

# Readlyn Chronicle

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Permit # 81

Home of **857 Friendly People** and **One Old Grump**

Volume 17, No. 12, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Robin Harms, Tripoli, IA, December 25, 2024



*Grumpy wishes you all*

**MERRY**  
**Christmas**  
**& Happy New Year!**



**Possibly** the youngest visitor, Brenna Nielsen, to visit Santa Claus; her dad, Bryce, claimed she wanted a Ferrari.

**Wren Kuhlmann** checks out Santa. She is the daughter of Zach and Kerrigan Kuhlmann.



**Deb Sauerbrei's** first duty as the new Readlyn Gardeners' leader is the choreography of the decorating of the float for the Christmas on Main Lighted Parade. The amazing



wreath was donated by Ruth and David Wittenburg. Above is the completed float, all lit up for the parade.



**Readlyn's** royalty (left to right) Jaylin May, Addisyn McElhose and LeeAnn Oltrogge helped with Christmas on Main.



**The only snowmen** to be seen so far this year were these three mystery snowmen in the Readlyn Lighted Parade! See more photos of Christmas on Main on pages 10 and 11.



# Grump's Grumblings

By Bonnie Wittenburg, 2024 Grump



# Miss Readlyn Comments

By Jaylin May

Hello Readlyn,  
Wow, here I am thinking about everything and everyone my life is blessed with this holiday season. My blessings are many. This Christmas will have some people missing our celebrations and the loss will tug our hearts.

Do you remember those childhood Christmases where all you could think of was if you had been good enough for Santa to bring you that special gift? Years later, you realize the gift is family, community, and the spirit that surrounds us, Merry Christmas!

Have you noticed the additions to the park decorations? There are some very talented and dedicated people working to bring this to our community. These folks are a joy to be around.

Santa did a wonderful job popping in to top off the Christmas celebration — it is so much fun watching all the children and parents getting their pictures and wishes completed. As the Grump, I was honored to be sure everyone received their goody bag. Mother Nature handed us a cold one that night. Hot chocolate and s'mores helped warm us.

My sister and I stopped into the library for the Cookie Walk. This offered samples of cookies along with coffee, cider and a chance to chat with your Readlyn neighbors.

As this year's Grump, I have made a decision. ANYTIME the daylight is gone, it is permissible to have pajamas on. Enter at your own risk.

We had to say goodbye to long-standing members of our community. With mixed feelings we wish our Top Notch Gardener Bonnie Ericson and her husband, Eric, our blessings on their move to be closer to their children. Bonnie read us this poem at her good-bye supper. I was touched by it and requested a copy. Sometimes we doubt that we have any abilities or time that could be valuable. I think I will close with this poem and a thank-you to a great community I am happy to be part of.

Grump Bonnie

## TALENTS

By Mrs. R.B. Landon

We all have a talent, or five or ten,  
to give to our Club, or to share with our friends.  
It may not be teaching, music or art,  
it may be a smile that comes from the heart.  
You may not be able to sing or to sew,  
but you may have a warm personality glow.  
A word for a stranger, a soft whispered prayer,  
or a sharing of sorrow to show that you really care.  
Such seeming small things are real talents too  
So, use them each day,  
and you will be blessed if you do.

## Readlyn Gardeners Farewell

November 18 marked a milestone for Readlyn Gardeners as they bid a fond farewell to Bonnie Erickson, their anchor for almost fifteen years.

As an amazing florist, Bonnie has guided the club annually regarding the planting and replacing of plants/trees in their one dozen gardens. As you can see in the

photos, she was blown away by the presentation of her "#1 Readlyn Gardener" plaque. This spring her favorite tree will also be planted near the Freedom Rock to honor her. She is a true legend!

Fortunately, Deb Sauerbrei has accepted the baton and will fill her shoes. Another legend in the making!!



The Readlyn Gardeners gathered for a wonderful meal together and a fond farewell to Readlyn's #1 Gardener, Bonnie Erickson.

Happy Holidays Readlyn Community!! I hope everyone is having a great holiday season so far!! All of the decorations and lights look so festive in the park and around town.

On November 30, I attended the Christmas Santa event at the fire station. It was such a success seeing all of the people stop by to get ready for Christmas. I was handing out cookies with Miss Readlyn Runner-Up, LeeAnn Oltrogge, and Miss Congeniality, Addisyn McElhose. Afterwards, I joined in on the parade and handed out candy. Then, I announced the countdown for the lighting of the Christmas Tree on Main Street!! The Christmas event was a pretty amazing night and I'm glad everything ran smoothly.

Basketball season is now on a roll as we had our first basketball game on November 26 at New Hampton where we won 54-52. It was a great way to start our season! We've only had one home game so far and it will be the only one for the rest of 2024. Which means with all of the away games earlier in the season, we will probably be overloaded with home games in early

2025. It will be a fun rest of the season and I can't wait to get back at it after Christmas break!!

On December 16, we had a high school band and choir winter concert at 7:30 p.m. We performed various Christmas songs and ended our concert singing "Silent Night" while holding candles like we have done the past couple of years. It was very fun and it was a good way to start off our last week of school before break.

Musical auditions for the show, "Grease," took place the week of Tuesday, December 10 - Friday, December 13. There were quite a few people signed up which will be good to have a larger cast. While I'm writing this, the cast list hasn't been announced yet, therefore I have no idea who has what roles. But I'm sure, no matter how it turns out, it will be a very fun musical for everyone and a good way to end my musical career.

I hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Enjoy time with family and friends. Safe travels and stay warm!

Jaylin May

**Helping Hands Clothing Closet**  
 2029 Viking Ave.  
 Hwy. V56 - Sumner  
 Hours: Tuesdays, 9-11 AM  
 Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM  
 First Saturday of the month 9-11 AM  
 Brief application required;  
 providing FREE clothing to those in need

**His Hands Food Pantry**  
 5002 Main Street  
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 Fridays 9 AM-12 Noon  
 Brief application required  
 Currently serving Denver, Fairbank, Frederika, Maynard, Oran, Randalia, Readlyn, Sumner, Tripoli and Westgate area residents  
 319-638-4357



Bonnie Erickson was blown away by her gift of a plaque, proclaiming her Readlyn's #1 Gardener!



# Readlyn Community Happenings



Readlyn's Novel Knitters, left to right, include Ella Matthias, Mary Lou Billhorn, Mary Jo Rathe, Carolyn Mohlis, Barb Meyer, Rachel Gonzalez; not pictured: Millie Crawford, Kathy Behnke, and Micki Thurm.

## Readlyn's Novel Knitters and Crocheters embrace the Christmas Spirit

This amazing group of ladies has embraced the Christmas spirit! Since 2012, Readlyn's Novel Knitters and Crocheters have contributed nearly 600 knitted items to Iowa's Special Olympics.

The ladies began their annual contribution donating five items. They have challenged themselves and annually added to the amount of their giving. This year's total is 129 as seen in the picture at left.

Ambitious member and master knitter Mary Jo Rathe has set a goal to reach a total of 1,000 next year. Fellow members are a bit dubious.

The world needs more people like them! Feel free to stop by the library any Monday at 4:00 p.m. to join the group as they knit and crochet.

## Pepper Tournament results

The pepper tournament was held at Grumpy's on Saturday, December 7. The winners and their scores were:

- 1st: (Tie) Roger and Connie Buhr - 173
- Barb Meyer and Grace Kuethe - 173
- 2nd: Joan Matthias and Judy Henn - 164
- 3rd: Don Childs and Dave Schumacher - 152

The next tournament will be at Grumpy's on Saturday, January 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Bring a partner and join in the fun! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

*Shirley Kuker and Judy Henn*



## Christmas Lighting Contest winners are announced

The first week in December nine judges' tires hit the road to tour Readlyn and select their favorite Christmas displays. Although it was difficult to narrow down their favorites to three, you can see the results in this article.

Please check out the winning homes on page 9, as well as those receiving honorable mention. Readlyn Community Club is happy to sponsor this annual event.

### 2024 Christmas Lighting Contest Winners

Connie and Gary Sauerbrei, 407 Goodell - 1st

Aubrey and Eric Johnston, 308 Magill - 2nd

Connie and Scott Matthias, 223 4th Street - 3rd

### Honorable Mention:

Marvin Baker, 409 Lobeck Avenue  
Jim and Tamara Wolff, 346 Briggs Avenue

Robin Ross, 209 East Ridge Street  
Dean and Lois Buhr, 604 Park View Drive

Zach and Kerrigan Kuhlman, 343 Briggs Avenue

Kevin and Stacie Price, 247 Clark Street

Rick and Barb Schares, 408 5th Street Place

The Johnston family would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! "Our light display is inspired by our daughter, Delana," the Johnstons said. "She tells me what decorations she wants used and where they belong. We appreciate the judges that voted for us and thank you to the Readlyn Community Club and the Garden Club for this contest!"

Happy Holidays from the Matthias Family. "I love gnomes and my grandchildren love the Christmas lights," said the Matthiases. "I want to thank the judges and the Readlyn Community Club. I love our Little Town. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!"



Best wishes to you and your loved ones for peace, joy, health and abundance in the new year!

Thank you for making time for us in 2024. We really appreciate your business and look forward to seeing you again soon.



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**Readlyn Savings Bank**  
141 Main Street - P.O. Box 40  
Readlyn, IA 50668-0040  
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Website: [www.readlynsavingsbank.com](http://www.readlynsavingsbank.com)  
Email: [info@readlynsavingsbank.com](mailto:info@readlynsavingsbank.com)

**American Savings Bank**  
a location of Readlyn Savings Bank  
312 S. Main Street - P.O. Box 909  
Tripoli, IA 50676-0909  
319-882-4279 or  
800-853-4294





# Readlyn Community Library

**WE PUT THE READ IN READLYN**

Beth Kingdon - Library Director



Phone and Fax: 319-279-3432 Email: [readlynlib@gmail.com](mailto:readlynlib@gmail.com) Website: [www.readlyn.lib.ia.us](http://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us) Text: 319-253-6802

## Memorial Book Donation:

### In Memory of Darlene Peters

*Fall Parade* – by Camelia Kay. Given by the 'Daycare Kids' – Devoe, Meyer, and Hagenow families



# Thank You!



We'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who donated baked goods for our Cookie Walk this year. Everything was so delicious; we know the work that went into all of those homemade goodies. Thanks also to those who came and purchased holiday treats as well-- we made nearly \$800 to put toward our Summer Reading Program. We depend on our fundraisers and donations - it allows us to offer programming for the community that we would not otherwise be able to afford. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated - from the Library Board and Staff. What a great community we have here in Readlyn.

## SERVICES

- Fax/Print/Scan
- Conference Room
- Test Proctoring
- Interlibrary Loans
- Internet/WiFi/3D Printing

Do you have a unique collection or display you would like to share with our community? We have a display case in the library and are always looking for items to display so we can keep things fresh. Call or stop by the library to visit with us if this is something you'd be interested in!

Watch us on Facebook for more information about upcoming events and programming and holiday hours/closures. Also, winter weather means that sometimes it's not safe or practical for our staff or patrons to get to the library. We try to post notices of any emergency closures on Facebook. If you're unsure, please call before making a drive to the library in bad weather! Stay safe and have a wonderful winter season!

The Bremer County Health Department has temporarily suspended the Foot Clinic until a new county health nurse can be hired and trained.

## HOURS

- Mon - 10am - 7pm
- Tue - 10am - 5 pm
- Wed - 10am - 5pm
- Thurs - 10am - 7pm
- Fri - 10am - 5 pm
- Sat - 9am - 12pm
- Sun - Closed



# Senior Citizens discuss many events

On November 20, 2024, 19 attended the 11:30 a.m. Senior Citizen's lunch and meeting at the Tripoli Bowling Alley in Tripoli, IA.

There were no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate this month.

We all signed cards for Millie Crawford and Marilyn Lampe as they had been in the hospital and are now recovering. A card was sent as well to the family of Darlene Peters as she passed away on November 14, 2024. She had been a member of the Readlyn Senior Citizens. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Charlie Albrecht read the treasurer's report and the balance in the account after expenses was \$144.00. From the October 16, 2024 meeting previously, it was reported that \$245.00 was the balance in the account at that time. Investigating this further there was an error and the balance should have been reported as \$225.00, not \$245.00. Lois had a typing error in the previous minutes. There will have to be a correction made to the treasurer's report at the December meeting next month for the October 16, 2024 treasurer's balance.

The secretary's minutes were read by Janet Ladage.

There were no additions or corrections to the treasurer's report at the November meeting or the secretary's report. Don Billhorn made a motion to accept both reports as read. Don Heineman seconded it. Motion carried. There will be a correction made to the treasurer's balance that was reported for October in the previous month meeting.

### Old Business: Reminder

November 30, 2024, Santa Claus will be coming to Readlyn from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the fire station. Treat bags will be furnished by the former Grumps of Readlyn. Parade starts at 6:00 p.m.

The lighting of the Christmas tree will be after the parade. The tree will be donated by Brent and Amy Leistikow. Music will be provided by the Wapsie Valley Choir. A ham drawing will take place once the tree is lit and you must be present to win. Fireworks will follow to end the evening.

The Grumps will be putting the sacks together on Monday, November 25 at 10:30 a.m. at the Readlyn Library. They are making up 160 sacks this year.

### New Business:

A reminder that Sharon Huck's retirement party will be December 4, 2024 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the RTC Board Room/Warehouse. Sharon is retiring after 41 years of service at RTC Communications in Readlyn. Congratulations, Sharon!

The next Pepper Tournament will be December 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Grumpy's Bar in Readlyn, IA.

December 7, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. will also be the Annual Readlyn Community Library's Cookie Walk and Bake Sale. Free-will donations will be accepted.

December 12, 2024 will be the Readlyn Savings Bank's open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enter a ticket in the raffle for a chance to win a turkey for the adults. There will be a children's raffle for a teddy bear for a boy and a girl to win.

Work is being done on an addition to the Readlyn Historical Society. Everyone is welcome to stop by and see the addition.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. at the Panther Lanes in Tripoli, IA.

Larry Ladage made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Marlys Deterding seconded it. Motion carried.

Janet Ladage, Secretary

# Readlyn Historical Society met on November 18

Readlyn Historical Society met on November 18, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Ron at 1:08 p.m. with nine members present. Guests were Larry and Vicki Pavelec.

A proposed gift versus donation form was distributed by Keith Fettkether. All members are asked to review it prior to the next meeting.

The secretary and treasurer's report were read and approved by Charlie Albrecht with a second by Judy Leistikow. All in favor.

Business items discussed:

• A review of recently donated items was made and how the owner wants them distributed if not used at the museum.

• Recent visits included: the great-grandson of the founder of Knittel visited the museum recently, Tyler Sullivan from Iowa Scenic Views by Foot also visited recently and the family of Clarence and Hazel Ganske. Discussed possible programming events from recent visits.

• Judy Henn is working with Readlyn's librarian to provide articles from the past for current *Chronicle* issues. Also, pages

from the 1936 *Readlyn Chronicle* found in the time capsule at the Bremer County Courthouse will also be shared. (The front page of that issue is shown below.)

• Thank you to Therese Schumacher for the donation of a child mannequin.

Larry Pavelec presented a history of Readlyn including new photos he purchased from as far away as Australia. Very interesting in understanding current homes that were built at the beginning of Readlyn's history.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 24 at 1 p.m.

Sample Copy

Section 362 P. L. O.

# THE READLYN CHRONICLE

VOL. III No. 30 READLYN, IOWA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1936 \$1.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

# CAMPAIGN ISSUE



WHY TURN BACK?

these days a barrel of salt cost \$7.00, eggs were exchanged for goods at five and six cents a dozen, money was an unknown quantity. Gr. in was out with a crane and hay with a scythe. Later when J. ... and Wm. Matthias bought the first reaper they had to cut the grain during the day and tie the bundles by hand toward evening or early in the morning because the straw used in tying bundles would be more pliable if damp. Horse power was used to operate the threshing machine and 150 bushels a day was considered a day's work. Most of the buildings for the stock were straw sheds. Indians and grubs camped along the creek. Wolves were numerous, and the land was infested by rattlesnakes.

In 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Matthias moved to Tripoli where they resided until 1901 when they moved to Waterloo where they lived five years, going from 18 to 20 Westgate where they made their home until 1912 when they came to Readlyn. Here after a three weeks residence Mr. Matthias died on October 14. For two years Mrs. Matthias lived alone, and for the next three years Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Doolster resided with her. After that she discontinued house-keeping, living in the H. A. Grise home three years, and since then (the past nine years) she resided in the Herman Matthias home.

Mrs. Matthias was baptized, confirmed and remained an active member of the Lutheran church all her life.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthias were the parents of thirteen children. One son, Carl, died in infancy, and two daughters—Christina (Mrs. Wm. Howe) and Louise (Mrs. Henry Schmidt) also preceded her in death. Surviving are her ten children—Wm. C. Matthias of Orange, California; Sophia (Mrs. Fred Stahlhut of Sumner); Emma (Mrs. H. J. Bruus) and Henry Matthias of Denver, Iowa; Clara (Mrs. Wm. Seegans of Waverly); Minnie (Mrs. C. H. Strussman); Bogal (Mrs. C. Warnke); Mary (Mrs. John Richmann); Bertha (Mrs. Herman Matthias) and Anna (Mrs. H. A. Grise) of Readlyn; 78 grandchildren, 237 great-grandchildren and 41 great-great-grandchildren. At present there are 304 direct descendants of this couple.

Mrs. Matthias was honored annually at a family reunion held on her birthday anniversary. At this gathering the family records were always reviewed, a big picnic dinner held, a ball game played, and usually a band concert and program were given.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon, October 20—at the Herman Matthias home at 1:30 o'clock, and in St. Paul's Lutheran church at two o'clock conducted by Rev. Theo. Fries.

Interment was made in the St. Paul's cemetery.

Next Law, Texas High

On each pound of bacon you buy there is a New Deal tax of eleven and two-third cents, exclusive of state sales taxes.



**Vote for**  
 **L. H. MEYER**  
Democratic Candidate  
for  
**STATE SENATOR**  
39th District

"A Native of Iowa, born and raised on a farm respectfully solicits your vote on the strength of his past record."  
Your Vote will be Appreciated.  
Baltimore Investment.

### Readlyn Public School News

A large crowd attended the school carnival Friday evening, Oct. 23. Net receipts were about \$73.00.

Honor Roll

Mildred Pries 12  
Dorothy Hornum 12  
Mildred Strussman 12  
Yvonne Warnke 12  
Earl Giza 11  
Gloria Matthias 10  
Aida Tjelt 10  
Andrew Westendorf 9  
Elaine Warnke 9  
Darlene Miller 8  
Noreen Miller 6

Honorable Mention

Florence Richmann 11  
Melvin Richmann 11  
Darlyne Meyerhoff 10  
Marlys Miller 10  
Kether Staack 9  
Phyllis Whitteberg 6

Elementary Grades Honor Roll

Genevieve Maurer 5  
Vincent Maurer 4  
Deerwood Busse 2  
Yvonne Dettmaring 1  
Jeanette Maurer 1

School Calendar Until Christmas

Friday, Nov. 6—H. S. Party, Sophomore entertain

Friday, Nov. 13—First basketball games of season. Oran H. S. Boys vs. H. S. Boys. Readlyn Junior Class Girls vs. Other Classes

Friday, Nov. 20—Finchford Boys vs. H. S. Boys. Finchford Girls vs. Readlyn Girls

Tuesday, Nov. 24—Basketball Games at Fairbairn. Boys and Girls

Wednesday, Nov. 25—School closed for Thanksgiving. Closed Thursday and Friday

Thursday, Dec. 2—Program by the Readlyn H. S. Music Department

Friday, Dec. 4—Basketball at Sumner. Boys 1st and 2nd Teams

Tuesday, Dec. 8—Basketball at Tripoli. Boys 1st and 2nd Teams

Thursday, Dec. 10—County Music Festival at Wassy

Friday, Dec. 11—Waverly B Team vs. H. S. Boys. Girls game not arranged at present

Friday, Dec. 16—Fairbairn Boys and Girls vs. Readlyn Boys and Girls

Tuesday, Dec. 22—Basketball at Frederika. Boys 1st and 2nd Teams

Wednesday, Dec. 23—School closes for Christmas vacation. Opens Monday, Jan. 4

Hallelujah Chorus

Gov. Landon's philosophy is that relief to the unemployed is not a privilege or a vested right, or charity. He told the Kansas legislature that it is a common obligation created by the rapidly and complexly of economic growth.

Foreign Park

Under orders from the Roosevelt administration American farmers killed their pigs and brood sows, and in 1933 foreign farmers shipped more than twelve and one-half million pounds of pork into the American market.

Reduced Automobile License

AM Landon, as governor of Kansas, reduced the automobile license fee by 50 per cent, and increased the total amount collected by seeing to it that every owner of a car paid the reduced price.

Far Not Growing Rice

President Roosevelt paid 18 rice growers more than \$25,000 each, one of them receiving a check for \$20,000. All of that for not growing rice.

Heritage of Debt

"We must remember that every time the government spends a dollar, that dollar will have to be paid by us or we must pass the debt on to be paid by our children. No parents like to leave their children a heritage of debts and mortgages."

# RCC: Enhancing the community

Care to enhance Readlyn's Community Club?

Please consider throwing your hat into the ring for one of these Board positions:

- President
- Treasurer (2)
- Secretary
- Director (4)

Just email your name and interested position to wehr@rtc279.com. The election will be in the spring.

Membership to the Readlyn Community Club is only \$30 per year. You can help by joining and getting involved by:

- sponsoring an event
- volunteering to help at events
- attending meetings (announced in the minutes in the *Readlyn Chronicle*).

The mission of the Readlyn Community Club is to provide a variety of events to enhance the lives of our residents.



**Even Miss Readlyn** Jaylin May had gift requests of Santa at the annual Readlyn Christmas on Main, Nov. 30. See more photos from the event on pages 10 and 11.

# Visitor to Museum pens poem

Tyler Sullivan has an interesting mission: to visit every museum in Iowa. As of November 23, 2024, when he visited Readlyn, he has spent time in 96 of Iowa's

99 counties and visited 147 museums. While in a particular town, he also runs at least one mile around it and strives to visit local libraries, too.

He spent an hour at Readlyn's Historical Society Museum and was impressed with the collection and that there were two buildings.

As a child, he never thought he'd do something like this but was inspired by his grandparents to keep Iowa's history alive. Or that he would write books or poems about each town he visits.

Here's the poem he wrote about Readlyn on his first visit:

*Arriving into town in the middle of the night*

*Taking my chance to get off here when the train makes sudden stop*

*The only light I have to rely on is the moon overhead*

*Knowing it will be light soon and I am going to try to get some rest*

*Daylight arrives and I going to head into town and not be noticeable*

*A number of "good mornings" from the locals in the passing*

*Keeping my head down, and no eye contacts since I do not know a soul*

*A few the locals even offered me a cook meal, and a place to bathe if needed*

*Not accepting their offer and I continue to carry on with my day*

*Few months go by, and good mornings continue to come my way*

*Making eye contact with one of them, and my frown instantly turns upside down*

*I am starting to think, maybe the people of Readlyn are not so mean as I once thought*

*Afterall, it appears I am the only grump in town*

*Moments later, I see a gentleman who appears to be in the same situation I was just a few months back*

*Wondering how long he will be the grump in Readlyn*

June 19, 2021 (#371, Bremer County, Readlyn Grump)

For more information about Tyler's journey, check out his Facebook page, Iowa Scenic Views by Foot.



Tyler Sullivan

# Donations continue to support history

Thank you to all who donated to the Readlyn Historical Society in 2024! Your donations aid the museum to continue to support Readlyn's history.

## 2024

\$20.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Readlyn Historical Society
\$50.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Readlyn Senior Citizens Club
\$20.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Ron & Judy Leistikow
\$20.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Grace Kuethe
\$20.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Judy Henn
\$50.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Marv & Helen Schumacher
\$50.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Robin Harms
\$50.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Dean & Lois Buhr
\$25.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Jo Porter
\$20.00	In memory of Bob Thran by Joe & Linda Schutte
\$20.00	In memory of Jerry Finder by Vernon & MaryAnn Clefisch
\$20.00	In memory of Jolene Meyer by Ellen Thies
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$365.00</b>

## NOTICE OF COMPLETION HEARING DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 5 BREMER COUNTY, IOWA

TO: ALL LANDOWNERS AND PERSONS INTERESTED IN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 5 BREMER COUNTY, IOWA

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the engineer in charge of the repairs and/or improvements in Drainage District No. 5, BREMER County, Iowa, has filed his report that the contract with Denver Underground & Grading, Inc of Denver, Iowa, has been satisfactorily completed. Said report is on file in the Auditor's Office in BREMER County, Iowa.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Board of Supervisors for BREMER County, Iowa, acting as trustees for the drainage district has set January 7, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., in the BREMER County Courthouse 415 E Bremer Ave Waverly, in Bremer County, Iowa, as the time, place and date for hearing on said report.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any interested party having a claim for damages arising out of the construction, including crop damages, shall file said claim with the Auditor's Office of BREMER County, at or before the time set for hearing on the completion of the contract, which claim shall not include any claim for land taken for right-of-way or for severance of the land.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any party interested in said district or the repairs thereof may file written objections to said report and submit any evidence tending to show why said report should not be accepted. Said written objections must be filed in the office of the BREMER County Auditor at or before the time set for such

hearing.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if the Board of Supervisors finds that the work under the contract has been completed and is accepted, that the Board of Supervisors shall compute the balance due the contractor, and if there are no liens on record against such balance, they shall enter an order directing the BREMER County Auditor to draw warrant(s) in favor of said contractor upon the drainage district funds, but that such warrant(s) shall not be delivered until the expiration of thirty (30) days after the acceptance of the work.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all objections to the engineer's report must be in writing and filed with the County Auditor of BREMER County at or before the time fixed for hearing. Any interested party may be heard in an argument by himself or by counsel. Anyone who fails to object shall be held to have waived all objections and claims for damages.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to object, the Board of Supervisors will make a final decision as to completion of the contract, damages and other matters before the Board and as a consequence of your failure to object, you lose your right to appeal any final decision within twenty (20) days to the Iowa District Court.

This Notice is published and mailed as provided by law at the direction of the Board of Supervisors of BREMER County, Iowa, acting on behalf of Drainage District No 5.

Shelley Wolf, Bremer County Auditor

## College News

### Central College Music Ensemble Participant

PELLA, IA -- Central College students have been named to music ensembles for Fall 2024 semester.

Ronald D Wilcox of Readlyn, Class of 2026, is participating in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble at Central College, playing the euphonium.

Central offers 18 music ensembles, ranging from the 60-voice A Cappella choir to the Flying Pans Steel Drum Band. The music ensembles are open to music majors and non-majors alike, and several tour annually.

Central College of Pella, Iowa, is a private college known for its active student body, academic rigor and athletics success. Our students learn collaboratively with supportive educators who share a commitment to intellectual engagement, personal growth, career readiness and civic involvement. Founded in 1853 and shaped by its Christian heritage, the college of 1,100 students participates in NCAA Division III athletics and is a member of the American Rivers Conference. Central is an active part of the Greater Des Moines region and just minutes from Lake Red

Rock, Iowa's largest lake.

### Wartburg students accepted into the Teacher Education Program

WAVERLY, IA -- Twenty-seven Wartburg College students were accepted into the college's Teacher Education Program.

Among those was Elle Voy of Fairbank.

Students must demonstrate effective reflective components in teaching and complete several other requirements to be considered for the program.

Admission to the Teacher Education Program allows students to begin professional education courses in their field.

Wartburg College, a four-year liberal arts college internationally recognized for community engagement, enrolls about 1,500 students. A college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Wartburg is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. The college is characterized by vigorous academic expectations and community engagement within an environment of strong personal support.

**See this page in full color!**  
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 (319) 230-1029



**JOY**

**Farmers Co-op**  
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 Readlyn, IA  
 (319) 279-3396



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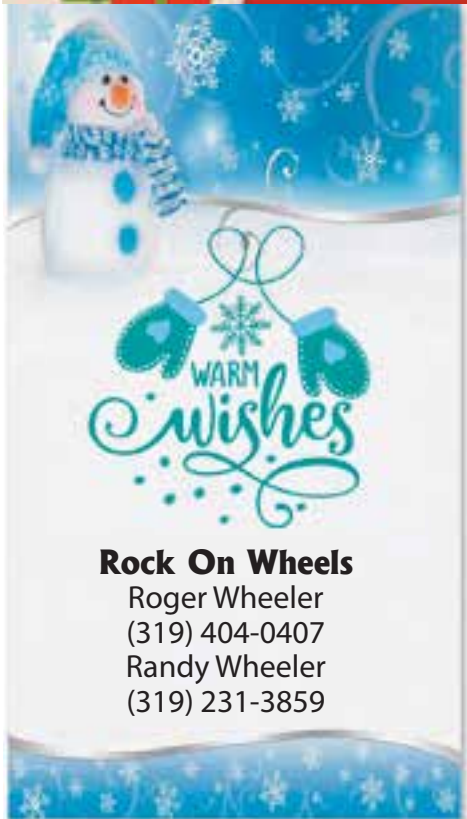
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

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**HOLIDAY Greetings**

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 2636 230th St.  
 (319) 279-3867



**WARM Wishes**

**Rock On Wheels**  
 Roger Wheeler  
 (319) 404-0407  
 Randy Wheeler  
 (319) 231-3859



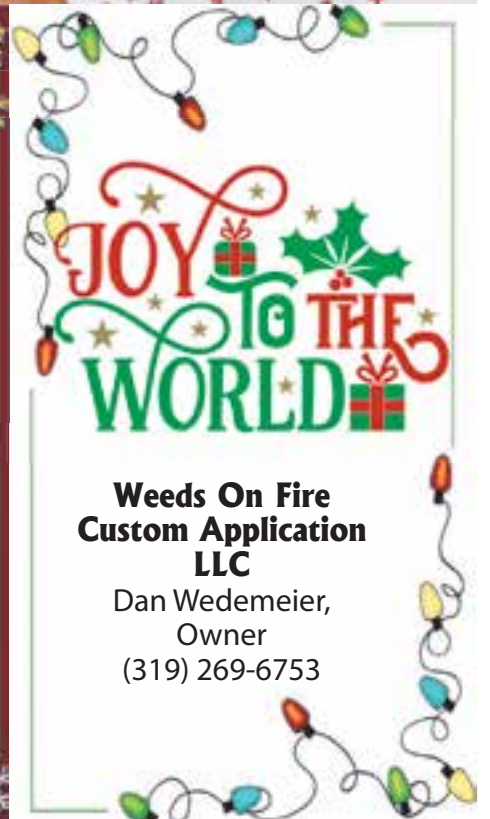
**Tis the SEASON TO BE Jolly**

**Spring Center Farm Pioneer - Dean Buhr**  
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 Sumner, IA 50674  
 (319) 240-2432



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 Thomas B. Smidt, President  
 303 North 2nd St. PO Box 594, Greene  
 (641) 823-4817 or cell (641) 330-6717  
 smidtcrop@iowatelecom.net



**Merry Christmas**

**Quality Distributors-Fairview Ag**  
 1508 190th St., Waverly  
 Seth Walker (319) 352-1619  
 Tyler Hemer (319) 269-7675



**Season's Greetings**

**Wittenburg Truck Line, Inc.**  
 117 Malone Ave.  
 (319) 279-3371

# Obituaries

**Steven Robert Deterding**, 60, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Monday, December 9, 2024, at his home near Readlyn.



Steve was born on August 11, 1964, in Waverly, Iowa, the son of Robert and Ruth (Eickelberg) Deterding. Steve was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn. He attended Community Lutheran School and then attended Wapsie Valley High School, graduating in 1982. Steve worked at the Readlyn Co-Op for many years and later drove semi for a variety of employers in the area.

In 2004, Steve met Gail Boies and they were united in marriage on September 5, 2015. Steve always felt blessed with the privilege of being a father figure and helping raise Kristie and Billy. Together the family managed the Center Inn restaurant in Readlyn for a year.

Steve enjoyed farming, driving semi, and was an avid Minnesota Vikings and

Minnesota Twins fan. He loved spending time with family, especially the grandchildren, and his dog, Duke.

Steve is survived by a daughter, Kerrie (Branden) Burroughs of Waterloo; a daughter, Katie (Joey) Nolan of Oelwein; a daughter, Kristie (Dustin Palmer) Boies of Readlyn and a son, Billy (Kelsey) Boies of Shell Rock; five grandchildren, TJ Nolan, Angela Nolan, Londyn Boies, Lily Eckhoff and Theodore Boies; his sister, Sheri (Todd) Alldredge; his mother-in-law, Vivian Leyh; a sister-in-law, Carol (Mike) Schulmeister; and two brothers-in-law, Donald Raymond Arnold and Kevin (Debbie) Arnold.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Ruth Deterding, and his wife, Gail Deterding in 2023.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano officiating. There was one hour of visitation prior to the service starting at 10:00 a.m. Burial of his cremains was held in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. Memorials may be directed to the family for a later designation.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

**Darlene Esther Peters**, 97, of Denver and formerly of Readlyn, passed away on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo.



Darlene was born on April 3, 1927, in Bremer County, Iowa, the daughter of August and Martha (Meyer) Schlewitz. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn. She attended country school near her home and later attended St. Paul's Lutheran School.

Darlene was united in marriage to Wilbert Peters on June 6, 1948, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn. Together the couple farmed near Readlyn until Wilbert had his tractor accident in 1975.

Following the accident, Darlene worked at Bartels Lutheran Home in Waverly until retiring in 1989. Darlene and Wilbert moved to Readlyn in 1990, and Darlene started her in-home daycare.

Darlene was a loving wife and caretaker for her husband, Wilbert, for several years. She unconditionally loved her family and made a positive impact on everyone she met.

Darlene enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed playing cards, gardening, cooking and baking. She made sugar cookies for many years for the

arrival of Santa in Readlyn. She was a member of the Mary-Martha Circle, Merry Elders, Red Hats, Allen Hospital Mended Hearts and the Readlyn VFW Auxiliary. This past summer, she was proud to attend the Iowa State Fair to receive the Century Farm award.

Darlene is survived by two sons, David (Mary) Peters of Waverly and Marvin (Diane) Peters of Marion; two daughters, Carol (Norm) Menefee of Cedar Falls and Audrey (Larry) Norte of Oronoco, Minnesota; two daughters-in-law, Lois Peters of Tripoli and Connie Peters of Cedar Falls; ten grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren, along with a special German grandson; a brother-in-law, Vernon Peters of Rowlett, Texas, and her nieces and nephews.

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two sons, Jim Peters and Dennis Peters, two grandchildren, Nick and Neil Harding, and a sister, Ruth Bruch.

A visitation was held on Friday, Nov. 22 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn and continued for one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church. A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Dr. Rev. Jean Rabary officiating. Burial followed in St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church or to Cedar Valley Hospice.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.

**Deadline for the January 29 Chronicle is Thurs., January 16 at 5 PM**  
**Send news to**  
**ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com**

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# Readlyn Christmas Lighting Contest Winners



First Place - Gary and Connie Sauerbrei, 407 Goodell



Second Place - Eric and Aubrey Johnston, 308 Magill



Third Place - Scott and Connie Matthias, 223 4th Street

## MEDICARE QUESTIONS?

I CAN HELP!



Call me, your **LOCAL** Expert!  
OPEN ENROLLMENT IS OCTOBER 15TH TO DECEMBER 7TH

*Review or change your plan during that time!*

**Amy Rechkemmer**  
319-635-2526 | amy@vandaeleins.com

**VanDaele Insurance**  
119 E Main St. Fairbank, IA

Be prepared for all changes happening in 2025!  
Call or E-mail me, I'll help answer all your health insurance plan questions!

"Currently I represent 10 organizations which offer 51 products in your area. You can always contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Programs for help with plan choices."



## What's Cooking?

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

**Roger Deterding's 2008 1st prize  
Chili Cook-Off recipe.**

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 lb. hamburger             | 1 (15 oz.) can pork and beans  |
| 1 green pepper, chopped     | 1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste     |
| 1 large onion, chopped      | 2-3 tsp. sea salt              |
| 1 qt. tomato juice          | 1 tsp. pepper                  |
| 1 c. salsa (mild or hot)    | 1 tsp. brown sugar             |
| 1 (15 oz.) can chili beans  | 2 tsp. chili powder (to taste) |
| 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans |                                |

Brown hamburger, onion, and pepper in frying pan. Put the rest of ingredients into a crock pot. When hamburger is done, add to crock pot. Cook in crock pot 5-6 hours on high, or until it starts to boil.

# Readlyn's Christmas on Main Lighted Parade 2024



Larry's Service and Repair



Here comes Santa Claus!



Readlyn Outdoors/Whitetails - Eric Johnston



Readlyn City Workers



RTC - Readlyn Telephone Company



Grumpy's



Wapsie Valley FCCLA - Spreading joy!



Readlyn Firefighters



Readlyn EMS



Merry Christmas!



So shiny and bright!



So festive!



Bremer Brewing



CLS - Luke 2 ... the Reason for the Season



Happy Holidays!



Classy Red!



The One and Only Fabulous Mr. Legs!



Hey, Grinch - you can't steal our Christmas spirit!

# Readlyn's Christmas on Main 2024



**2024 Readlyn tree.** It sure is a beautiful sight to see! (Above left) Donated by Brent Leistikow, delivered by LaVerne Leistikow.

**Grump** Bonnie Wittenburg, and Miss Readlyn, Jaylin May, assisted Santa (above center).

**Bridget Matthias**, with parents Justin and Tiffany, is happy with her Christmas goodie bag (above). The former Grumps stuffed 160 sacks with peanuts, fruit, and candy sponsored by the Readlyn Community Club. Current Grump, Bonnie Wittenburg, assisted Santa handing them out.

**Macie, Madi, and Mira** Gothard are all smiles with Santa Claus (left). They are the daughters of Mike and Crystal Gothard.



**Amazing fireworks** thanks to everyone's pop can donations and the dedication of Ron Hartman, Ed Harrington, Bonnie and Rod Wittenburg, and others. Readlyn's Christmas Tree was donated by Brent and Amy Leistikow, delivered by LaVerne Leistikow, and decorated by Austin Matthias and Barney Wiersma.

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Attorney at Law  
209 E. 1st Street,  
Sumner, IA 50674  
(563) 578-01850 •  
Fax: (563) 578-1312  
patdillon@50674law.com

**Merry Christmas**

**Jennifer Jaschen**  
Attorney at Law  
4817 University Ave. STE. D  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
jaschenlaw@outlook.com  
(319) 553-3400

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2308 Piedmont Ave.  
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wendymohlis@gmail.com

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Waverly  
319.352.3917

**Have a Holly Jolly Christmas**

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Louie Hartman  
319-239-0533  
hartmanlouie@gmail.com  
www.towncountryhome.com  
215 N. Railroad,  
Sumner, IA 50674  
Connie Rochford, Broker  
Office 563-578-8899

**joy love peace believe Christmas**

**Stumme, Collins, Gritters & Epley, PLLC**  
Attorneys  
171 E. Main, Denver, IA  
Phone: (319) 984-5479  
www.waverlydenverlaw.com

**Happy Holidays**

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Oran  
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**WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
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Hazleton  
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Or: (319) 231-9022

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Readlyn, Iowa  
(319) 230-1618  
or plattehomeimprovement.com

**MAY YOUR DAYS be Merry and Bright**

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Fax (563) 578-1008

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(319) 279-3518

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**happy holidays**

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(800) 974-5691

**'TIS THE Season TO BE JOLLY**

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(319) 279-3551  
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**Merry CHRISTMAS**

**Prime Capital Investment Advisors**  
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319-483-1001  
Megan Niewoehner Oelwein  
319-283-2524



# “Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

## Happy New Year!!

I hope your Christmas season was fulfilling and you got to be in the company of people you love. Here is to hoping that 2025 has amazing things in store for all of us!

If you find yourself making a list of resolutions and things like investing, saving, budgeting, or paying off a debt are on that list, we should talk!

Financial fitness aspirations are our jam.\*

*\*If you have “regular” fitness goals, you should hire someone else... I am on the same struggle bus!*

There is a cliché about the New Year and setting goals. “New Year, New Me” is often easier said than done and when it comes to financial goals, we prefer finding sustainable small steps rather than drastic changes. I love sitting down with someone who has big goals in mind and getting to help them break it down into small attainable tasks that help turn their goals into a reality.

Sometimes we present full blown financial plans to help our clients know they’re on the right path and sometimes it’s just giving one little piece of advice that makes a difference.

I remember being given a piece of advice that helped my husband Cody and I start to prioritize saving and getting ahead early in our marriage: It was to open a savings account separate from our primary account. We had a small amount from each pay period deposited into the held-away account, sight unseen. When the savings came out before the money hit our primary account, it wasn’t as noticeable as trying to find a few coins to stretch into our savings at the end of the month.

After a few months, we had a few hundred dollars saved. Soon, it was a few thousand. Before we knew it, we used this separate account to pay off Cody’s student loan. This small piece of advice helped us get one step closer to freedom from debt and, most importantly, we never noticed the difference in our budget.

For those further ahead in the saving/investing game than we were as newlyweds, there are new guidelines out every year for retirement contributions. This year, Roth IRA and Traditional IRA contributions remain the same at \$7,000 annually + \$1,000 catch-up for those 50 years old+. 401K contributions went up from \$23,000/year to \$23,500 with a catch-up provision of an additional \$7,500. Thanks to the SECURE 2.0 act, there is also now a super catch-up for those aged 60-63 of \$11,250! There are more limits listed on the IRS.GOV website, or if you have questions, an answer is always a quick phone call to me away!

Financial goals can be easier said than done but partnering with someone who can help keep you accountable and help you prioritize where to start can make it all less overwhelming. It is never too late to start and there is no dream too big! This year, make your money work as hard for you as you do for it!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

Financial Advisor  
Prime Capital Investment Advisors  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
pciacedarrapids.com  
(319) 269-7143



Scan Here to Learn More About Me!



# News from Readlyn Elementary School

It's been busy at Readlyn Elementary. Here are some fun things we've done the past couple months.



Our 3rd grade students participated in Museum School at the Grout Museum. So FUN!



Our 6th grade lighthouse team and action team participated in the lighted parade during Readlyn's Christmas on Main (below). They also helped at the WV Education Foundation Dinner (above).



Cookie the Elf made it safely to Readlyn Elementary.



Leader in Me Assembly Habit 3: Put First Things First! We work before we play!

## Rainbow Clovers 4-H

Written by: Emersyn Powell

Meet the 2024-2025 Club Officers

President- Ashlyn Strottmann  
 Vice president- Cole Wehling  
 Secretary- Keegan Strottmann  
 Treasurer- Henry Geerts  
 Historians (not pictured)- Coral Novak and Will Kuker

Ashlyn Strottmann's Presentation on braiding hair



Griffen & Greysen Miller's Presentation on Hot Chocolate Fluff & Cake Mix Fluff



Henry Geerts' Presentation on Wood Burning



4-H Award Banquet



Coral Novak, Emersyn Powell, & Cole Wehling earned awards at the 4-H Banquet in Denver.

Activities



Painting pumpkins donated Red Rock Farms & making Christmas cards for residents at Tripoli Nursing Home.

Presentations





See this page in full color!  
Read the Chronicle online at:  
<https://www.readlyn.lib.ia.us>

## How it began Wayne Teisinger Post No. 5661 in Readlyn

Excerpt from "Fiftieth Anniversary, Town of Readlyn, Iowa 1904-1954"

### Veterans of Foreign Wars -

#### Wayne Teisinger Post No. 5661

In December of 1945 a group of returning veterans of Readlyn and surrounding territory gathered at a meeting and decided to form a veterans service organization in Readlyn. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to organize the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Several more meetings were called and finally, on June 22, 1946, the V.F.W. was duly organized. At the meeting, the ritual team of Post 2478, Sumner, Iowa, came to Readlyn to give the obligation and present the Cross of Malta.

The following officers were elected: Stanley Gehrke, commander; John Maurer, senior vice-commander; Jim Klodt, junior vice-commander; Melvin Richmann, quartermaster; Earl Rommel, chaplain; Elmer Bruns, surgeon; Leroy Bauer, post advocate; Herman Oltrogge, 3-year trustee; Arnol Hesse, 2-year trustee; Eric Harms, 1-year trustee.

Installation followed the election of officers. There were also brief talks by Dept. Judge Advocate William Silvers and Comrade Keegan.

At the meeting of Feb 5, 1946, it was voted to call the post Wayne Teisinger Post No. 5661, having been a local boy who gave his life for his country, and the post was named in his honor.

First meetings were held in the hall above Vic's Grocery. After a few meetings it was decided to find a permanent home for our post.

O.R. Thran was contacted as to whether the upstairs of his business building could be made of use.

Steps were built to the upstairs and the upstairs was completely remodeled by the members of the V.F.W. Post.

After many nights of hard work, the room was made into a very nice home for the V.F.W. of which the members are very proud.

The past years the post has been very active in community activities.

Each year Memorial Day services are held in the local park. Attendance at the service has increased from year to year.

The post has taken part in several military funerals for departed comrades who have passed on since the post was organized.

Each year the post gives a citizenship award to a local high school graduate who is picked for his or her personality, school work and participation in school functions. Judges are the school faculty, two members of the Ladies Auxiliary and a member of the post.

From time to time, the post has also helped needy families in the community. The large and active membership of the post attests to the fact that it has become a vital and effective force in the growth of our town.

\*\*\*\*

What is the difference between the V.F.W. and the American Legion? Simply put, the American Legion generally accepts veterans of the U.S. military no matter where they served. The V.F.W., however, only accepts veterans of the US military who served overseas in a combat zone or received hostile fire pay.

\*\*\*\*

The Readlyn V.F.W. officially closed its doors in 2023 as members aged out, but the memories remain.

If you have an interesting story about Readlyn's history, send it to the *Chronicle* at [readlynchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:readlynchronicle@gmail.com).

This is a Jennings 1940s five cent slot machine. It was in Readlyn in the V.F.W. Melvin Warneke (1912-1992) was a member there and, in about 1945 or so, because it was used for gambling, he got uneasy. He took it home and stored it in his barn, south of Readlyn. In about 1960, Elmer Tiedt was at Melvin's house and Melvin told Elmer he was afraid to have it and wanted help to bury it in a field. Elmer said, "No, let's put it my car," and Elmer took it to Cedar Rapids, where he lived. It has been in our family since then. It works perfectly and about twice a year someone will win the major jackpot, which is about 50 nickels (\$2.50). Submitted by Dan Tiedt, Iowa City, son of Elmer Tiedt, 1927-2009, and Beverly Ganske, 1931-1968.



## If you have an interesting story about Readlyn's history, share it by sending it to the *Chronicle* at [readlynchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:readlynchronicle@gmail.com).

### Readlyn City Council - Nov. 11, 2024

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 6:45 PM for the Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00 PM for the regular meeting. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Wedemeier. The following named council members were present: Rocco Imbrogno, Jason Franck., Nicole Barnes, Keith Brunscheon. Absent: Joey Jones. Others in attendance: Bamey Wiersma, Austin Matthias, Matt Mahoney, Todd Tatroe, Steve Aiello.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to approve minutes from the October 14, 2024 council meeting. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to approve clerk and treasurer's reports for August and September. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

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

Council reviewed and discussed the ARC Flash

Assessment from Stanley Consultants. Installing CMR reclosures was discussed. Cost will be presented at the next council meeting. Decision will be made then on proceeding with the project.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Brunscheon to approve adding spouse of employee Steve Aiello to city health insurance effective January 1, 2025. Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on recent Tripoli-Readlyn Sanitation board meeting. Discussion on recent EBRR board meeting.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Imbrogno to sell city owned property at 128 Main Street, Readlyn, Iowa. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Brunscheon to sell property at 128 Main Street, Readlyn, Iowa for a starting bid of \$40,000.00. Details to be worked out with city attorney. Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

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

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk



### Wapsie Valley School Board - Nov. 18, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance  
Wapsie Valley CSD Regular School Board Mtg  
November 18, 2024

1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:33 PM

A. Directors: Aiello, Kaufman, & Wolfe. Auel, Sauerbrei (excused) Declare a quorum.

B. Administration: Supt. Hoover, Board Sec. Arndt (virtual) & Principals: Murphy, Forsyth, & Myers (left at 6:48)

C. Others: Amy Buzynski, Brett Bergman, Vaughn Gross, Rachel Kaufman, Garrett Shannon, Landen Moulds, T.J. Joecken, Logan Sauerbrei, Dawson Fenton, Blake Hesse, & virtual participants.

2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the agenda as presented Motion carried 3-0

3. Public comment - Baseball players would like Tom Joecken rehired as baseball coach for the 25 season. Mr. Gross discussed robotics competitions, FCCLA increased participants & fundraising for FCCLA due to program not being funded.

4. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Brent Sauerbrei as presented. Motion carried 3-0

5. Spotlight in Education-Rachel Kaufman-Discussed the Extended Learning Program and how beneficial it is.

6. Board-None  
Superintendent-Hoover: Report included Iowa School Performance Profile ratings-WV has made progress, and Declining Enrollment.

District/Principals: Report includes Parent Teacher conferences, Veterans Day Program, Run Hide Fight presentation, Professional Development, Field Trips, Leader In Me, SIAC meeting, PLC, Career Fair, Blood Drive, & Activity Updates.

7. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Aiello,

Seconded by Kaufman to approve the resignation of Clint Munk-HS Golf Coach, & Casey O'Donnell-JH/Boys Basketball Coach and thank them for their service to Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 3-0

Contracts: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve a contract to Casey O'Donnell-Assistant Boy's Basketball Coach-Base 1/Year 0-\$2,707.00, & Caitlin McElhose-Cheerleading Sponsor-Base 1/Year 1-\$1,504.00 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

8. Old Business-Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the reconsideration & reopening of the bid for prior action sale of the 2008 Chevy Uplander Van as presented. Roll call-ALL AYES

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to accept the bid of \$355 from John Kleitsch with the vehicle disclaimer for the 2008 Chevy Uplander Van as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the services of Martin Gardner Architecture firm for Phase III HVAC upgrades for JH/HS (\$65,750.00) as presented. Motion carried 3-0

9. New Business-Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve to approve the SBRC Special Education Administrative Costs (\$5,230.02) associated with the LIED Center Consortium Program for the 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 24-25 Dance agreement with Oelwein as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the JH Girls Wrestling program for the 24-25 season as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Will wait until a future meeting to discuss Architecture needs for the track/football project.

10. Board Talking Points-None

11. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to adjourn at 7:34 PM. Motion carried 3-0

Respectfully, Kim Arndt



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## Readlyn Outdoors

### Delana's Hunt

By Eric Johnston

Ejohnston@mossyoakprostaff.com

The afternoon was warm and windy gusting from the south on this December 8 Sunday. The daily high temperature had reached nearly 60 degrees and the sun felt even warmer on our faces as we sat side-by-side perched in a platform blind overlooking our clover and turnip food plots. We hadn't seen a deer on this afternoon and then, with the sun dipping below the horizon, I spotted him coming out of the east thicket.

"Delana, nice buck! Slowly ready your rifle..." I relayed to her. "Yeah right Dad, stop joking..." Delana uttered and then she spotted him making his way through the last bit of brush before entering the open field. As many of you may or may not know, my daughter, Delana, loves to hunt with me. This month, I'll tell you the story of Delana's successful hunt.

The year of 2024 had flown by as we worked each weekend in the land from habitat work, to planting trees, planting food plots, and all the tree stand work and the long list of land chores I personally love doing. Delana had helped some when she could throughout the year. As with everything, we film it all for a YouTube channel we create together called The EDJ Whitetails. Delana loved hunting before and now, with our project together involving another interest (YouTube) of hers, the passion has grown stronger. Delana hunted some during Iowa's youth season and then again during Iowa's early muzzleloader season as her youth tag is good for all seasons as long as specified season weapon is used. Throughout those two seasons, we watched and filmed many

whitetails, but never came across a buck that suited Delana's goal for the season. Her goal she set with me going into the year was a buck with at least 8 points and antlers she could grab on to. She has harvested small bucks in the two years prior and was ready to move up. As we turned the calendar to December that meant Delana would soon once again be the hunter in front of the camera starting December 7.

I had hunted a lot during Iowa's archery season and knew there were quite a few bucks that would fit the bill for Delana's goal using the farm. December 7 had arrived and the morning would not involve deer hunting as Delana had a Wapsie Valley Archery tournament to shoot at in Independence. Once completed, we headed home and prepared for the afternoon hunt.

The trail cameras had shown good activity the days leading up to the season and, as we headed to the land that Saturday afternoon, we felt quite confident on having an action-packed hunt and putting together a great episode for The EDJ Whitetails. The weather was in the 40s, sunny with a fairly strong wind out of the southwest. We made our way to the blind and settled in around 2 p.m.

Delana's blind is great for younger hunters. It has a five foot tall platform with a metal cage covered with a heavy duty fabric outer shell. I added a foam layer on the floor to cut down on noise and help hold in scent. Our food plots were planted with an area for Delana in mind. This area is a one-acre plot consisting of clover, turnips, and radishes and the blind is placed on the north side facing south in the middle of an 8 foot tall line of dogwoods creating a "wall" for the blind to sit in and hide us entering and exiting the



blind. Early in the season, we had a couple hunts that we entered the blind and when we opened the windows deer were already feeding in the plot and never heard or saw us enter.

As we sat, Delana and I talked about anything and everything and enjoyed hanging out together. Around 3:30 p.m., a small six-point buck entered the food-plot from the northwest and fed his way across the plot. I asked Delana if she wanted to take a shot at him and the gun never moved. She was still holding true to her goal and I was proud to see her do so.

Shortly after he left, I saw a doe enter our further south radish plot and then behind her a very nice 8-point buck stepped out. Out of range, we watched and, as the doe started towards us, I thought for sure the buck would follow, however, he didn't and headed south away from us. Does continued to enter and feed in the plot and we intently watched and filmed as the evening's story unfolded.

Shortly before dark we heard some shots on the property to the south of us. Shortly after, a herd of deer made their way toward us with a few nice bucks leading the way. They got to about 100 yards away and turned into the thick bedding area to the west. They held up in the thicket as daylight faded away and we sneaked out to the north under darkness. We both agreed the deer would probably hold up in the farm as we keep pressure on the deer to a minimum.

The next day, we made our way in for the evening hunt shortly before 3 p.m. While this typically would be very late to enter for an afternoon hunt, the temperature was nearly 60 degrees with a strong wind straight out of the south. These conditions are about the worst deer hunting conditions you could think of for a December hunt. However, with Iowa's gun seasons being short we have to take every chance we can to hunt. As we settled into the blind, it was warm. We filmed the intro and kicked back in our chairs. Songbirds flying around the dogwood and landing among the turnips was about the peak of entertainment through the first hour and forty-five minutes. We joked with each other from time to time saying things like, "Here comes one," "Ahh, just kidding." I

thought for sure we would not see a deer on this warm evening when I thought I could hear footsteps in the leaves to the east. Then I caught the movement and spotted him coming out of the east thicket.

"Delana, nice buck! Slowly grab your gun!"

"Yeah right dad, great joke.... oh wow, you're not joking!" Delana exclaimed.

She slowly eased her Winchester 350 Legend to rest and shouldered it. I told her to find him in the scope and take your time as he was just slowly feeding in the clover and had no idea we were just 40 yards away from him. After a little struggle finding him in the scope because of the angle, she finally had a clear view and clicked off the safety. I had the camera rolling as she touched off the shot! The buck jolted and started a slow trot out of the plot.

"Dad did I miss?" As Delana relayed these words, the buck began to stagger and immediately fell over. She shot him perfectly behind the front shoulder and he was dead in seconds. A big hug and smiles as Delana had tears of joy running down her cheeks.

We quickly made our way out of the blind and I nearly had to run to catch up to her as she made her way to the buck. "Dad, he's huge!" with a smile from ear-to-ear across her face. "How many points is he, Dad?" "Count them up! I said. As she counted she made her way to 10. Yes a ten-pointer!! More hugs, high fives, and lots of pictures ensued. We finished up our video and we loaded him into the Polaris. A couple stops to the farmers' houses to show and thank them and we were on our way home.

This hunt is a moment neither of us will forget and the very cool part is it's also all documented on the YouTube channel we work on together! I couldn't be more proud of this young lady I have been blessed to call my daughter. You can catch this and all of our episodes of "The EDJ Whitetails" by going to YouTube and searching The EDJ Whitetails in the search bar. As I close out this month, I remind you to take your kids outdoors and make these type of memories. I promise you they won't forget them! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone! And until next time GET OUTDOORS!



	<p><b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b>          2683 Quail Avenue          Readlyn, IA 50668          (319) 279-3977          Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano          Divine Service 10 a.m.</p>
	<p><b>St. Matthew's Lutheran Church</b>          Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor          2649 230th Street          Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758          Sunday School 9:00 AM          Sunday services 10:00 AM          Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month          Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM</p>
	<p><b>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</b>          120 West 4th Street, Readlyn          (319) 279-3961          Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano          Divine Service 8:30 a.m.          Mary-Martha Circle          1st Wednesday 7 p.m.</p>
	<p><b>Zion Lutheran Church</b>          240 Elmer Ave., Readlyn, IA 50668          Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor          (319) 279-3643          Sunday Services 8:00 a.m.          Sunday School 9:05 - 9:45 a.m.          Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday          Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:00 p.m.</p>

# Obituary

Merle Gillett, 80, of Cedar Falls, formerly of Denver, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at NewAldaya Lifescapes in Cedar Falls.



Merle was born May 8, 1944, in Sumner, Iowa, the son of Lockwood and Neva (Bellinger) Gillett. He was baptized in Sumner and confirmed November 24, 1959, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Denver by Pastor Hafermann. His confirmation verse was from Luke 11:28, *Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.*

Merle attended Cedar Falls and Denver Schools, graduating in 1962 from Denver. He started working for John Deere in December of 1962. On March 14, 1965, he was united in marriage to Yvonne Kueker at St. John Lutheran Church in Denver. To this union a son (Darrin) and daughter (Denise) were born. He continued his career at John Deere for a total of 37 years, retiring in 1999.

Merle enjoyed golfing, bow hunting, card club, and spending time with family and friends. He was very proud of his grandchildren and enjoyed watching many of their activities.

Merle is survived by two children: Darrin (Stephanie) Gillett of Cedar Falls and Denise (Ron) Oltrogge of Readlyn; grandchildren, Kaitlyn (Aaron) Rosenstiel, Luke (Hailee Merryman) Gillett, Ethan Oltrogge and LeeAnn Oltrogge; one great-grandson, Tate Rosenstiel; one sister-in-law, Elaine Kueker of Denver; one brother-in-law, Jerry Federspiel of Waterloo, and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Yvonne (June 2024), his parents, a sister, Fonda Federspiel, his brother-in-law, Duane Kueker, and two nephews: Michael Kueker and Troy Holm.

Visitation was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 16, at St. John Lutheran Church in Denver with Pastor David Menet officiating with an hour of visitation one hour prior. Burial followed in the Fairview Cemetery in Denver.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Lutheran Church, St. Croix Hospice or NewAldaya Lifescapes Memory Care. Online condolences may be left at [kaisercorson.com](http://kaisercorson.com).

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Denver was in charge of arrangements.

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