. Champions of the award-winning yards and photos will be announced in the *Readlyn Chronicle*. No need to apply; if you live in Readlyn, your yard will automatically be considered. Let the best yards win!!



2022 Grump Days T-shirt orders

— The theme for Grump Days is "Oh, The Things We Will Do In 2022." If you would like to order a shirt this year, there will be a sign-up sheet at the Readlyn Library from now to May 20, a post on Facebook, or contact Megan Kuker at mkuker17@gmail.com. All shirts will be royal blue. The shirts are \$20 each and MUST be paid in advance of May 20 or your order will be canceled.

Readlyn Spring City-Wide Garage Sales

FRIDAY, MAY 20 from 4:00 – 8 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 21 from 8 AM – Noon (Unless Advertised Differently)

Please drop off your registration and \$5.00 to the Readlyn Library by Wednesday, May 18. We'll place the ads in newspapers and online — you provide your yard signs. Maps of listings will be on Readlyn Community Club Facebook, Readlyn for Sale Group, and paper copies can be picked up at the Kwik Star at 8 am on Friday, May 20.

Readlyn City Wide Garage Sales Sign-up Sheet

Cost: \$5.00

Friday, May 20 4:00–8pm

Saturday, May 21

8 am – Noon

Name: _____

Address of Sale: _____

Items you want mentioned: _____

Please turn in your listing and money to the library by Wednesday, May 18. If your sale will run different hours than those listed, please indicate. The list will be on Readlyn Community Club Facebook, Readlyn For Sale Group, paper copies at the Kwik Star at 8 am, Friday, May 20. The Goodwill truck will be parked behind the library from May 19 – May 23. Donations can also be taken to St. Matthew's garage for the Lakota Indian Reservation, S.D.



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Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lydia Imbrogno



BAYER Crop Science

David R. Wheeler
 8234 E. Marquis Rd., Fairbank, IA
 (319) 230-1029



I hope everyone had a Happy Easter!! It's time for more mystery item revealing. Last month's mystery item was the welcoming rock in one of Readlyn's gardens, shown above.

This month's mystery picture (at right) includes: 1. There were over 700 scattered 2. Included an age requirement, and 3. Someone famous attends! Happy guessing!



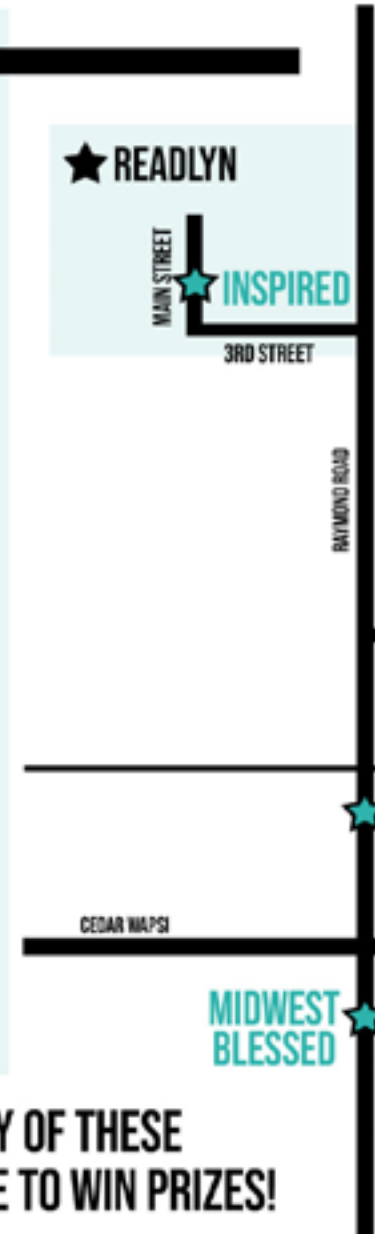
Heritage Ag Research Inc.

2570 Tailor Ave., Fairbank, IA
Jon Jaschen

Deadline for the May 25 Chronicle is Thurs., May 12 at 5 PM - Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com

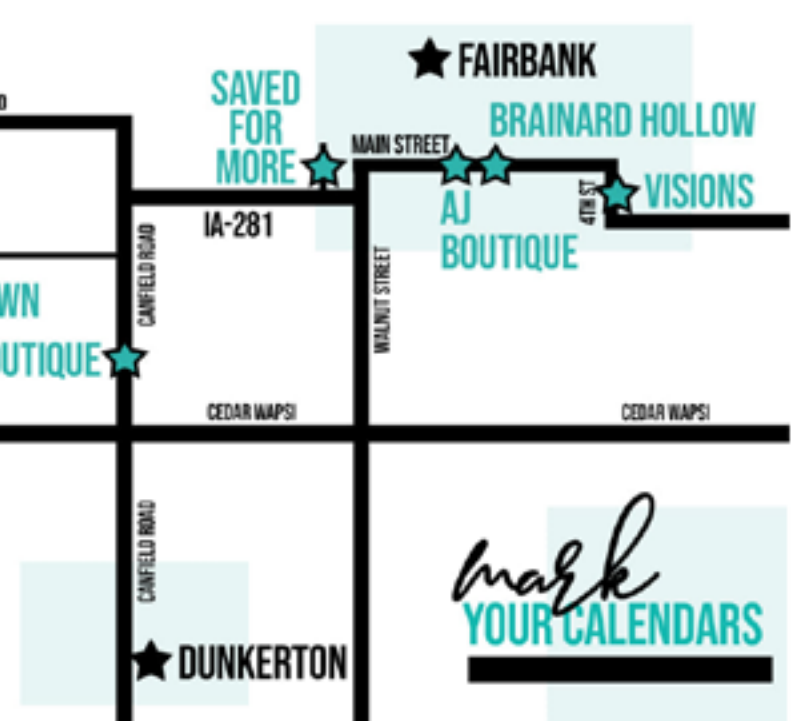
Shop local

- ★ **INSPIRED**
314 MAIN ST, READLYN
- ★ **DUSK TO DAWN**
8912 N RAYMOND RD, DUNKERTON
- ★ **MIDWEST BLESSED**
7603 N RAYMOND RD, DUNKERTON
- ★ **HOLLY'S BOUTIQUE**
8920 EAST GRESHAM ROAD, DUNKERTON
- ★ **SAVED FOR MORE**
103 HALPIN AVE, FAIRBANK
- ★ **AJ BOUTIQUE**
202 E MAIN STREET, FAIRBANK
- ★ **BRAINARD HOLLOW**
210 E MAIN STREET, FAIRBANK
- ★ **VISIONS**
101 A SOUTH 4TH STREET, FAIRBANK



PICK UP A PUNCHCARD AT ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES!

Spring
SHOP HOP
 MAY 6TH & 7TH
 10AM-3PM



FAIRBANK

- ★ **SAVED FOR MORE**
- ★ **BRAINARD HOLLOW**
- ★ **AJ BOUTIQUE**
- ★ **VISIONS**

make YOUR CALENDARS

Readlyn Community Happenings

Obituary



Jerry J. Seelhammer

Jerry J. Seelhammer, 80, of Shell Rock, Iowa and formerly of Denver and Clear Lake, passed away on April 11, 2022, at the Shell Rock Healthcare Center.

Jerry was born on December 9, 1941, in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Mable (Warnke) and Henry Seelhammer. He attended Bremer Country Fremont #8, Country School #5 and then Tripoli High School, and graduated in 1959. On July 24, 1966, Jerry was united in marriage to Linda Clark at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Denver. Jerry worked for Seelhammer Construction, Denver Machine and retired from John Deere after 37 years of service. At this time, he and Linda traveled for the next 12 years in their RV. Their summers were spent in Wisconsin, and they wintered in the warm southern states where Jerry worked maintenance in the various RV parks.

Jerry was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church and served on the Church Council. He was the Charter President of the Denver Jaycees and was a member of the Denver Fire Department for 24 years, eight of which he served as Captain. He also served on the Denver City Council, was a member of the John Deere Fire Brigade, Chairman of the Safety Committee and served on the Willow Run Country Club Board. Besides being very social and involved in his community, Jerry enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting and attending events and activities for his children and grandchildren.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 55 years, Linda; four sons, Tracy (Lori) from Owatonna, Minnesota, Troy (Rhonda) of Chatfield, Minnesota, Todd (Sheila) of Waterloo, Iowa and Thomas (Emily Nielsen) of Waverly, Iowa; 5 grandchildren; 6 step-grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded by his parents and two brothers, William and James.

A gathering of family and friends was on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at the Denver Fire Station from 2-5 p.m. with a time for sharing at 3:30 p.m. According to Jerry's wishes, his body has been cremated and there will be no formal services. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Jerry's family for later designation and online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com. Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver assisted the family.

VFW Auxiliary Meeting

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Auxiliary met at the Readlyn Library with 6 members present on April 12, 2022 at 7:30 pm. The meeting was called to order by President Verdeen Pavelec and opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes were read by Luann Happel, Secretary.

The motion was made by Betty Power and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to accept the minutes and was carried. The treasurer's report was read by Ellen Thies, Treasurer and is subject to audit. General Orders and chairman reports were read by members.

Motion was made by Ellen Thies and seconded by Darlene Peters to pay the cancer insurance for the members and was carried. Volunteer hours were turned in.

Wapsie Road Trip event is Fri. & Sat., May 6 & 7

The Wapsie Road Trip event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, from 10 AM-3 PM both days.

For fun, customers will be asked to find a hidden item at each stop. Customers will receive a card at their first stop and, for each place they visit, they will receive a punch on their card when they find the hidden item at each location. Fun missing item will be the same at each location!

At the end of the event, they will be placed in a drawing.

- This year's event will have eight stops:
- Inspired, Readlyn
 - Dusk to Dawn, rural Dunkerton
 - Midwest Blessed, rural Dunkerton
 - Holly's Boutique, rural Dunkerton
 - Saved for More, Fairbank
 - AJ Boutique, Fairbank
 - Brainard Hollow, Fairbank
 - Visions, Fairbank

Inspired will also be having food trucks on Saturday, May 7.

Mark your calendars for a day - or two - of fun! See the ad on page 2 of this month's *Chronicle* for addresses and a map of the locations.

Miss Readlyn candidates sought

Readlyn Grump Days will be held this summer June 17-19. If you are a Wapsie Valley junior residing in Readlyn, have a Readlyn address, or attended Readlyn Elementary or Community Lutheran, you are invited to be a Miss Readlyn candidate. Our committee will be contacting girls that qualify.

If you have questions or we have missed contacting you, here's our contact information: bonniewittenburg5@gmail.com, 319-231-4476 or ronlouiehartman@gmail.com, 319-239-0533.

We look forward to meeting and enjoying this year's Miss Readlyn candidates.

Deadline for the May 25 Chronicle is Thurs., May 12 at 5 PM

The National Convention will be held July 16-21 at Kansas City, MO. The Delegate is Luann Happel and Alternate Darlene Peters. A motion was made by Betty Power and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to accept them. Carried.

The State Convention will be held June 2-5 at Des Moines. The Delegate is Wilda Albrecht and Alternate is Ellen Thies. A motion was made by Betty Power and Wilda Albrecht seconded to accept. Carried.

Newspaper clipping was sent into Historian. 3rd District meeting will be held at Osage on April 30, 2022.

Election of officers was held. A motion was made by Betty Power and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to unanimously vote to keep all officers and was carried.

\$5.00 will be sent for National Convention Fee. A letter was read from Kathryn Schreiber.

There was discussion on changing meeting start time and raising dues. Betty Power made the motion to raise dues and Wilda Albrecht seconded. Carried.

A motion was made by Darlene Peters and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn. Carried. Hostess was Betty Power.

Pepper tournament held April 2

The last pepper tournament of the season was held Saturday, April 2 at the Center Inn with 10 players participating. The winners and their scores were as follows:

1st Place: Roger and Connie Buhr - 198
2nd Place: Grace Kuethe and Judy Henn - 174

3rd Place: Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 170

4th Place: Lynnette Biermann and Suzy Heineman - 146

Thanks to all players who participated since April! We hope to see you back in October!

Shirley Kuker and Judy Henn

Death Notice

Richard Dean Duffy

Fairbank, IA

Navy Veteran

Born: June 26, 1939

Died: April 8, 2022

Celebration of Life will be posted at a later date

City Council Meeting

March 14, 2022

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6:45 PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00PM for the public hearing followed by the regular meeting. Mayor Wedemeier in the chair and the following named council members present: Nicole Barnes, Rocco Imbrogno, Keith Brunscheon Joey Jones. Absent: Jason Franck. Others in attendance: Barney Wiersma, Steve Aiello, Austin Matthias, Matt Mahoney, Katie Labree, JeffHeil.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve minutes from the February 14, 2022 council meetings. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to approve clerk and treasurer's reports. All said yes. Motion canied.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Jones to approve budget report. Library report was not available.. All said yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes 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.

Mayor Wedemeier opened the Public Hearing on the FY22/23 Budget. Notice of time and place had been published in the Waverly Newspapers on March 1, 2022. No written or oral objections were received. After all desiring to be heard motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to close the Public Hearing. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to introduce Resolution No. 2022-03 entitled "RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023". Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2022-03 duly adopted.

Butler County REC representatives, Matt Mahoney and Katie Labree gave an update to the council. Motion by Brun-

scheon and seconded by Barnes to approve The City of Readlyn signing Engagement of Northland Securities as Underwriter. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Brunscheon to introduce Resolution No 2022-04 entitled "RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000, GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL LOAN NOTES OF THE CITY OF READLYN, IOWA (FOR ESSENTIAL CORPORATE PURPOSES), AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THEREOF". Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No 2022-04 duly adopted.

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Brunscheon to introduce Resolution No 2022-05 entitled "RESOLUTION GIVING AUTHORITY TO ADOPT THE ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PLAN OF THE CITY OF READLYN MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY". Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Brunscheon, Franck Jones. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2022-05 duly adopted.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Franck to approve city clerk to attend spring IMFOA conference. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes. Franck Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Brunscheon to approve Spring Leaf Burning from April 1 to June 1, 2022. Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Ball diamond dugouts to be studied further. City building restoration to be studied further.

NKTC Enterprises, LLC liquor license and Sunday sales application tabled.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Barnes to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

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



Readlyn Community Library

We put the READ in Readlyn

Kimberly Hollon
Miranda Wheeler
Nancy Lockard

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

Cash Donations

In Memory of Ronald Wolff
Dean & Lois Buhr

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

Visit Our Webpage!

[https://](https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us/)

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

Cribbage, anyone?

The library has received a request to host a regularly scheduled cribbage game. We'd love to host, but first we need a few players! If you're a fan of cribbage and would like to get involved—or if you've never played and would like to learn! - contact the library at 319.279.3432 or email us at readlynlib@gmail.com.



Readlyn Community Library Presents
- Summer Reading Program 2022
Oceans of Possibilities

THIS SUMMER WE'LL BE:

- Making Slime
- Hosting a Pre-K Dance Party
- Watching a 'sushi' demonstration and making our own snacks
- Learning about 3D Printing
- Painting 'kindness' rocks
- Playing Mario Kart to determine who is the CHAMPION OF ALL TIME
- Making very cool ocean-themed crafts
- Hosting a cosplay contest
- Making our own pirate's parrot (and visiting with a real parrot!)

Registration is May 7th at the library - follow us on facebook and watch our website for full program listing



Readlyn Reads: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet fishing village. Kya Clark is barefoot and wild; unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when the popular Chase Andrews is found dead, locals immediately suspect her.

But Kya is not what they say. A born naturalist with just one day of school, she takes life's lessons from the land, learning the real ways of the world from the dishonest signals of fireflies. But while she has the skills to live in solitude forever, the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. Drawn to two young men from town, who are each intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world—until the unthinkable happens.

'Where the Crawdads Sing' is our May selection. If you'd like to join us for Book Club in May, please let us know by 4/30!



Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago

Coming to America

Two Matthias families migrated to America from Algesdorf, Landkreise (County) Schaumburg, Germany, a short distance southwest of Hannover. These families were acquainted in Germany and attended the same Lutheran Church. The husbands in both families were named Johann William Matthias. J. W. Matthias, husband of CHRISTINE Louise Rohrsen, was born in 1826 and J.W. Matthias, husband of ENGEL Maria Matthias, was born in 1830.

CHRISTINE and J.W. Matthias arrived in Illinois in 1849 and moved to the Klinger area in 1856. ENGEL and J. W. Matthias arrived in Illinois in 1850 and moved to the Klinger area in 1857.

The families lived on adjacent farms and worked their farms together.

Children of CHRISTINE and J. W. Matthias were William (Willhelmina Pooock), Maria (F. L. Diekmann), Henry, (Carolina Knief), Fred (Caroline Byvank), Christine (William Diekmann), Fred (Sophia Bruns), Herman Matthias (Bertha Matthias), August (Otilie Finkensher), Louis (Alvina Schwake). My great-grandmother, Maria Matthias, died in childbirth, the baby 28 days later. Louis and Alvina Matthias, parents of Lorenz, Alvin, Arnold and Esther Happel, cared for the three Diekmann children until my great-grandfather remarried.

A Matthias marries a Matthias

Herman Matthias and Bertha Matthias were married May 10, 1894 at St. John, Maxfield, They were second cousins. They farmed near Klinger and retired to Readlyn and lived in the present Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home.

Their children: Bernhard (Frieda Rohrsen), Otilie (August Widdel), Herman (Charlotte Diercks), Edwin (Esther Schutte), Erna (died 1903), Paul (Erna Diercks), Lydia (Herman Moeller), Ruth, Elda (Lyle Carpenter) and Beata (Robert Murray).

In discussions as to which side of the Matthias tree someone belonged, Chris-

tine's or Engel's, Christine's descendants were called Little Matthias and Engel's descendants were Big Matthias. The distinction between Big and Little Matthias was that the Big Matthias men were taller than the Little Matthias men.

In Germany, Matthias is often used as a first name. My friend, Horst Fechtner, has a son named Mathias and a son-in-law Mathias.

Picture of Herman and Bertha Matthias family and news items from Arlene Broadway. Matthias genealogy history from Ron Matthias, retired History Professor, Wartburg College.

Mrs. J.W. Matthias notes 92nd birthday

Mrs. J. W. Matthias, who will celebrate her ninety-second birthday June 12, is the subject of the article below printed in the *Bremer County Independent*. Mrs. Matthias is the oldest resident in Readlyn.

By Agnes Schumacher

(Special to the *Independent*)

READLYN—Mrs. J. W. Matthias, Readlyn's oldest resident, was born in Germany on June 13, 1833. Like many others, her parents decided to come to America with the children to make their future home, so they started out in 1847 and came as far west as Chicago where they settled. They were there for seven years.

In 1854, an epidemic took her father and mother and one brother in one week. This tragedy left her with a sister and a brother to do all the work, which in those days was not a very easy task.

In 1864, she was married to J. W. Matthias. They resided there until November of 1865. They then started out for Iowa and settled in Maxfield Township, Bremer County.

Came in Covered Wagon

The railroad extended as far as Dubuque and from there they came by covered wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen. It was all open prairie from Independence to where Denver now stands and, since there were no roads or trails, they drove straight across country. They moved in with a cousin, Wm. Matthias, who had come out a year before.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthias acquired 80 acres of land nearby and started farming.

The grain they received from their cousin.

In those days, the grain was sometimes hauled to Independence where it was ground and some was traded in for supplies to be taken back. They also did some of their trading in Waterloo.

Money Was Scarce

Mrs. Matthias recalls the time when a toll of 25 cents was taken before crossing the bridge with a wagon and there were many times when they did not have 25 cents. Mr. Matthias would take small articles that he could carry across the bridge and sell, then would come back, pay the toll and drive across.

A barrel of salt cost \$7, eggs were 5 and 6 cents a dozen and a pound of butter about the same. Mrs. Matthias says, "We hardly ever had any money in the house, but took everything out in trade."

There was no machinery at first. Grain was cut with a cradle and hay with a scythe. The first grain cutter was purchased by J. W. and Wm. Matthias. The grain was cut during the day and tied toward evening and early morning when the grain was wet with dew. This was because straw that was used to tie the bundles would not break so easily. Oats was threshed by horsepower, four teams of horses driven in a circle. One hundred or 150 bushels threshed in a day was considered a very good day's work.

Mrs. Matthias said, "We never lived in a log cabin, having moved into the house with our cousin. The following spring we built a large house on the farm now occu-



Herman & Bertha Matthias Family (my grandparents) - Front row, left to right, Herman, Elda Carpenter Hall, Beata Murray, Bertha; middle, Ruth; back row, Otilie Widdel, Edwin (my dad), Paul, Bernhard, Herman, and Lydia Moeller.

Nation's No. 1 Great-Great-Grandmother Buried on Tuesday

Mrs. Matthias, with 366 Descendants, Dies Friday
Special to the *Independent*

October 6, 1936 READLYN – Funeral service for Mrs. J. W. Matthias, believed to be the No. 1 great-great-grandmother in the United States, were held Tuesday afternoon from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Herman Matthias, and from the German Lutheran Church.

With 366 living descendants at the time of her death, Mrs. Matthias was thought to hold the United States record.

Surviving are her 10 children, 78 grandchildren, 237 great-grandchildren and 41 great-great-grandchildren.

Recently, considerable publicity was given to Mrs. Margaret Graeber of Sheldahl, Iowa, 93, with 12 children and 46 grandchildren, as the No. 1 U. S. Grandmother. Mrs. Matthias had 32 more grandchildren than Mrs. Graeber.

Mrs. Matthias was 98 years and four months old at the time of her death. She had been feeling well until the Sunday preceding her death when she became ill with bronchitis.

Mrs. E. Matthias Dies Fri., Oct. 16

Was past 98 Years of Age at Time of Death

Engel (Biesterfeldt) Matthias was born and baptized in Hessen-Nassau, Germany on June 12, 1838, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Herman Matthias, Friday evening, October 16, 1936, at the age of 98 years, four months and four days.

In 1847, she came to America with her parents, settling in Chicago, Illinois. She was bereft of her parents during a cholera epidemic in 1854.

On September 20, 1856 she was united in marriage with John W. Matthias, the Rev. Wunder officiating. The same year they came to Iowa and settled in Maxfield Township, Bremer County.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthias were the parents of 13 children. One son, Carl, died in infancy and two daughters—Christina (Mrs. William Hesse) and Louise (Mrs. Henry Schradt)—also preceded her in death. Surviving are her ten children—William C. Matthias of Orange, California; Sophia (Mrs. Fred Stahlhut) of Sumner; Emma (Mrs. H. J. Bruns) and Henry Matthias, of Denver; Iowa; Clara (Mrs. Wm. Seegers) of Waverly; Minnie (Mrs. C. H. Stumme), Engel (Mrs. C. Warneke); Mary (Mrs. John Richman); Bertha (Mrs. Herman Matthias); and Anna (Mrs. H. A. Griese) of Readlyn.; 78 grandchildren, 237 great-grandchildren and 41 great-great-grandchildren.

At present there are 364 direct descendants of this couple.

Mrs. Matthias was baptized, confirmed and remained a communicant member of the Lutheran Church all her life. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon, October 20, at the Herman Matthias home at one o'clock and in St. Paul's Church at two o'clock conducted by Rev. Theo. Frese. Interment was made in the St. Paul's cemetery.

SEND NEWS to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com



News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Sixth grade projects were made with kits that were purchased by the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation.



Congratulations, D.A.R.E. graduates!



We are grateful for our wonderful associates!



The top 3 D.A.R.E. essay winners were, left to right: 1st place Bailey Szurley, 2nd place Lexi Brunscheon & 3rd place Sawyer Buhr.



D.A.R.E. high school mentors met with the 6th grade class.



Students celebrated their D.A.R.E. graduation with bowling.



Third grade Wapsie Elementary students enjoyed Boom Town.



Students enjoyed the Grout Museum assembly.



Wendy Tibbott made crafts with the students.

Readlyn Community Happenings



Marlys Wittenburg

Wittenburg/90th birthday May 29

Marlys Wittenburg will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, May 29, 2022 with a card shower and an open house from 1-4 pm at The Center Inn in Readlyn.

Marlys was born on May 31, 1932 on her family's farm north of Readlyn. Cards may be sent to 406 6th Street, Readlyn 50668.

Happy birthday, Mom/Grandma/ Great-Grandma! We love you!



I want to give a big **thank you** to everyone who sent cards with get-well wishes, thoughts and prayers for me while I was going through Breast Cancer. Thank you for visits and food brought in. Thanks to Pastor Rabary for his prayers and visits, and Doctors and Nurses for their excellent care.

Kathy Heinemann



Craig and I want to thank our family, friends and neighbors for the kind deeds they have done for us these past months - for the food brought in, cards, rides to different things and the prayers. Thank you to Weeds on Fire for the snow removal and finishing our fall yard work. May God bless each of you.

Craig & Janette Hesse



Sunrise Catering
Jim Collins

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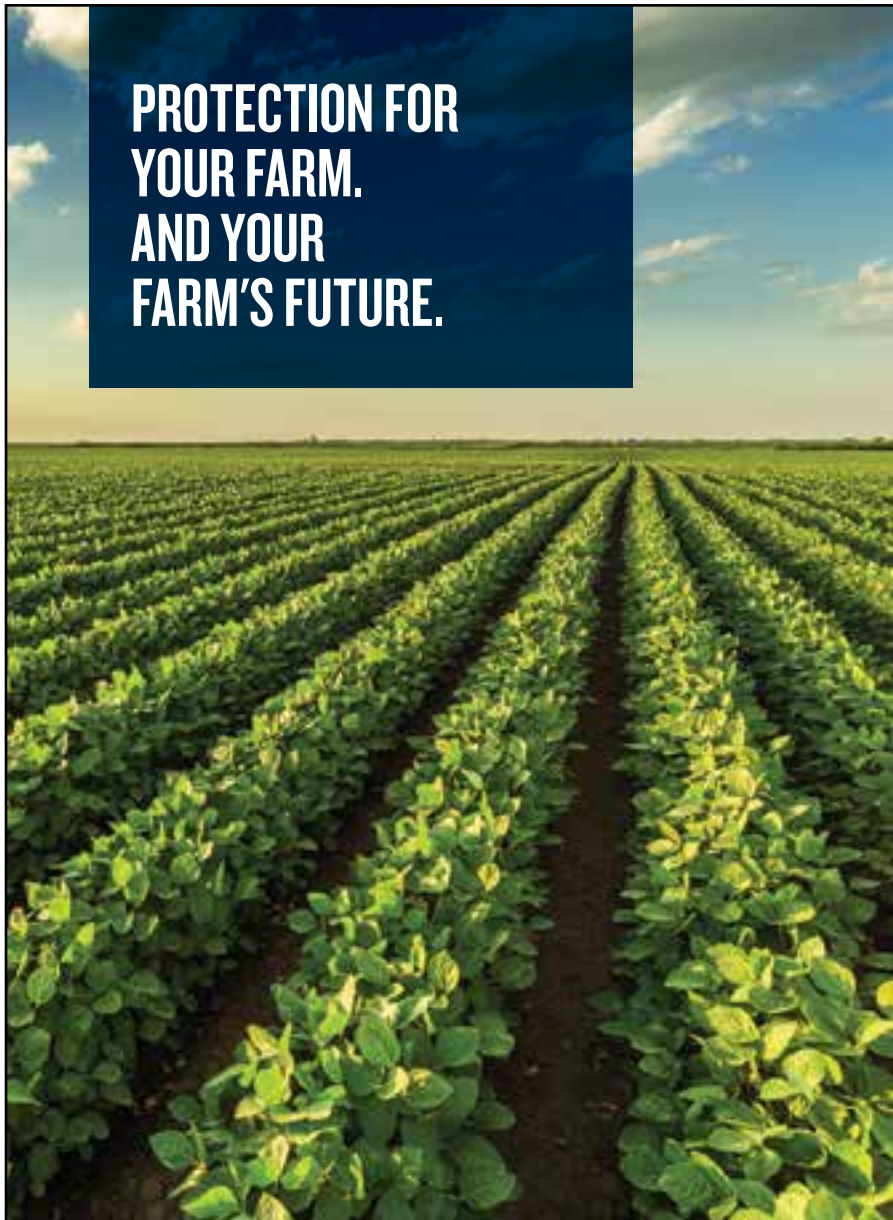


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Deadline for the May 25 Chronicle is Thurs., May 12 at 5 PM

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS



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Wednesday, May 4th

6:30pm


Klinger Gym

Preschool students will take the stage at 6:30pm followed by the kindergarten through sixth grade students.

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Wapsie Valley FTC robotics team competes at state

The Wapsie Valley FTC robotics team, the Robo Warriors, competed in the Iowa Championship on Saturday, February 19, 2022.

There were two divisions, black and gold, and they each held elimination brackets to then compete in a finals match between the champions of the black division vs. the champion of the gold division. The Wapsie Valley Robo Warriors were in the gold division.

The Robo Warriors went 5-1 in the qualification rounds, earning 5th place in the gold division. They then went 2-0 in the semi-finals, advanced to the finals in gold division tournament, where they also went 2-0.

After earning a berth in the state finals as gold division champions, they won the first round of the state championship fi-

nals match. In the second round, they lost to the then 9th highest score in the world. In the final match of the state tournament, they lost to the 3rd highest score in the world.

This concluded their season leaving them as state runner-up champions, finalist alliance. There is only one step past state championships and that is world championships. They were runner-up to that achievement.

The Robo Warriors want to credit their success through the help of their sponsors, all of which are local businesses and private donations. Without this support, they could not have the parts necessary to design and construct their robot. They would like to extend their gratitude to all the sponsors and everyone who supported them throughout the season.

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Edward Jones

Wapsie Valley CSD Meeting *April 11, 2022*

Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022

1. President Sauerbrei called the Public Hearing on the 22-23 Budget and FY 22 Amendment to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call - All Ayes Motion carried
 - A. Directors: Auel, Sauerbrei, Wolfe, & Van Daele - Aiello (excused)
 - B. Superintendent Larson, Jayme Hurley, Lindsay Fox, TJ Murphy & Kim Arndt
 - C. Others: Lois Heineman, Vaughn Gross, and 7 virtual attendees
2. Mrs. Arndt presented FY23 Budget & FY22 Amendment - Discussion was held on proposed tax rate, SAVE dollars, bond payment, pre-payment levy, and PPEL loan
3. Public comment: None
4. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to close the Public Hearing at 6:36 PM - Roll Call - All Ayes
5. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to

- adjourn the public hearing at 6:36 PM. Roll Call - All Ayes, Motion carried 4-0
1. President Sauerbrei called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6.36 PM. No changes to the agenda
 2. Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 3. Public Comment: Abby Jones presented information regarding band/choir students attending a trip to Chicago on March 17-20, 2023. Board is ok with the trip. Mr. Gross would like to add a \$15 fee for FCCLA dues requested by Jenni Gross to the 22-23 registration fees. He also discussed a salary for Coaching the Robotic students.
 4. Consent Items: Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Auel and one open enrollment Olivia Jewell requests to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to WV from Oelwein effective the 22-23 school year

5. Communication & Reports: Board: Nothing
 Superintendent: Interviews for the Readlyn/Rural Principal position are scheduled for the week of 4-25-22. The ERATE applications have been submitted for the 22-23 school year. WV will be offering summer lunches and the application for the apprenticeship grant has been submitted.
 Principals: Ms. Fox reported on IEP meetings attended throughout the district, students eligible for Special Education services, PD, Curriculum, new IEP system, Teacher evaluations, and Assessments.
 Mr. Hurley discussed PD, Leader In Me, PTO fundraisers, ISASP testing, National Par-educator day, and Suspensions.
 Mr. Murphy discussed upcoming dates/events, PD, ISASP testing, Conditions for Learning survey, FFA, Mental health day, Activity updates, & Suspensions.
6. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Van Daele to approve the resignations of Amy Nosbisch, Speech/Play/Musical Coach, Danny Adams - Head Wrestling Coach, & Kaley Close - Instructional Associate as presented. Motion carried 4-0
- Contracts: Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the 22-23 Support staff (2.2% increase) contracts and David Denler - Operations & Maintenance Manager - Base contract \$54,280.72 + Difference of single and family insurance - \$12,258.84 + Cell phone - \$300.00 = \$66,839.56 effective 7-1-2022
 Timothy (TJ) Murphy - 7-12 Principal - Base contract \$79,333.36 + Difference of single and family insurance - \$12,258.84 + Cell phone - \$300.00 = \$91,852.20 effective 7-1-2022
 Jayme Hurley - Fairbank Principal - Base contract \$77,900 + Difference of single and family insurance - \$12,258.84 + Cell phone - \$300.00 = \$90,458.84 effective 7-1-2022
 Lindsay Fox - Rural Principal - Base contract \$79,950 + Difference of single and family insurance - \$12,258.84 + Cell phone - \$300.00 = \$92,508.84 effective 7-1-2022
 Kim Arndt - School Business Official - \$89,006.18 + Difference of single and family insurance - \$12,258.84 + Cell phone - \$300.00 = \$101,565.02 effective 7-1-2022
 Tina Kaufman - HR - \$45,500 + 300 Cell phone = \$45,800. Also receives district paid single insurance
 Ashley Happel - Addendum - BA+30 to MA - \$49,569 (base contract) + \$5,620 (TSS)=

- \$55,189 as presented. Motion carried 4-0
7. New Business: Moved by Auel Seconded by Wolfe to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, Series 2016, Dated February 10, 2016, and Levying a Tax for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Redemption of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, Series 2016, Dated February 10, 2016, as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve FY23 Budget with a tax rate of \$13.70020 & the Amended Budget for FY23 increasing Instruction, Total Support Services, and Non-Instructional Programs due to COVID19 expenditures as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the Budget Guarantee that will levy property tax for FY23 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the 2022 anticipated graduates as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the 22-23 registration fees adding a \$15 fee for FCCLA as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the updated 21-22 school calendar with the last day of school for students being May 20, dismissing at 11:30, and teacher's last day being May 23 as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Auel to approve the bid from Groth Services (\$29,355) to remove waste from septic tanks as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the 50/50 sharing agreement with Jesup for the Special Education Director/Administrator for the 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Auel, Seconded by Wolfe to approve the sharing agreement between WV (60%) & Dunkerton (40%) for the Human Resources/Central Office Staff effective 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the sharing agreement between WV (80%) and Janesville (20%) for the Facility Operations & Maintenance Manager effective the 22-23 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve an additional stipend of \$1,200 for Mike Duffy for Head Maintenance duties through June 30, 2022, as presented. Motion carried 4-0
 - Moved by Wolfe, Seconded by Auel to approve the increase of Activity pay driving from \$12.65 to \$15 P/H effective immediately as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Board Talking Points - Set public hearing date for May 16, 2022, for additional bonus for all certified or classified staff not included in the state retention bonus payment - Auel discussed Cheer Coach's contract.
10. Moved by Van Daele, Seconded by Wolfe to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Motion carried 4-0

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Students inducted into Honor Society; teacher also awarded

The Wapsie Valley Honor Society induction took place March 9.

The Wapsie Honor Society is structured around 6 pillars which include the following: academics, service, participation, character, leadership, and punctuality. Candidates from the various grades must meet the defined grade-level criteria and submit their application materials for consideration. Once reviewed, candidates are notified of their induction status and invited to the ceremony. Eleven students met the identified criteria and were inducted, including:

Sophomores:

Aliya Brandt. Aliya is the daughter of Lynette and the late Greg Brandt. Aliya has participated in basketball cheerleading, football cheerleading, silver cord, and is a Wapsie honor society member.

Jayden Buhr. Jayden is the daughter of LaRae and Jamie Buhr. She has participated in volleyball, track, club volleyball, youth group, and is a Wapsie honor society member.

Kate Risse. Kate is the daughter of Jessica and Nick Miller and the late Jamie Risse. Kate has participated in basketball, track, volleyball, student ambassadors, mentoring, and is a member of the Wapsie honor society.

Ava VanDaele. Ava is the daughter of Amber and Chad VanDaele. She has participated in softball, wrestling manager, cross country, track, student ambassadors, mentoring, FFA, and is a Wapsie honor society member.

Juniors:

Brylee Bellis. Brylee is the daughter of McKayla and Ryan Bellis. Brylee has participated in track, softball, volleyball, cross country, Leader in Me, student ambassadors, and is a Wapsie honor society member.

Keegon Brown. Keegon is the son of Kim and Jeremy Brown. Keegon has participated in football, wrestling, baseball, golf, and FFA.

Brooklyn Etringer. Brooklyn is the daughter of Megan and Randy Etringer. Brooklyn has participated in track, vol-

leyball, club volleyball, beach volleyball, basketball manager, mentoring, and is a Leader in Me representative.

Ashlyn Hyde. Ashlyn is the daughter of Annette and Thomas Hyde. She has participated in cross country, cheerleading, track, silver cord, leader in me, and is a Wapsie honor society member.

Emma Jones. Emma is the daughter of Andrea and Joey Jones. Emma has participated in volleyball, track, silver cord, and mentoring.

Casey O'Donnell. Casey is the son of Becky and Darren O'Donnell. Casey has participated in basketball, football, track, mentoring, is a Leader in Me class representative, and a member of the Wapsie honor society.

Kalvyn Rosengarten. Kalvyn is the daughter of Sheila and James Rosengarten. Kalvyn has participated in volleyball, basketball, track, prom committee, and is a Wapsie honor society member.

A New Tradition

The Wapsie Honor Society began a new tradition and implemented a selection process for choosing a deserving staff honoree who go above and beyond the call of

duty on a daily basis. The new structure allowed each of the new Wapsie Honor Society Inductees to nominate a deserving staff member for this recognition.

When nominating a staff member, each student was asked to write a small statement of how the staff member impacted or supported his/her daily journey. While all school employees were eligible for this award, Jenni Gross had the majority vote and won our first ever Golden Warrior Award!

Jenni Gross is the secondary Family & Consumer Sciences teacher, along with other hats that she wears as an assistant cheerleading coach, FCLA sponsor, and co-sponsor of prom. Jenni is someone who challenges herself daily to implement lessons and take risks within her classroom that produce positive results for her students. She is consistently helping others, cares deeply about the social and emotional wellbeing of her students, and works to embed employability skills within her classroom to better prepare students for life beyond high school.

She is highly organized, effective with technology, creative, self-motivated, and

cares deeply about her students. Through her daily interactions with students, she makes a difference in both the educational and personal lives of those she serves.

Let's hear some comments that our student honorees had to say about her:

***Mrs. Gross is always so patient and considerate with all her students.*

***Mrs. Gross is a hard worker in the classroom and her classes are a breath of fresh air. Even though she has only been here for 2 years, she is an amazing teacher.*

***Mrs. Gross has always been involved in the community and in the district. She is very kind and always wants to help in some way. Many events that take place, she is a part of. Cooking for teachers, for FFA, food for the induction, and so many other things that she takes part in. A lot of things wouldn't be the same without her!*

***Mrs. Gross goes above and beyond to make sure her students learn and have fun. In the classroom, she is very patient and kind. She always makes sure her lessons are engaging and useful for students. Her class is a great atmosphere to be in daily.*



Honor Society inductees included, front row, left to right, Jayden Buhr, Brylee Bellis, Brooklyn Etringer, Emma Jones, Ashlyn Hyde; back row, Casey O'Donnell, Keegon Brown, Kate Risse, Ava VanDaele, and Aliya Brandt. Not pictured: Kalvyn Rosengarten.



Golden Warrior Award winner was Jenni Gross.

Readlyn 1st Responders: Did You Know?

The Readlyn 1st Responders meet monthly and discuss different things going on in EMS and what we can do to make our community safe and healthy. We would like to share some of the things we learn with all of you as a way to teach others and keep you informed. We hope you find value in the information we share in these articles. They are meant to educate, not treat, diagnose, or take place of regular follow-ups with your provider.

Call numbers for March - 3

Avg. time from dispatch to scene - 4 minutes

Did you know: our crew in Readlyn is all 100% volunteer based?

We have a total of 10 EMTs and 2 drivers. We also have 2 associate members who receive our pages as well and assist us when they are in the area.

On March 16, we had the opportunity to talk with local 4th graders about the importance of helmet safety and wanted to share some important information with all of you.

According to Norton Children's Neuroscience Institute:

-Head injury is the most common cause of serious disability and death in bicycle crashes

-A helmet can reduce the risk of brain injury

up to 88%

-Wearing a helmet is the single most effective safety device to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes

Signs and symptoms of concussion/brain injuries according to the CDC:

-Headache - Dizziness - Blurred vision

-Not thinking clearly - Sensitivity to noise and light

If you are ever in doubt about the seriousness of a fall when biking, skateboarding, or rollerblading. Please, don't hesitate to call 911. We are here to help provide the care you may need.

2024 Bremer County Reappraisal Project set to begin

Bremer County Assessor, Aaron Betts, is announcing the preliminary work for the 2024 reappraisal, which includes door-to-door inspections of all commercial, industrial, and residential property in Bremer County, was to begin approximately April 25. Representatives of Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. in conjunction with the Bremer County Assessor's Office will be conducting this project.

Each Vanguard employee has had a full background check and will have a photo ID signed by the Bremer County Assessor. All law enforcement agencies will be notified of Vanguard employees' names involved in the project, auto license numbers, and will be informed of the areas where data collectors are working.

The reappraisal purpose is to equalize

property assessments. Each taxpayer is then responsible for paying only their fair share of the property tax burden. Periodic inspections and reappraisals are necessary to update information and adjust for market conditions affecting property values. Some properties physically deteriorate faster than others and many have had improvements made. Also, property values in different areas of the county will differ in value due to economic factors.

Letters will be sent to property owners with further details closer to when data collectors will be in their town or area.

Preliminary data collection will begin with commercial properties and then move on to residential and industrial classes of properties. Work will start in Waverly and then

move throughout the county. The project is scheduled for completion the end of 2023.

Notice of final value estimates will be mailed to each property owner after January 1, 2024. Property owners will have an opportunity to meet informally to discuss their revaluation in the spring of 2024.

The reappraisal assessed values will be effective for January 1, 2024 for taxes payable in fiscal 2025-2026.

If any property owner has questions regarding the reappraisal project, they are urged to contact the Bremer County Assessor's Office at 319-352-0145 or email: aaronb@co.bremer.ia.us. Also visit the Bremer County website to find additional information about the Assessor's Office and the assessment process: www.bremercounty.iowa.gov.

HEADS UP BRAIN INJURY IN KIDS

ALMOST half A MILLION KIDS are treated in an emergency department each year for traumatic brain injury*, including concussion.

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SOME BRAIN INJURY SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Blurred Vision
- Difficulty Thinking Clearly
- Sensitivity to Noise & Light

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- ASSESS THE SITUATION
- BE ALERT FOR BRAIN INJURY SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS
- CONTACT A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

HELP KEEP KIDS SAFE from BRAIN INJURY

- STAIR GATES:** Use gates at the top and bottom of stairs to prevent serious falls among infants and toddlers.
- CRS SEATS:** Use child safety seats and booster seats that are correct for a child's age and weight. Make sure they are properly installed.
- HEADSETS:** Make sure your child always wears the right helmet for their activity and that it fits correctly.
- SOFT SURFACES:** Use playgrounds with a soft landing surface (such as sand or wood chips, not dirt or grass).

LEARN MORE AT: www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Obituaries

Last month I had mentioned that spring of 2022 was surely on its way to Wapsie Valley. As I write the April article, I look out at two inches of snow on the ground. Two track meets were canceled this week because of cold temperatures and golfers are itching to get on local golf courses. The 10-day forecast has a high of 50 degrees with most days in the 40s. We know warmer temperatures are coming, but I wish for a sooner versus later arrival time period.

The Iowa Department of Education has released graduation and drop-out results for all Iowa school districts. I am very proud to report that WVCSD has a 2020 and 2021 graduation rate of 100%. Also, the dropout rate report for October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, is at 0 for Wapsie Valley. I believe this is a great accomplishment for our students and staff who strive to have "Guaranteed Learning for Every Student" as our main mission. This information can be found at the following link: <https://educateiowa.gov/graduation-rates-and-drop-out-rates>

We have many big events coming up this spring with Prom 2022 being cele-

brated on April 30. Local organizers of this event have chosen to use The Centre in Waverly for the promenade and dance. Post prom events will take place at the W on Wartburg College campus. The Class of 2022 will have their graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 15.

We are planning on an elementary summer school offering again this summer. Invitations will be sent in late April/early May to those students who qualify for this summer programming. We are planning on fewer students because of staffing numbers this summer.

WVCSD will also offer a summer breakfast/lunch meal program similar to the past. A survey will be sent to district families in early May to help determine our local needs. This is a weekly distribution of paper sack breakfast and lunch for a five-day period at a time. All meals will be picked up by district families at either Readlyn or Fairbank Elementary buildings. Currently, this federal-funded program ends on June 30, 2022. All ages 18 and under qualify for this program.

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

The Contest - Harvest 2021

Continued from Page 1

of planting and harvesting, row spacing, population, as well as applications of fertilizers, herbicides, and fungicides.

2021 Harvest included entries with a total of 36 yield checks conducted in the 4 Contest Divisions: 18 conventional corn, 7 no-till corn, 5 conventional beans and 6 no-till beans.

Readlyn Savings Bank officers, President Ed Traeger and Vice President Doug Sheppard and ASB CEO Andy Sexton, presented the Harvest 2021 Master Grower Awards. Below are the summary results in each Division.

We want to give a special thanks to

Charlie Albrecht, our Yield Checker, and his wife, Wilda, for taking wonderful photos. The banks wish to congratulate the winners and thank all the farmers who entered The Contest. Readlyn Savings Bank and American Savings Bank (Tripoli) specialize in agricultural lending, as well as commercial, consumer, and real estate loans. The local, independent banks are dedicated to the communities they serve. Anyone interested in more information about The Contest may contact Doug Sheppard at Readlyn Savings Bank at 319-279-3321 or Andrew Sexton at American Savings Bank at 319-882-4279.

Conventional Beans			
Contestant	Town	Yield	Variety
Bill Kerr	Elgin	93.90	Stine 21EA32
Adam Kleiss	Fredericksburg	84.36	Stine 28EC32
Dave Schumacher	Readlyn	81.67	Croplan 2321E

Conventional Corn			
Contestant	Town	Yield	Variety
Adam Kleiss	Fredericksburg	278.57	Stine 9655
Eric Smith	Decorah	274.21	Brevant B12C01QTM
Dave Schumacher	Readlyn	268.54	Pioneer 1185AM TM

No Till Bean			
Contestant	Town	Yield	Variety
Spring Center Farm-Dean Buhr	Sumner	88.57	Pioneer 22T73
Brian Meyer	Readlyn	84.64	Pioneer 26A10
Jason Moellers	West Union	84.02	Stine 21EA32

No Till Corn			
Contestant	Town	Yield	Variety
Jamison Steege	Fredericksburg	287.66	Pioneer 1366
Brad Steege	Fredericksburg	274.77	Wyffels 6408
Jim Fettkether	Dunkerton	246.95	NuTech 70F2Q Chrome



Dean R. French

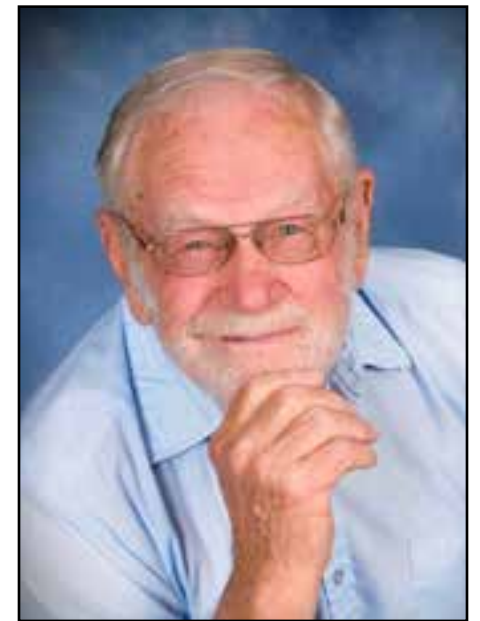
Dean Ray French, age 83 of Dunkerton, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on April 3, 2022 after a long courageous battle with C.O.P.D. He was born April 12, 1938 in rural Clayton County the son of LeeRoy and Florence (Baldwin) French. Dean attended and graduated from Elkader High School with the Class of 1956. After high school, Dean enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and proudly served his country for three years. On April 20, 1959, he met Karen Corbin and, on April 23, 1960, they were married. Dean worked at Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids for a number of years and enrolled at Upper Iowa University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. Dean worked at John Deere in Waterloo for over 20 years until he eventually retired in 1993. Dean enjoyed carpenter work, he did a lot of remodeling of older homes. He also made military clocks, shadow boxes and pen sets that he sold worldwide. Dean was especially proud of his military service and the country he served. Most of all, Dean loved his family, especially spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Karen, his daughter; Tammy Ray, his three sons; Tony Dean (Faye), Tracy F. and Terry Lee (Theresa), as well as nine grandchildren; Nick (Laura) Giberson, Matt (Dessire) French, Mike French, Taylor French, Tyson French, Tia (Justin) Hunter, Jade French, Lindsay French and Brittany (Rayyan) Taufiq and 11 great-grandchildren; Alexa Giberson, Dallas Tissue, Asher Giberson, Aiden French, Emily McNamara, Otto and Deana French, Olive Hunter, Ashton and Oliver Taufiq, one sister, Arlene Lau along with many nieces and nephews. Dean was preceded in death by two daughters, Trixy Elaine and Trudy K. as well as his parents and siblings, Floyd "Bud," Ralph, Kenny, his twin brother, Dale, and one sister, Claremae.

Dean's wishes were for his body to be cremated after a private family visitation. There was a public funeral held at 1:00 PM on Monday, April 11, 2022 at the Baptist Church in Fairbank, Iowa with burial in the Elkader Cemetery with full military rites.

Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation.

Cards and memorials may be sent to Karen French, 9737 N. Canfield Road, Fairbank, Iowa 50629

Online condolences can be left at www.woodsfuneralhome.net



John Warren "Jack" Rich

John Warren "Jack" Rich, age 90, of Sumner, Iowa, died Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at Hilcrest Living in Sumner, Iowa.

Jack was born on February 28, 1932, in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Gilbert and Wynona (Fowler) Rich. He lived in Waterloo until 1944, then moved to Smoke-town rural Sumner, and graduated from the Oran High School in 1949. In 1950, Jack enlisted in the United States Air Force serving during the Korean War. On June 18, 1953, Jack was united in marriage to Greta Diers at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Grove Hill, rural Sumner. He was honorably discharged in 1954, and then attended Wartburg College in Waverly on the GI Bill. During his life, he worked at Carnation in Waverly, at John Deere in Waterloo starting in 1955 and retiring in 1987, and ran a small farm near Smoke-town, rural Sumner.

Jack was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Oran. His greatest enjoyment in life was time with family, especially his grandchildren. Jack also liked working outdoors where he often could be found cutting wood with his chainsaw. When he couldn't be outside, he liked watching all sports, but especially the Chicago Cubs.

Jack's memory is honored by: three sons, John (Barbara) Rich Jr., of Sumner, Gilbert (Deb) Rich of Sumner, Martin (Lori) Rich of Jesup; ten grandchildren: Anna (Carl) Wiegel, Ethan (Jill) Rich, Lydia (Joe) LaMere, Kristen (Alex) Moddrell, Stacy (Garry) Lemke, Karen (Nathan) Thompson, Laura (Joel) Nelson, Amanda (Brock) Puffett, Jacob (Michelle) Rich, and Katlin (Logan) Studer; nineteen great-grandchildren; several brothers- and sisters-in-law; many nieces and nephews; and beloved dog, Buddy. Jack was preceded in death by: his parents; his wife; a son, Carlton Rich; two grandsons, Brandon Rich and Jeremy Rich; and a brother, Thomas Rich.

Visitation was held on Sunday, March 27, at Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 28, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Oran with Pastor Joel Becker officiating. Burial followed at St. Peter's Cemetery, rural Oran.

Memorials may be directed to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hillcrest Living, or Chickasaw County SNAP. Online condolences may be left at kaisercorson.com.

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



By: Eric Johnston

“A Texas Sized Adventure Part 3”
Ejohnston@mossyokprostaff.com

When we left off last month, Jeff Schutte and I had just fired at our first group of hogs and Jeff connected with one. This month, we will finish out our Texas adventure.

Kaleb and I took care of Jeff’s hog and Kaleb, Jeff, Scott and I got back on the golf cart and headed to another section of the ranch in search of another group of hogs. Once again, we headed off into the darkness and Kaleb drove as if it were daylight. We were scanning with the thermal scopes and mostly were spotting armadillos and raccoons scurrying around in front of us. Suddenly, Kaleb stopped and said, “There’s hogs 20 yards to our right.” At that moment, I heard one snort. Kaleb handed me his rifle and I shouldered it and, through the scope, I counted a dozen or so hogs feeding on an old pile of pecans that had washed into a pile during last fall’s flooding throughout the river bottom. I picked out a good sized one, squeezed the trigger and connected! Jeff hit one at the same time and we were successful once again!

Immediately after the shot, the hogs turned and ran right towards us, passing by at a mere five yards from where we were standing. A little unsettling to say the least and most certainly had my heart racing. Once they were past us, high fives and congratulations were given as we approached our hogs. We took care of them and headed back to the ranch.

By this time it was quite late and we decided to turn in for the night. The next morning, we all slept in a little after the late night before. Jeff and I were the first ones up and hanging out around the fire at the shop. The weather was finally starting to warm up and the sun was out. We were forecast to climb near 70 this day and we couldn’t have been happier. Soon the rest of the guys were up and Scott’s youngest son, Blake, had arrived. Much like Kaleb, he’s a very hard-working, polite young man only much taller! I was greeted with “yes, sir” and “no, sir” and I gotta hand it to Scott and Wendy on the job they did raising both Kaleb and Blake, fine young men to be around for sure. Scott began making breakfast on the blackstone outside and, once again, some great eating as he made breakfast burritos. Over breakfast, we decided today would be another day of catfishing and a try at the hogs in the evening and night as the next day we would be heading for the coast.

We spent the next few hours bouncing from deep hole to deep hole in the river and had great success with everyone catching fish. I got to know Blake better as we sat along the river. He told me of his baseball career throughout high school and what he does now and where he lives. Jeff then came up with the idea of everyone throwing in a dollar and the next person to catch a fish wins the pot. I was instantly in as a little competition is always fun for me! I even surprised myself as, the very next cast, I hooked up with a nice catfish and the \$5 was mine! Jeff said, “That’s not fair, I should have never bet against a professional - what was I thinking?” I just laughed.

After the catfishing, we headed back to the shop and were greeted by Kaleb’s good friend Jared Thompson. Now if you were to look up “cowboy” in the dictionary, I’m pretty sure Jared’s picture is there. At least in this northern boy’s mind, that’s how I see it. From his look, with the hat and boots to his southern drawl and his friendly demeanor, you have to try real hard to not get along with Jared. We started talking hunting stories and what the game plan was for the evening’s hunts. Suddenly, we re-

alized if we were going to get a hunt in before dark, we better get moving, as we had lost track of time.

I would be back at the dump feeder with Jeff watching from the blind. However, on this hunt, I learned from the night before that I needed to play the wind better. This time I climbed up on top of a fallen over pecan tree that was still high enough to get my scent up out of the ground thermals. Once on top, I had a great place to sit comfortably and even a limb I could hang my bow from. At 4:45, the feeder went off spreading corn and I readied myself for the show. Soon after, deer started to make their way in and this time, by sitting in the tree, they couldn’t smell me and were less cautious. I had a great time watching the deer and, on this evening, no hogs were spotted. Jeff and I made our way back to the shop. Everyone was there including Jared and we all swapped stories for a while. Ben then relayed to me that we were nearly out of beverages and one of us needed to go to the store. Jared quickly offered to drive and away he and I went. We made our way to the Dollar General and back all the while never running out of things to talk about as we had so much in common with our passions for the outdoors.

While on our way back, he asked if I had ever been raccoon hunting before. I said it had probably been 20 years. He said, “Well, tonight you’re going raccoon hunting.” When we got back, Jared told Kaleb, “Let’s take these guys on a raccoon hunt” and just like that, Kaleb’s coon hound was loaded up and away we went! Kaleb’s coon hound was very impressive; shortly after we turned her loose in the front pasture, she was on raccoons. Kaleb tracked her every move with a GPS monitor on her collar. Soon she had a raccoon treed and we arrived at her destination. When we got there, she actually had three raccoons up the tree and Kaleb and Jared harvested the raccoons! High fives and many pets and praise to the pup and we had three raccoons to be skinned in short order. Jared looked at me and said, “I told you I’d take you on a great coon hunt!” I was very impressed with how quickly things happened!

It was at this moment I started to imagine this Texas lifestyle is so cool. The variety of game and options of hunting and fishing are a dream for an outdoorsman like me. It was now very late and we had to be up at 3:30 am to leave for the coast. When Jeff and I reached the cabin, it was 12:30 in the morning. I remember telling Jeff, “Have a nice nap, see you soon!” We both laughed, but reality set in when the alarm went off in what seemed like minutes after my head hit the pillow. Sleep was not much of an option with the fun we were having and honestly I’m OK with that. Jeff and I got up dressed and over to Kaleb’s by 3:45 as the plan was to leave by 4 am. The house was very dark as we pulled up and I was worried we would need to wake them up. Soon, I saw a light come on and everyone was up. We all managed to get on the road by a little after 4 am with Ben driving as he is accustomed to driving long hours. The trip would be myself, Ben, Jeff, Scott, and Kaleb. Blake had to get back home so he wasn’t able to go with us.

Weeks prior, Ben had researched guides in Aransas Pass, Texas. He came across an operation called High Tide Adventures with Captain Troy Butler for a redfish trip in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This was not a deep sea trip as you might envision. This was a trip in a 22 foot boat powered by a Mercury 250 proxs. This type of fishing would be very similar to my world of bass fishing, only in saltwater and chasing red drum, or, as many call them, redfish or “reds.” It had long been a dream



of mine to chase redfish and this would be my opportunity.

As we made our way two hours south to Aransas Pass, I struggled to stay awake riding shotgun with Ben driving and the rest sleeping in the back of the Tahoe. I tried my best to keep Ben company, but succumbed to sleep myself. Ben gave me a nudge on the shoulder as we neared our destination. While still very dark, I could see water all around us and knew we were getting close. Everyone woke up and the excitement level was high as the GPS told us we were close. We arrived in the parking lot of an on-the-water bar and grill and Captain Troy Butler was there waiting for us, cutting up bait, with his boat already launched and tied to the dock. Greetings were made and Troy started to explain what to expect.

The weather was not ideal for reds. The wind was blowing 30 mph out of the northwest and the temp would only get near 50 degrees on the day. My bass fishing experience already had me knowing these cold front conditions would make fishing tough, but Capt. Troy had confidence he would get us on some reds, so I rolled with it. We launched from the dock and my experience fishing cold early spring bass tournaments paid off in this situation as I had layers on and an outer shell of Huk brand coat and bib overalls designed for stopping the wind in these conditions. That first ride was very brisk and I could tell Kaleb was a bit underdressed with a jean jacket and jeans. When we arrived on the first area to fish, we were all cold from the boat ride. I learned we would be using cut bait mullet and live shiners for bait on a weighted bottom rig, similar to catfishing in the river back home or what we had been doing for catfish on the ranch. About ten minutes into the first area, Scott hooked up with the first keeper redfish on the day - a short battle and Capt. Troy netted the fish and we were on the board! I remember thinking that was quick, maybe this will be a great day despite the conditions.

Not too long after Scott’s fish, I had a bite on my rod and set the hook too quickly - swing and a miss. I learned quickly I needed to give the fish more time before the hookset. Not long after, I looked over at Kaleb and he was shivering. I was plenty warm and I offered him my coat. He politely said, “No I’m fine.” I said, “Are you sure?” That’s when Scott spoke up and said, “He’s being polite, Eric, if you’re willing to give him your coat, make him take it!” Kaleb obliged and I felt better that he might be a little more comfortable. I think it might have been that moment that I felt like I was no longer “sir” and Kaleb and I could joke and be buddies.

Also at this time, the fishing that had hope turned south real quick. We spent the next three hours moving from spot to spot with no bites. It was cold, miserable and, as a tournament angler, I’m going to be completely honest here, by spot three I overheard Capt. Troy on the phone with his other guide buddy saying he had no idea what to do for us to catch fish and was out of ideas. I was honestly a bit disgruntled. “How are you as a guide going to charge us all this money and by spot three you’re out of options?” Any guide with a claimed 30 years of experience in an area should certainly have more than three spots to take us. I had a quick conversation with Scott at the front of the boat and he agreed as he spends a lot of time fishing the Gulf with friends. Scott relayed to me he had areas in mind that we could probably catch some fish. After a short time, we suggested to Capt. Troy that we go in for lunch and regroup our plan. Over lunch, Scott decided to tell Troy we were going to his spots to salvage the day. Surprisingly, Troy was willing and away we went.

On Scott’s first area, we got a couple bites but came up empty. On spot two, we spent a long time drifting down a section of bank and casting in open pockets among the weed beds. At about 2 pm, I finally decided I probably wasn’t going to get my red and instead of intensely fishing I decided to relax, grab a beer and a deer stick, and enjoy being on the water in a boat in January. I hadn’t even finished my deer stick when I felt a tap on my rod. I let the fish take the bait for a good bit and set the hook. I hadn’t even told the guys I had a bite until I set the

hook. I yelled out “Fish on, boys” while still chewing on a deer stick. I didn’t know it at the time, but apparently Ben and Scott had known what it meant to me to catch a keeper redfish as they both started videoing the battle. True friends indeed, and I didn’t even realize they had videoed until I got the fish in. I took my time so I didn’t lose it and, after a good battle, Captain Troy netted it and I had my first ever redfish! I was so excited, Ben and Scott snapped pictures and my trip to the Gulf felt almost complete! When I say almost, I still desperately wanted to see Ben and Jeff get a fish and I put my pole down in hopes they would.

Four o’clock came very quickly after that and our day on the water was done. We made our way back to the dock and Troy cleaned the fish for us. We had a bit of a show as the gulls swarmed around looking for fish scraps. After the fish were cleaned, we paid Troy his guide fee and started our way back to the ranch. We all were very tired on the ride back from getting up so early to being out in the elements all day. The two-hour drive seemed like four hours as it was Sunday and Ben, Jeff, and I knew our flight home was tomorrow, while Scott and Kaleb had to be at work early Monday morning. At arrival back to Kaleb’s, we were greeted by Jared as he wanted to hear how the fishing trip went. We all hung out around the fire and Jeff went from the house to the fire keeping us updated on the NFL playoff games. As we hung out enjoying our last night at the ranch, Kaleb’s girlfriend, Mikaela, and his daughter, Harlow, arrived back home to the ranch from their visit over the weekend to Mikaela’s parents. Mikaela had just bought a new vehicle and it was entertaining to listen to Jared joke with her about this scratch or this dent. Of course, there wasn’t and he was giving her a hard time. We all went in the house and I thanked Mikaela for opening up her home to us over the time we were here. I then had fun talking to Harlow as she’s only a couple of years old and took me back to my daughter being that little. With this being our last night at the ranch, I didn’t get to spend much time getting to know Mikaela and Harlow, but I hope to in the future. As it got later, it was time to turn in and end our time with the Wagners as they would be at work before we left the next morning. Jeff and I headed for the cabin and off to bed.

The next morning I was up early and sat on the deck of the cabin and watched the sun rise and enjoyed the last moments in Texas. In the distance, the turkeys were gobbling and it reminded me of Iowa. Jeff and I then packed up and headed over to pick up Ben. Ben was all ready to load up and I left a little money on Kaleb and Mikaela’s kitchen counter and told Kaleb to buy some corn for the feeders with it. We then headed for the airport.

I really didn’t want to go home. This was unusual for me as, normally, I would be homesick on a trip. This one, I felt as though I needed more time. I’ll spare you the details of the trip home as it was an easy flight and we touched down in Minneapolis to -20 degree temperatures. I will, however, leave you with very much needed thanks.

I need to thank Ben Anderson for inviting me on this trip and being a great friend and introducing me to Scott; Ben’s wife, Jess, for planning for us and keeping everything so organized we didn’t need to think about anything but having fun; and Scott and Wendy Wagner for inviting us down and giving such great hospitality and friendship. Without being too forward, I hope to have made friends for many years to come. Kaleb Wagner and Mikaela Grosso, thanks for opening up your home and access to the ranch and making sure we were all welcome and comfortable and some entertainment meeting your cute little lady, Harlow! Blake Wagner for great conversation and fishing fun, and certainly Jared Thompson for the fun conversations and hunting and time together. Jeff Schutte for being my roommate and hunting partner for the trip. While this trip has come and gone, the friends I made on this trip and memories will last a lifetime with me and I’m sure there will be more memories made with this cast of characters to come! Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!



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	<p>St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor 2649 230th Street Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758 Divine Parish Worship at St. Matthew's 8:00 a.m. Sunday School every other Sunday 9:15-10:15 a.m. Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM</p>
	<p>St. Paul's Lutheran Church 120 West 4th Street Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3961 Pastor Philip Giradin Worship 8:30 AM</p>
	<p>Zion Lutheran Church 240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668 Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor (319) 279-3643 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:30 p.m.</p>

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