

Readlyn Chronicle



Home of 857 Friendly People and One Old Grump

Volume 14, No. 7, Compiled by Readlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, July 28, 2021

Readlyn's August Yard of the Month

This month's Yard of the Month winners are Wes and Christo Woodman, 326 East 4th Street. Attractive gardens circle the house, the backyard, their front door, and deck.

The chickens scattered in many of the gardens were purchased at Norby's and Hy-Vee and are a result of Wes's fondness for this bird. Not clearly pictured are the many birdfeeders in his yard, which further demonstrate his bird interest.

Wes purchased the house just two years

ago. In this period of time, he has introduced all of the landscaping, added a deck and sliding glass door, and remodeled the inside of his house with his dad, Craig Hesse's, help. It is amazing the transformation accomplished in two short years, which further proves that their Yard of the Month award is well-deserved.

Thank you, Weeds on Fire, for continuing to recognize Readlyn citizens for enhancing the appearance of our town with your award and monetary gift.



A favorite design element of this beautiful yard — chickens!



Wes relaxes in front of the attractive front door.



Even their garden tool shed is nicely landscaped.



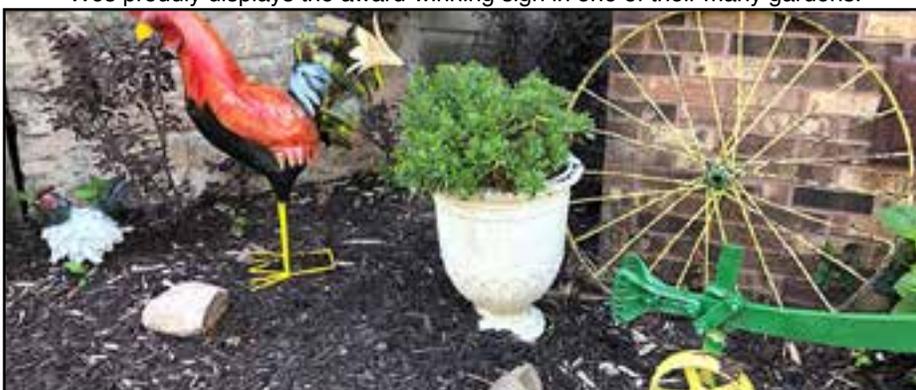
The attractive gazebo was built by Wes's dad, Craig Hesse. Photos courtesy Pat Wehr



This garden was just added this spring.



Wes proudly displays the award-winning sign in one of their many gardens.



A potato plow shares space with a wagon wheel from the Hesse farm.

Council to consider allowing UTVs on Readlyn streets

The City of Readlyn is in the process of creating an ordinance that would allow the recreational use of UTVs on the streets of Readlyn. The people who are currently driving them in Readlyn are doing so illegally. Please stop until the City Council finalizes the ordinance.

A rough draft has been created and will be reviewed by Readlyn's City Attorney soon. Then Readlyn's City Council will have up to three readings at council meetings if they so choose to pass it. They may expedite the process and waive one or two of the readings. Either way, do not begin riding UTVs on the streets until it has officially passed. It could be as soon as the end of summer 2021 or as late as fall 2021. It could be longer if things get held up for some unforeseen reason.

Once we have a working copy of the ordinance from our City Attorney, I invite anyone who wants to know what is in the ordinance to come to the City Council meeting or stop into City Hall and I will

be happy to give you a copy of it.

Also, as everyone knows, golf carts have been allowed in Readlyn for a few years now. We have been allowing this per Iowa Code 321.247.

It is obvious to everyone that a lot of people who own and operate these golf carts on the streets are doing it unsafely and are not following the rules, so the City of Readlyn has also created a new city ordinance specific to golf carts and will have the same penalties as the UTVs have.

1st offense – civil penalty of \$100

2nd offense – civil penalty of \$200

3rd and subsequent offenses – civil penalty of \$300

Along with these amounts will be an added a 15% surcharge of the fine amount plus \$55.00 court cost.

The City of Readlyn is taking these ordinances serious. The Readlyn Police Department will be issuing citations to those individuals violating these ordinances.

WV Back To School event planned

With the help of a great community, we are planning a Wapsie Valley Back to School potluck on Sunday, August 22 from 11 am - ? at Readlyn Ball Park. Meat, soft drinks and tableware will be provided. Lunch will be served at approximately noon. Please bring a side dish if you can.

There will be whiffle ball, kick ball, splash pad and other events for kids and

adults alike. This event is a celebration of our community. ALL Wapsie Valley residents and their families are invited. We want everyone from Readlyn, Fairbank, Oran and Klinger to attend.

If you would like to contribute your time or a monetary donation for the event, please contact Danny Sickles at sickles-danny@yahoo.com or by call or text to 515-505-6400

The Rolled Ice Cream truck by the Freedom Rock July 1 was a great hit. Larry and Vicki Pavelec (right) get ready to place their order. Wait time was about 1/2 hour, but well worth it for the novelty and rich, creamy flavor.



Miss Readlyn Comments

By Lydia Imbrogno

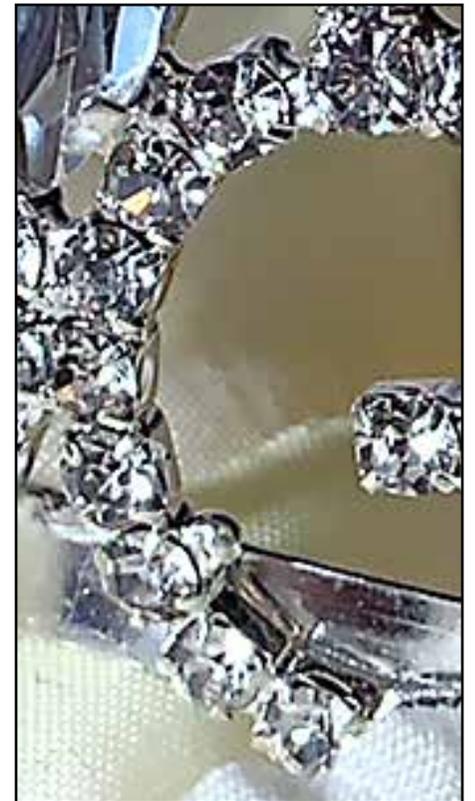
Hello everyone! My name is Lydia Imbrogno and I have been crowned Miss Readlyn for 2021!

I would like to thank everyone who encouraged me to run and I'm excited to attend the many activities in our community representing Readlyn this coming year.

Each month in my section of the *Chronicle*, we will play a little guessing game. I will post a zoomed in picture of an object or place that revolves around our great town. The next month I will show the zoomed out picture of the item to see if you guessed correctly.

My first mystery item is at right. Here are some clues: The first one given was in 1990....It comes in many styles....It has teeth.

Check back next month to see the revealed item!!!



Customers patiently waited for their orders.

Wednesday, August 4

School Registration for Community Lutheran School at St. Paul's, 120 W. 4th St., Readlyn, 3-4-year-old preschool and kindergarten through 6th grade.

Thursday, August 12

Deadline 5 PM for August 25 *Readlyn Chronicle*.

Wednesday, August 18

Back to School Night for 3 and 4-year-old preschool to sixth grade, Community Lutheran School.

Sunday, August 22

Wapsie Valley Back to School event, 11 AM-?, Readlyn Ball Park.

Tuesday, August 24

Author Linda McCann will visit the Readlyn Library at 6 PM to discuss her book, *Prohibition in Eastern Iowa*.

Thursday, August 26

Readlyn Reads Book Talk - *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins.



WELCOME TO COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL!



Mrs. Kaufman

We are excited to announce Mrs. Audrey Kaufman as our new Kindergarten and Extended Day Preschool teacher! She is a graduate of Upper Iowa University. She has experience working as a substitute teacher in various school districts and as a teacher aid in the Waukon school district. She has been a cheer coach and a long term substitute at a private vocational school.

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Readlyn Community Happenings

VFW Auxiliary meets July 13

The Wayne Teisinger VFW Auxiliary #5661 Readlyn met at the home of Mrs. Charlie Albrecht on July 13, 2021 with 6 members present at 7:30 pm. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes were read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and subject to audit. A will was turned in and signed by trustees. General orders and chairman reports were read. Volunteer hours were turned in by Marj Macken and Wilda Albrecht.

There was discussion on the 100th Anniversary. We celebrated at the Center Inn. The National Convention will be July 31 to August 3, 2021 at Kansas

City, MO. The Third District meeting will be September 11, 2021 at Mason City, IA.

We received awards from National for Health and Happiness (25¢ per member), Buddy Poppy media, 2nd for Outstanding Performance and using Buddy Poppies. Ellen Thies received the National Achievement award for recruiting 20 or more members. Burger King gave \$6.5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program. Dues are now being accepted.

A motion was made by Darlene Peters and seconded by Wilda Albrecht to adjourn the meeting, carried. Wilda Albrecht was hostess.



The Wayne Teisinger VFW Post and Auxiliary celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the national organization June 22, 2021 at the Center Inn. Pictured from left to right are: Ellen and Burton Thies, Verdeen Pavelec, Delores Ungs, Jim Wolff, Ron Wolff, and Tamara Wolf, Luann Happel, Charlie and Wilda Albrecht, Patrick and Melissa Brodigan, and Marjorie Macken. Picture was taken by Kathy Thiele, member.

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In Memory of Milton Happel
Trent and Nancy Lockard

In Memory of Audrey Foster
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In Memory of Lois Ganske
Kevin and Kathy Kuhrt

In Memory of Carol Huck
Doug and Sherri Kischmeder

In Memory of Esther Wittenburg
Barbara Meyer
Patrick and Melissa Brodigan

In Memory of Wade Lampe
Patrick and Melissa Brodigan

Children's Programming
Class of 1956 — 2021 Reunion

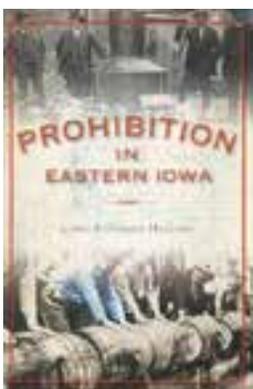
Book Memorials

In Memory of Lois Ganske
"Crane and Crane" by Linda Singleton from The Board of Directors and Employees of RTC Communications

"Those Are Not My Under-pants" by Melissa Martin from The Board of Directors and Employees of RTC Communications

Thank you for your generosity

Author Visit:
Linda McCann
August 24th at 6:00 PM
Topic: Prohibition



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

Summer Reading 2021!



Readlyn Reads - Book Talk

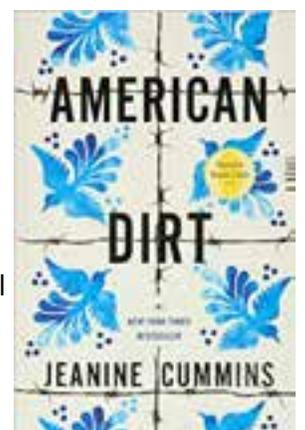
August's title: American Dirt

Pick up a copy at the library and join us for discussion on **August 26th.**

Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable.

Even though she knows they'll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with a few books he would like to buy—two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the *jefe* of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia's husband's tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.

Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride *la bestia*—trains that make their way north toward the United States, which is the only place Javier's reach doesn't extend. As they join the countless people trying to reach *el norte*, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?





Compiled by Bob Thran

Readlyn, Long Ago

Summer of 1936

In 1936, Frank Delano Roosevelt was president of the United States, running successfully for his second term. We were in the middle of the Depression. Okies were migrating enmass from Oklahoma to California in their Model T Fords. Six years without rain in Oklahoma caused a drought, the Dust Bowl. (A film and a book titled *The Grapes of Wrath* relate this era of our history.)

Iowa, that same year, was suffering through its worst winter and its worst summer on record even extending to the present time, 2021.

How did the weather of 1936 affect Readlyn and Denver? Extreme, stifling heat! In the summer of 1936, 13 straight days of temperatures of 100 degrees and above were recorded at Waterloo. The temperature soared to 112 degrees on July 13 and July 14. The temperature was 110 on August 12.

I cannot comprehend the misery the intense heat caused. Attempting to sleep at night. People working at their job, either inside or outside, during daytime hours. Farmers sweating, watching their crops wilt. Think about the patients and the workers suffering in hospitals, the women in the kitchen cooking meals or ironing clothes, carpenters and others in the building trades working in the sun, using hand tools.

Customs relating to the types of clothing worn in 1936 differed from today and contributed to their discomfort. Women

did not wear shorts, nor did men. Men wore uncomfortable long pants or heavy bib overalls. Some men did not shed their long underwear, saying, "It keeps me cool." Women wore petticoats.

It was not cool for women to be tanned, so they covered their arms. I can still see women working in their huge gardens protecting their faces by wearing sunbonnets.

How did people cope? They toughed it out. Houses were two stories, the second stories were bedrooms. Windows could be opened allowing the circulation of air, effective if there was a breeze. Many slept outside. People who had electricity and could afford to buy fans used them to keep air moving.

Our grandparents were not deterred from going to church. Men in shirtsleeves wearing ties and women wearing hats sat intently listening to the sermon, singing loudly, fanning themselves. Large fans advertising their donors were available in each pew.

I was seven years old in 1936. I remember my grandfather stringing a shelter between two apple trees in the back of our house and sleeping there. Art Kurtt, who was ten at the time, remembers he and two of his brothers slept outside on blankets on the lawn. Darlene Peters said that they went into the cornfield, took out the morning glories and fed them to the cattle. They also tended cattle in ditches because their pasture was scorched.



Art Kurtt died June 24, 2021. Art was a vital source of information for the history I wrote about in this *Readlyn Chronicle*, and why I include Denver whenever possible. He was a good friend. I will miss Art Kurtt, Mr. Denver. Rest in Peace.



Clearing the train track. Photo courtesy of Merlin Platte

Winter of 1936

The winter of 1936 was equally as harsh. The amount of snow and the low temperatures brought about further miserable living conditions.

From the Readlyn Historical Cookbook

The Blizzard of 1936 was remembered and talked about by residents for many years. People, especially rural residents, were isolated for many weeks. Tunnels were dug in the snow to access outbuildings.

Since farmers all milked cows in those days and it was customary for rural and town alike to preserve fruits, vegetables and meat, and because of concern for one another, people survived.

Coal, for fuel, became scarce since the train which delivered it was not able to get through. The train pushed and shoved as much snow as it could, men came with their scoop shovels to help remove the deep snow. In order to keep running, water for the tender to provide steam was hauled with a horse-drawn wagon by F. H. and Emma Platte Bruns, who also furnished sandwiches and a ten gallon milk can of coffee for the workers. When the train was finally able to get to town, a sackful of coal was rationed to each needy customer until train travel returned to normal.

The WCF&N tracks through Denver were blocked for several days in the 1936 blizzard, a major problem because most products were transported by rail. Art Kurtt's brother, Erwin, shoveled snow for the WCF&N, Great Western, and the Iowa

Highway Department. Removing snow in deep cuts was accomplished by use of tiers, the lower worker shoveling snow up to the next level, etc.

Harold Rausch, a friend from Nashua, nine years old in 1936, said his parents sold their farm that winter. They hauled their belongings into town through deep snow in a bobsled. August Schlewitz, father of Darlene Peters, tunneled through the snow to get to the barn. Paul Tiedt, oldest man in Readlyn, age 94, remembers the hot weather and the great amount of snow. Marge Wittenburg Degelau recalls her mother cooking and doing other housework in the heat. The snow was so deep that they could walk over fences on the snow on the 1-1/2 mile walk to school.

Give our grandparents credit and our respect. They overcame extremely harsh conditions, not only the weather but the Depression. They survived and prospered without air conditioning using scoop shovels as the 1936 method of snow removal.

Fast forward to 2021. I am writing this on June 10. A temperature of 95 degrees is predicted for today and tomorrow. We live in air conditioned homes, ride in air conditioned cars, shop in air conditioned stores, work in air conditioned offices, farm with air conditioner machinery, go out to eat in air conditioned restaurants, attend air conditioned churches and we gripe about the heat. Read through this article again! Put yourself back to 1936, without air-conditioning, and suffer with your grandparents.



Train is stuck 1-1/4 mile east of Readlyn. Photo courtesy of Gertrude Pook



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COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Back to School Night

3 & 4 Year Old Preschool - Sixth Grade

Wednesday, August 18, 2021
5:00-6:00pm

Visit your child's teacher and classroom!
You are welcome to drop off school supplies.

School supply lists can be found on www.communitylutherschool.com under the Parents tab.

Community Lutheran School exists to provide a Christian environment for a quality education while inspiring students to go forth living Christ-centered lives as witnesses of the one true faith in God's Kingdom.

Send news for the Chronicle to readlynchronicle@gmail.com



Warrior Way & More



July in Iowa is a great time of year for relaxing with family and friends! The WVCSD had a wonderful time celebrating Readlyn Grump Days and Fairbank Island Days with our district families and community members. I want to personally thank all the WV staff members who helped with parade float preparations and riding the floats to represent WVCSD. I also know there were numerous July 4 celebrations in our communities to enjoy!

In the educational world, summer is a time for planning and summer projects. Our WV Building Leadership Team will be meeting for two days in July to establish and refine our goals for the 2021-22 school year. We will also set plans in place for inservice days at the start of the school year. Currently, some major projects are being completed at the JH/HS facility. New lighting at the high school stadium will be installed by late July. Also, the WV Board of Education approved the construction of a new concession building, which will begin in July. This new concession building was supported financially with a \$75,000 donation from the WV Booster Club. Inside the HS building, we

have seven areas receiving new high traffic flooring along with some new classroom furnishings to update certain areas. We also have two Rural buildings receiving walls which will create basement classrooms for the reading support staff. Fairbank Elementary had a renovation in the behavior-focused reset room to meet new state requirements.

We will continue the Summer Food School Program in August. During the month of June, school personnel prepped and distributed 2,984 meals to area families. Wapsie Valley will operate our food services for the 2021-22 school year under the SSO (Seamless Summer Option) where meals will be free to all children. This is a great cost saving opportunity to our district families.

We, as a school district, will again start our 2021-22 academic year in a full face-to-face classroom environment. We will not offer any full-time virtual learning situations for the start of the school year. We will revise our Return to Learn Plans for the school year to reflect these changes.

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



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Obituaries

Esther Bock Wittenburg

Esther Bock Wittenburg, 112, of Readlyn, Iowa passed away on Sunday, June 27, 2021 at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo.

Esther Ann Bock Wittenburg was born on September 27, 1908, the daughter of Fred and Louisa (Schmidt) Luebs in Fredericka Township, Old Tripoli. She was baptized and confirmed both at St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Tripoli.

Esther attended Fredericka #4 Township school at Old Tripoli and Tripoli High School. On July 18, 1926, Esther and Fred Bock Jr. were united in marriage in Tripoli. On June 16, 1966, Esther and Herbert Wittenburg were united marriage in New Ulm, MN.

Esther was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Ruth Circle, Merry Elders and Readlyn Senior Citizens. Esther enjoyed reading, fishing, playing cards and valued her many friendships. She was a devoted and loving person to each of her family members and friends.

Survivors are her four children, Virgil Bock of Readlyn, Marlys "Marlee" Ryan of Tripoli, Delores "Dee" (Fritz) Krueger of Henderson, Nevada and Larry (Kathy) Bock of Cedar Rapids; six grandchildren, Kristi, Michael, Michelle, Jeffrey, Barton and Cynthia; eight great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren, Candace and Craig; five step-great-grandchildren and step-great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, infant brother, Walter, sister, Leota Plagens, son-in-law, Carl Ryan and step-daughter, Phyllis (Andy) Westendorf.

Esther was cremated: due to COVID and Delta variant concerns, private family graveside will be held later in Faith United Church of Christ Cemetery in Tripoli. Online condolences for Esther can be left at www.kaisercorson.com. Memorials may be given in Esther's memory to Zion Lutheran Church, Readlyn, Iowa Readlyn EMS or Tripoli EMS.



Esther Wittenburg

Wade Jay Lampe

Wade Jay Lampe, 46, of Readlyn, Iowa passed away on Monday, June 21, 2021, at UnityPoint Health-Allen Memorial, as a result of COVID-19 complications.

Wade was born on July 29, 1974, in Denver, Iowa, the son of Eugene and Marilyn (Schmidt) Lampe. He attended Denver High School and graduated in 1992. After graduation, he attended Hawkeye Community College and graduated with a degree in Drafting and Design. He was hired by John Deere Foundry as a crane operator in August 1997. Wade met Jess (Meier) in August of 1994. They were united in marriage on July 24, 1999.

Wade spent most of his free time outdoors camping, boating, tubing, kayaking, and fishing. If he wasn't outside, he could be found working on the family's used car collection, looking through Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace for different cars, or watching the Cubs and Hawkeye games.

Wade is survived by his wife, Jess Lampe of Readlyn; two sons, Dylan (Abby) Lampe of Solon, Trystan (Grace Imbrogno) Lampe of Readlyn, and a daughter, Kaliya Lampe of Readlyn; his mother, Marilyn Lampe; three brothers, Kirk (Rhae) Lampe of Cedar Rapids; Shawn (Patti) Lampe of Waverly and Nicholas Lampe of Dewar.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eugene Lampe, and brother-in-law, Darcy Meier.

A Memorial Service was held at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 25, 2021, at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Jean Rabary officiating. Burial of cremains was in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Readlyn. There was a visitation for family and friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. that Friday. Memorials will be determined at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.



Wade Lampe

Florence Lorina (Hay) Stahlhut-Luloff

Florence Lorina (Hay) Stahlhut-Luloff, 95, formerly of Readlyn, Iowa, died on Monday, June 21, 2021, in Marinette, Wisconsin, having lived a full and blessed life.

Florence was born on October 7, 1925, in Readlyn, Iowa, the daughter of Walter and Martha Hay. She graduated from Readlyn High School in 1944

where she played women's basketball for four years. Florence loved sports and was very proud of her accomplishments as a basketball player. Her father introduced her to baseball and drove her to many St. Louis Cardinal games. Those experiences made her a lifelong basketball and baseball fan.

On February 15, 1948, Florence was married to Irvin Stahlhut and had two children: Barbara (Caves) in 1948 and Ronnie in 1958. The Stahlhut family ran the Readlyn Chicken Hatchery from 1947-1967 and later Stahlhut Farm Services. Sadly, Irvin died in 1976 following a farm accident, after 28 years of marriage. Florence was blessed to meet and then marry Marvin Luloff May 31, 1980, and they were married for 20 years.

She is survived by her five grandchildren: Joy Caves of California, Allison Caves of Wisconsin and Ben Ness, Daniel Stahlhut and Lydia Stahlhut of Minnesota along with her loving stepchildren, Terry & Gwen Luloff and Dan & Lynn Luloff of Iowa. She was preceded in death by her husbands and two children.

Florence was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Readlyn, Iowa. She was a charter member of the Readlyn VFW Post 5661 Ladies Auxiliary as well as the owner of the Readlyn Post Office. She worked at the window of the post office in her younger



Florence Luloff

years and went on to be a cashier at Fareway Grocery Store in Waverly, Iowa, before retiring. Florence loved playing cards with family and friends.

A memorial service for the family will be held later this year. In lieu of flowers the family would ask that you make a donation to your local youth sporting organization or St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Readlyn, Iowa.

Florence's granddaughters Joy & Allison would like to thank the staff of the Luther Home in Marinette, Wisconsin, for providing loving care to their grandmother over the past six and a half years.

Mary Arlene Lockard

Mary Arlene Lockard passed away on June 8, 2021 at the age of 99 with her family by her side. She is a former resident of Readlyn, Iowa. She moved to Chandler, Arizona in 2007. She was



Mary Lockard

preceded in death by her husband, Adrian, in 1988. She is survived by her 5 children, Peggy Kerr of Chandler, Arizona, Sandra Duregger (Terry) of Mesa, Arizona, Steven

Lockard of Desert Hot Springs, California, Brenda (Debbie) Lockard-Loob of Hermosa Beach, California and Patti (Rick) Otto, Gilbert, Arizona; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorial service will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chandler, Arizona on August 20, 2021 at 11:00 AM. Graveside interment will be at the Catholic Cemetery in Waverly, Iowa on September 18, 2021, at 11:00 AM.

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



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Meet all Little Grumpster candidates

Little Miss Grumpster

Ashtyn Shores is the daughter of Kyle and Kelli Shores. She has two older brothers, Lane and Weston. Ashtyn loves to sing and dance. She also loves to get dirty playing T-ball. If you ever swing by her place, you might see her jumping away on her trampoline. Ashtyn is a fun, outgoing little girl. She loves her dog, Daisy, as much as her family.

Brielle Boyle is the daughter of Lucas and Allie Boyle. She has one older sister, Evelyn. Brielle is a social and kind little girl who loves spending time with her family and friends! She loves playing T-ball on Sunday and Thursday nights with her teammates. She also likes to swim on a hot summer day. In her backyard, you can find her playing on her swing set. Brielle loves my little pony and snuggling her cat, Atreyu, that she always calls "Buddy."

Caitlynne Busch is the daughter of Dale and Jody Busch. She has one older brother, Cale. Caitlynne loves to play with her dolls, they are always well taken care of. She also has a talent for baking, especially with her mom, measuring, pouring, and stirring the ingredients. Cait has begun a love for gymnastics. You can find her doing cartwheels and practicing her pullovers.

Gentry Ott is the daughter of Chad and Lynn Ott. She is the middle daughter, she has one older sister, Josie, and one younger sister, Mackee. Gentry is excited for 1st grade next fall. She makes everyone smile and has a very fun outlook on life. She loves playing outside. Gentry enjoys camping and fishing with her Grandpa Eddie. She has such a kind heart and tells funny jokes. Gentry loves collecting rocks. She just recently learned how to ride her bike without training wheels. We are so proud of her!

Kyleen Buck is the daughter of Ben



The 2021 Readlyn Little Grumpsters are Gentry Ott and Ryker Burgart.

& Jessica Anderson and Brad & Angela Buck. Kyleen is a spunky little girl. She loves her parents, sister, grandparents, and all of her many cousins. Most days you can find Kyleen playing with her dog, Woody, or flipping around her tumbling bar. She loves gymnastics and is a regular at Dolphin Gymnastics. She is also part of an epic T-ball team this summer. Kyleen loves this great town and is going to have so much fun celebrating Grump Days.

JuliAnn Boevers is the daughter of Andy and Sheila Boevers. She has two older siblings, Zachary and Makenna. JuliAnn is also known as JJ. She likes to help out as much as possible trying to be a big girl. You will find her outside doing her chores along with her family. JuliAnn is a big fan of unicorns so if you find one she would love to have one. She has a big heart for others, she will be the first one to give what she has to someone else to make them happy. JJ also knows she is cute and uses that to her advantage.

Little Mr. Grumpster

Bennett Strottmann is the son of Ethan and Sara Strottmann. He is the youngest of 5 kids. He has two older brothers, Braden and Kegan, and two sisters, Kylee and Ashlyn. Bennett loves playing outside on his trampoline with his brothers and dog. He likes to help his dad with farm work. He plays football in the fall, he is a wrestler in the winter and ball player for T-ball in the summer. Bennett is always a good helper in school and at home.

Kaden Hesse is the son of Kyle and Cassy Hesse. He has 2 older sisters, Corina and Carly. You might have heard him being called Stinky. Kaden has a few cool tricks he can do - he can wiggle his ears and he is able to lick his elbow. You might catch Kaden jumping his bike on the sidewalk. He also likes to ride and move around fast. One of his favorite things to do is the 2nd amendment. Kaden likes being friends with everyone.

Reid Kleitsch is the son of John and Spencer Kleitsch. He has 2 brothers, older brother, Evan, and younger brother, Paul. He has one younger sister, Morgan. Reid loves to be outside doing anything with his brothers and sister. Reid enjoys hunting and fishing trips with his dad and his special time gardening with his mom. Reid really likes T-ball with his school friends. When we are out camping, hiking is a must do. If you do find Reid in the house, he is usually at his art desk drawing a new picture or playing with his WWE guys.

Ryker Burgart is the son of Rick and Merri Burgart. He is the youngest of 4 kids, he has 2 brothers, Reece and Reid, and 1 older sister, Paige. Ryker is enjoying his time on the T-ball field with his teammates this summer. One of his favorite things to do in the summer is tubing on the Mississippi River with his Grandpa and Grandma, while they are boating up and down the river.

2021 Readlyn Grump Days PARADE!



Let the parade begin! Emergency vehicles led the 2021 Grump Days Parade.



Taking first place for the best float were the Readlyn Gardeners.



Honored during the 2021 Readlyn Grump Days was Hailey Broten, 2020 Volunteer of the Year.



2020 Little Grumpsters were Landon Adams and Josie Ott.



Assisting the kids at the pedal tractor pull were, left to right, Reese Peine, Mary Bodensteiner, and Lily Schwickerath.



Helping out at Fairbank Island Days were Wapsie Valley FFA members, left to right, Brok Grober, Keegon Brown, Braden Strottmann, Brock Kleitsch, Brody Kleitch, Elle Voy.

Wapsie Valley FFA helped at Readlyn and Fairbank celebrations

By Kali Lampe, Chapter Reporter

During the month of June, many Wapsie Valley FFA members could be found representing the chapter during Grump Days, Readlyn's annual town celebration, and Island Days, Fairbank's annual town celebration.

This year during Grump Days, June 18-19, Wapsie Valley FFA participated in a variety of events for the community. On Friday, several students served meals during the Readlyn Savings Bank Annual Golf Tournament, while later in the day the pedal pull took place. Twenty-five kids from ages 0-10 took part in the pedal pull competition. Great job to all of the competitors and a huge thank you to our sponsors!

Jada Aiello, one of Ms. Readlyn's candidates, was escorted by FFA member Ayden Powell. Another candidate for Ms. Readlyn was Lydia Imbrogno, escorted by FFA member Noah Richards.

Early the next morning, FFA members could be seen representing the organization in the parade. Brody Kleitsch, 2021-22 Sweetheart King, as well as 2021-22 Sweetheart Queen Brigett Seemann rode in a convertible while Cole Snyder pulled the Gift of Grain wagon.

Following the parade, FFA members could be seen cooking and selling ribeyes, hamburgers, and hot dogs to the hungry people of Readlyn with the help of LaVerne Leistikow who provided the grill.

The chapter also kept busy during Fairbank's Annual Celebration, Island Days. FFA members helped kick off the celebration at the Island Queen Coronation meal Thursday evening. On Thursday, June 25, members participated in the crowning of Miss Fairbank. Member Mary Bodensteiner received Ms. Fairbank and Miss Congeniality is Ellie Neil. Receiving 2nd Runner-Up is Bridget Seemann.

The following day, members organized and helped boys and girls ages 0 to 10 pedal their tractors as far as they could go in the annual pedal pull.

On Saturday morning, the Gift of Grain wagon, was pulled by Andrew Matthias in

the parade. None of these events would be possible without the support of our amazing community. Thank you to everyone!



In charge of grilling ribeyes, hamburgers and hot dogs were, left to right, Tyce Hagenow, Brody Kleitsch, and Sydney Matthias.

Novel Knitters support 2022 Special Olympics Iowa Scarf Project

The Novel Knitters meet at the Readlyn Library on Mondays from 6-7 pm. We have been supporting these Special Olympics projects since 2012.

You are welcome to join us or contribute by dropping off items at the library. Thank you!

What: Knitted & crocheted scarves, hats, mittens, earmuffs, or headbands will be accepted. This year's colors - STASH BUSTER! Use up your stash (if you have any left) and use as many colors as you want. Any color is up for use, even vi-

brant colors such as purple, gold, and your leftover red, white, and blue. Any pattern is accepted. Your items will be given to someone the ages of 8 and up!

Who: Items will be given to Special Olympics athletes, coaches, and volunteers at the 2022 Winter Games. These are held in Dubuque, Iowa in January.

When: Donations will be accepted through November 1, 2021, or until 600 items have been received. After Winter Games, any leftover items will be given to a school, facility, or charity in need.

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Readlyn City Council Minutes June 14, 2021

The Readlyn City Council met in open session on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:45p.m. for Finance Committee to review bills and at 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting. Mayor Wedemeier in the chair and the following named council members present: Keith Brunscheon, Nicole Barnes, Joey Jones, Rocco Imbrogno, Jason Franck. Others in attendance: Barney Wiersma, Steve Aiello, Austin Matthias, Dave Panos, Jessica Anderson, Jimmy Hyde.

Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to approve minutes from the May 10 and May 24, 2021 council meetings. All said yes. Motion carried.

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

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

Motion by Barnes and seconded by Franck to approve the budget report and two months library reports. All said yes.

Motion carried.

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

Dave Panos, representing Shive-Hattery reviewed with the council the proposed service agreement for the Main Street Project 2022. Motion by Brunscheon and seconded by Barnes to approve Service Agreement with Shive-Hattery. Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Brunscheon to approve cigarette/tobacco permit for the Kwik Trip, Inc, dba Kwik Star. Roll call vote. AYES: Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Barnes to introduce Resolution No. 855 entitled "RESOLUTION SETTING SALARIES FOR APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF READLYN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022". Roll call vote. AYES: Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No 855 duly adopted.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Franck to introduce Resolution No. 856 entitled "RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER

FUNDS BUDGET YEAR 2020/2021". Roll call vote. AYES: Imbrogno, Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 856 duly adopted.

Motion by Jones and seconded by Imbrogno to set July 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM for the Public Hearing on the Status of Funded Activities for the City of Readlyn CDBG Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program. Roll call vote. AYES: Barnes, Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Imbrogno and seconded by Franck to approve proposal from Northway Well & Pump Co. for well rehabilitation for the two city wells. Roll call vote. AYES: Franck, Brunscheon, Jones, Imbrogno, Barnes. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on water treatment facility issues.

City will be shortening the splash pad hours from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM until further notice.

Discussion on possible ATV/UTV Ordinance. Council will have a work session on June 29 at 6:00 PM.

Motion by Franck and seconded by Brunscheon to adjourn. All said yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Dan Wedemeier, Mayor

ATTEST: Lois J Buhr, City Clerk

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Wapsie Valley receives STEM BEST Program Award

FAIRBANK, Iowa – Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council announced Wapsie Valley CAPS as one of the 22 STEM BEST (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) Program models for 2021. The program brings together schools and businesses to create outstanding STEM learning experiences that prepare students for exciting, in-demand careers. With the addition of 22 awards, 80 programs have been created since STEM BEST launched in 2014.



WV CAPS associates work directly with businesses on real problem projects in varying industries relating to their career interest. This provides an opportunity for the businesses to see the ideas of students and create possible future employees. This hands-on experience is unique to anything the students learn in the classroom.

“CAPS provides so many opportunities for student associates they may not typically seek out. While they may choose to work on a project in a specific area, the STEM focus is included in every project. Whether it’s learning a new technology to develop a product for a client, mathematics for figuring dimensions in design of a project or even working with businesses in the science field. Students don’t necessarily know they are working on a STEM project, but it’s involved in so many businesses, they are bound to be gaining experience in the field,” Haley Tiedt, WV CAPS Instructor.

The STEM Best Program supports school-business partnerships that allow teachers and industry professionals to work side-by-side on curriculum and projects that give students actual workplace experience. In the projects, students also gain an understanding of the opportunities and required skills for careers in STEM fields. STEM BEST has also laid the groundwork for other successful statewide initiatives such as Future Ready Iowa’s Work-Based Learning Clearinghouse.

The basis of CAPS (Center for Advanced Professional Studies) is taking students out of the traditional classroom setting and immersing them in a business environment and encouraging innovation while developing professional skills, problem solving and expanding career exploration oppor-

tunities. All of these skills are crucial for success after graduation whether that be in a college setting or in the workforce. The CAPS mission statement is Preparing ALL Students for Their Purpose.

The STEM Council Executive Committee voted unanimously to award 22 new or expanded partnerships up to \$25,000 each. Participating employer partners contribute to a dollar-for-dollar match with some going above and beyond the cost-share requirement. The awards can be used for the curriculum development and coordination, educator training and development in workplace-classroom integration and preparing the work-based learning environment.

The 2021 STEM BEST Program awardees are:

- Ames Community School District
- Don Bosco Catholic School System
- CAM Community School District
- Cedar Rapids Community School District – Thomas Jefferson High School
- Cedar Rapids Community School District – Metro High School
- Central Community School District
- Clinton Community School District
- Creston Community School District – Middle school
- Creston Community School District – Elementary School
- Earlham Community School District
- Eastern Allamakee Community School District
- Howard-Winneshiek Community School District
- Keokuk Community & Fort Madison School Districts
- Linn-Mar Community School District
- MFL MarMac Community School

- District
- MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District
- North Tama County Community School District
- Pella Community School District
- Riverside Community School District
- Sioux Center Community School District
- Wapsie Valley Community School District
- Woodbine Community School District

To be considered for a STEM BEST Program award, applicants were required to submit a comprehensive proposal that incorporates rigorous and relevant STEM curriculum, valuable partnerships with community businesses or organizations, real-world learning opportunities and expertise at the post-secondary education and training level. These awardees will serve as a model to share unique perspective, strengths, demographics and program focus with other schools throughout Iowa.

Visit www.IowaSTEM.org/STEMBEST

for more information.

About the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council

Established in July 2011 via Governor’s Executive Order, the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council is a public-private partnership of educators, companies and Iowa students and families addressing policies and programs designed to improve Iowa’s educational system focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The STEM Council works to engage and prepare students for a career-ready workforce path, regain our state’s historic leadership position in education and provide a vital competitive economic advantage now, and for the future, to ensure that every Iowa student has access to world-class STEM education opportunities. The 62-member STEM Council is co-chaired by Governor Kim Reynolds and Foundation Analytical Laboratory Owner and Director of Technical Services Diane Young. For more information, visit <https://iowastem.org>.

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What's Cooking?

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

Almond Creme Chocolate Bars

From 2009 Grump, Ron Leistikow and his wife, Judy

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 C. Flour | Creme Filling |
| 2 C. Sugar | 3/4 C. Butter Softened |
| 1 tsp. Baking Soda | 3 C. Powdered Sugar |
| 1 C. Butter, cut into pieces | 3 T. Milk |
| 1 C. Water | 1 1/2 -2 tsp. Almond Extract |
| 1/4 C. Unsweetened Cocoa Powder | Chocolate Glaze |
| 1/2 C. Buttermilk | 1/2 C. Butter, cut into pieces |
| 2 Eggs | 1 C. Semi-sweet Chocolate Chips |
| 1 tsp. Vanilla | 1 tsp. Vanilla Extract |
| | 3 Oz. Slivered Almonds |

In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, and baking soda, set aside. In a small saucepan, bring butter, water and cocoa to a boil, stirring frequently. Pour over the flour mixture, mix well. Beat in buttermilk, eggs and vanilla until smooth. Pour into a lightly greased 15 x 10 x 1 baking pan. Bake at 350 for 15-20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool completely.

In a mixing bowl, beat filling ingredients with a electric mixer until smooth. Spread over cooled bars, refrigerate until set.

In a small saucepan, melt butter and chocolate chips over low heat, stirring constantly. Stir in vanilla and spread over filling, sprinkle with almonds. Refrigerate. Delicious.

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RECIPE: Rinderwurst (Beef Sausage)

From the kitchen of: Elsie Gruber, Judy Leistikow's Mother

Cook beef with bones 2 1/2 to 3 hours until done. Remove from kettle and remove the bones. Grind meat through meat grinder. Simmer onions in juice where meat was cooked in until soft. Use quite a few onions for flavor. Grind onions with meat. Cook oatmeal in juice, drained from where meat was cooked. Measure oatmeal and juice as if you were cooking oatmeal. Use your own judgement as how much oatmeal, probably 1/6 oatmeal to 5/6 ground meat. Mix meat, oatmeal, salt, pepper and allspice to suit your taste. Put in cake pan to cool. Cut, wrap, and freeze.

Note: We always cut up some tallow and put it in the oven to fry out and grind that with the meat.

I remember my parents butchering a beef at home every winter. After the meat was cooled outside hanging in the shed, they began to cut and wrap their roasts, steaks, etc. The next day they would heat the water in a huge black kettle outside and cook the bones. Then the process of picking off the meat, grinding, flavoring, and tasting began. Had to taste for enough salt, pepper and allspice. What a Memory!

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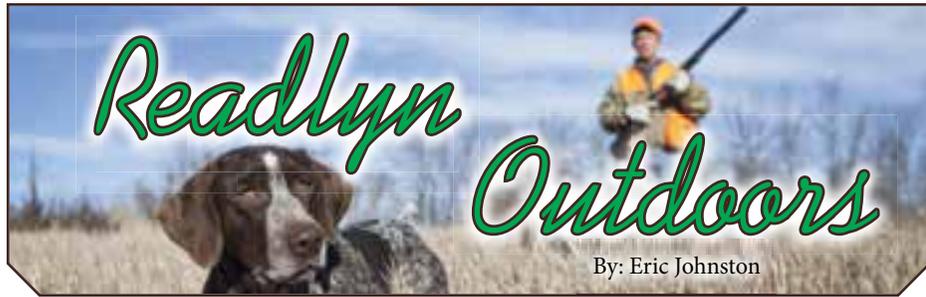
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By: Eric Johnston

“Food Plots”

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The year was 2001. I had been watching many hunting shows that profiled this “new” phenomenon of planting small plots of clover and alfalfa and various brassicas to attract deer and increase your odds of harvesting deer. As I witnessed more and more successful hunts on the Outdoor Channel using this strategy, I began to plan how I could incorporate this tactic into my hunting.

We did not own any of our own ground and hunted my friend’s family farm. The first step was to secure permission from my friend’s dad to tear up a small section of ground along his field edge to make a food plot.

“You want to do what?” he said almost laughing. “Sure, give them deer something to chew on besides my corn,” he laughed.

I was all of 20 years old at the time so I’m sure he thought it was just one of my and his son’s crazy dreams. My dad even kind of chuckled at the thought, but said give it a try if you want to put in the work.

The plan then began on how I would have my plot lay out. I decided on a small clearing in the timber, 10 yards or so in from the cornfield edge and maybe a mere ¼ acre in diameter. I had done enough research at the time to know I needed to seed in mid-August to give the mix enough time to grow before the first frost.

With that knowledge, I bought a small bag of seed called “Secret Spot.” Looking back, it was just a mix of mostly grasses, oats, a little clover and a small amount of brassicas. For the small area I was seeding, it was actually the perfect choice. The bag stated minimal tools, and the ground needed minimal tillage. I could handle that as all I had was a hand sickle, a rake, and a small ATV.

The plan was set and I made the hour and a half drive to the farm by myself to seed my plot. I remember it was blazing hot that day as I started into the timber on the ATV. But, when I get an idea in my head, I have to see it through and, with the distance of travel back to the farm, I had to go when the schedule allowed.

As I got to the “clearing,” I quickly realized the weeds had grown over my head through the summer. I started to chop away at the weeds with the hand sickle and quickly realized this was a bigger job than I had imagined. I was in over my head, in more ways than one at this point, but I had to see it through as I stated. I kept chopping away at the nettles and thorn bushes. The bugs, humidity, and heat, made the job even worse. I remember looking up a couple times thinking, “I’m getting nowhere.” I kept at it, dripping in sweat, for a couple hours and finally had an opening about 20 yards wide by 20 yards long.

I now needed to rake all the debris off the area and had noticed my hands were bleeding.

Remember, here I was, 19 or 20, so preparedness was not part of the game yet. I had failed to even think of gloves and now my hands were raw from all the weed chopping. I continued to work through the pain like a true moron, and, after another solid hour of raking, had most of the debris off.

“Great,” I thought, “now to work up the soil....” In my head, I had envisioned my little garden rake digging right into the soil and ripping all the weed stumps and roots right out of the ground WRONG! The garden rake barely made a scratch in the rock hard soil.

“What can I do? Do I just spread the seed and call it good?” I thought, sitting there exhausted and probably, by this point, dehydrated from my preparedness of NOT packing any water either. I knew if I just spread the seed on the unworked ground it most likely would not germinate, I’d be laughed at, and my career as a food plot artist would end as quickly as it began.

That’s when I remembered I had my ATV and at that age I was a master of the “donut.” I suddenly had a spark of energy and fired up my ATV. I started spinning the tires, whipping donuts, and power braking all over the little plot. After about a half hour of craziness and a nearly overheated ATV, I had the plot worked up to a nice powder of soil on top. I then gave it a light raking and spread the seed by hand. A light drive over it to pack it in and I was set!

I felt so accomplished that day and, on my way home, it started to rain. At the time, I didn’t realize just how important that was. A couple weeks later, my dad and I drove down to take a look and he was quite impressed. The seed had germinated well and the plot was growing.

We actually harvested a fair amount of deer from that plot and it got progressively bigger each year. In 2011, we lost the plot due to clearing of the land and the crop fields expanding. But, I’ll never forget that first plot and all I learned from it.

Over time, our equipment got better and I learned more about seed, pH levels, fertilizer, and annual and perennial plots. As I’ve gotten older and am now on the other side of forty, my mindset has changed on food plots and their purpose.

When I first started out, food plots were for attraction and harvesting animals. Plots were planted with the sole intention and position of killing a nice deer. I still incorporate annual growing “harvest” plots into my hunting strategy, but my main focus now is the nutrition and health of the deer herd, along with feeding the pheasants, turkeys, and all the other game through the winter. As some loyal readers probably remember, I spent a great deal of time last winter hauling corn around the farms where I hunt. While I will continue to do so, I, along with help from the landowners where I



hunt, have incorporated perennial food plots to sustain forage throughout the entire year.

To get started with your own plots, there’s some homework to do beforehand. First off, if, like me, you don’t have land to call your own, you must get permission from the landowner of the farm you intend to plant. Some farms have different rules and regulations on what can and cannot be done on the property. And it’s just good practice to involve the landowner of anything you do to his or her land. I am very blessed with the landowners where I hunt locally in that they allow me to carry out the dreams I think up of taking care of the wildlife I love to hunt. The same holds true to the friend’s family farm I mentioned previously back home in Delhi. I don’t make it back there much anymore, but know I’m always welcome.

Next, you need to figure out the size, and placement of your plot. This is critical as you don’t want to have it in an area prone to flooding, but also not on a slope losing water and eroding. Placement also depends on the purpose of the plot. If it’s a plot intended for hunting, placement in the woods along a known travel corridor is needed. If it’s a perennial intended for sustained wildlife nutrition, I like a more open area with good cover nearby so the wildlife have good winter cover to shelter in.

After you’ve determined where and the size of your plot will be and its purpose, it’s time to begin the treatment of the soil. A good practice is to first flag out the area and spray the vegetation with Round-Up or a type of weed killer. Let the vegetation die off for a couple weeks - this will aid in your fight against weeds. While you wait for the weed killer, you can take a soil sample to determine the pH level in your soil. Most seed will state on the bag the desired pH level and amount of fertilizer to be used per acre. I generally follow everything on the seed bag except one thing. I always seed more than what is instructed on the bag. Overseeding can sometimes hurt your plot, but I like to make sure there’s plenty of seed to germinate and choke out weeds. Birds and wildlife can also take some of your seed off the plot while you wait for precious rain. That’s why, in my mind, overseeding is a must.

Speaking of seed, while waiting for the weed killer to take effect, it’s time to pick out your seed. For perennial forage plots, you can’t go wrong with clover and alfalfa mixes. Add in some corn or sorghum along with it to benefit the turkeys and pheasants and you’ve got a plot to sustain the wildlife year round.

For hunting plots, I like to use annual seed blends like turnips, rye, oats, and grasses that can be planted in mid-August and lush and

green by October 1. For perennials, plant in spring and, with some mowing and fertilizer maintenance, it can last up to five years. I prefer Mossy Oak Biologic blends as they are specifically designed for wildlife food, but whatever seed brands you prefer is fine. And again, follow whatever is listed on the bag for pH and fertilizer.

Now that the weed killer has done its magic, it’s time to prepare the seed bed. I’ve known some that simply burn off the dead vegetation, but proceed with caution. While it can save time, depending on the dryness it can also get away from you. I usually use a rake or mower to remove the debris. Next, work up the soil as best you can. I’ve come a long way since that hot august day attempting to blow up my ATV. I’m fortunate to have landowner friends with equipment to make the job easy, but the old school methods like I started out with still work, but I suggest finding a friend with the proper equipment.

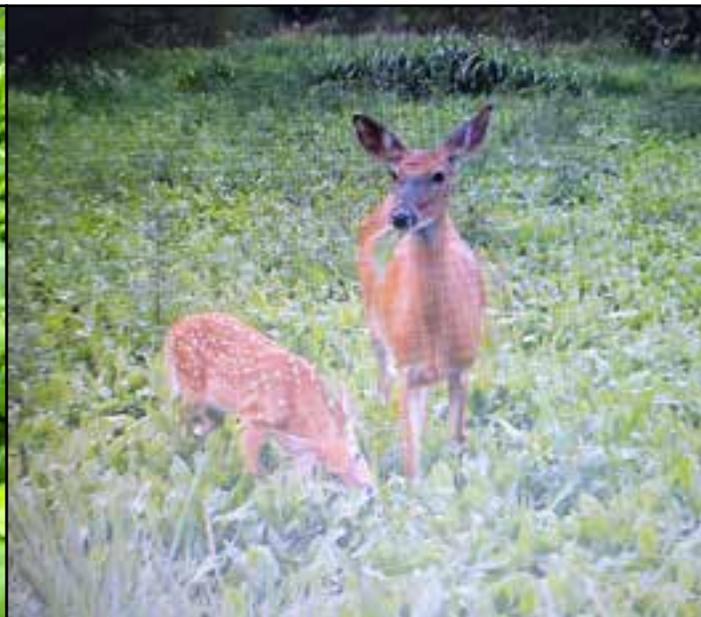
Once the soil is worked, I first apply the fertilizer and then seed. It’s best to start seeding in a cross pattern with a light spread so you don’t run out of seed before the whole plot is seeded. I like to go back and forth with my broadcast spreader as many times as necessary with a light spread until the seed is all distributed.

The last step is to pack in your seed to get the good seed to soil contact to promote germination. Most clover and alfalfa seed needs no deeper than a quarter inch into the soil. But always check on the bag for instruction on this. I’m still using my ATV to pack my seed in. I simply drive slowly in circles, tire track to tire track, until the entire plot looks packed down. If you have a cultipacker or lawn roller, that will work even better. You can also use a drag across your plot, but be careful as sometimes a drag can bury the seed too deep in my experience.

The last step is pray for RAIN!!! This year, rain has been hard to come by in our area and my wife is so tired of me staring at my radar on my phone, rooting for storms to make it to us like I’m watching a sporting event.

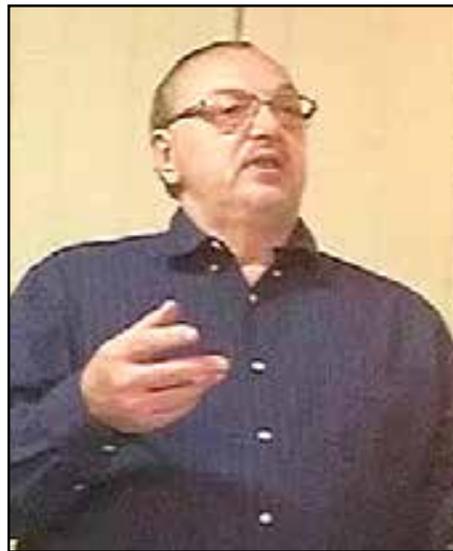
As I said, these days food plots are different for me than 20 years ago. I get so much enjoyment and satisfaction out of taking care of the food plots and watching them grow. It’s really become an obsession and, to watch the wildlife utilizing them and stay healthy because of it, is a gratifying feeling from a conservation standpoint. If you’re fortunate enough to have the ability to add some plots to your hunting area, I highly recommend it! Not only will it improve your hunting, but it helps the wildlife and is a year-round hobby in itself.

Until next time, GET OUTDOORS!



The Contest ~ Harvest 2020

On Thursday, February 25, 2021 at the Readlyn Event Center, the awards banquet was held for the 30th Annual Readlyn Savings Bank & American Savings Bank Bremer County Master Corn & Soybean Growers' Yield Contest: a.k.a. "The Contest." 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.



Jeff Brunscheon, Farmers Co-Op General Manager, Readlyn, spoke on the grain markets.

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 2020. 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 70 banquet attendees and answered questions concerning the grain markets. Brunscheon emphasized diligence when making grain marketing decisions this year. This was Brunscheon's fourteenth straight year speaking at The Banquet.

Doug Sheppard, Vice President of Readlyn Savings Bank, presented the first award of the night: The 11th 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 2020 was given to Brian Meyer of Readlyn, IA. Along with attending the contest for many years as a contestant, Brian 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 of planting and harvesting, row spacing, population, as well as applications of fertilizers, herbicides, and fungicides.

2020 Harvest included a contest record number of 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 RSB employee Hanna Arians presented the Harvest 2020 Master Grower Awards. Following are the summary results in each Division.

2020 Harvest Contest Results:

No-Till Corn:

Contestant	Town	Yield	Variety
Brian Meyer	Readlyn	252.34	Pioneer PO1366EQ
Jim Fettkether	Dunkerton	249.42	Pioneer PO 589
Jamison Steege	Sumner	248.14	Pioneer P 1244AM



Left to right: RSB President Ed Traeger, Spirit of the Contest Winner Brian Meyer, RSB Vice President Doug Sheppard

Meyer earns Spirit of the Contest award

On February 25, 2021 we recognized Brian Meyer for his "long-time, enthusiastic & good-natured participation" in The Contest. He's been in the contest since at least 2002 and probably more. Just to give you an idea of how long that is, there are only two other Growers in the Historical Records going back 20 years that might beat out Brian for longest Contest participants. They are both fellow Vernon-Award winners nicknamed "The Big Shoe" and "RL" or Dave Schumacher and Ron Leistikow. Brian obviously has the "long-time" part of this award covered. As for being "enthusiastic"-- from raising suc-

cessful children to auctioning pies at the Bremer County Fair Scrambles to Grump Days Parade play-by-play, Brian does not do anything half-heartedly. Finally, who wouldn't be "good natured" when bringing home hardware almost every year of The Contest!?! Brian has the heart of a champion! He's finished in the top 3 yields sixteen times since 2002. Of those sixteen times, he's finished First Place 7 times. That includes this year when he finished First in conventional beans AND First in no-till corn. Two Grand Champion Plaques AND the Vernon Award! Congratulations Brian!

No-Till Beans:

Jason Moellers	West Union	92.40	Stine 21EA32
Wapsie Farms Partnership	Readlyn	74.70	Asgrow 21X9
Brad Steege	Sumner	72.41	Stine 21EB02

Conventional Corn:

Andrew & Sydney Matthias	Readlyn	285.11	Pioneer 1197 AM
S & M Farms	Readlyn	283.09	Viking 48-08 Conventional
Eric Smith	Decorah	272.69	Wyffels W5516 RIB VT2P

Conventional Beans:

Brian Meyer	Readlyn	95.83	Pioneer P29T50 Non GMP
S & M Farms	Readlyn	79.75	Pioneer P27A17X
Mitchell Boevers & Jon Schutte	Readlyn	79.55	Pioneer P23A15X

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.



NO-TILL BEANS: L TO R: Hanna Arians of RSB, Brad Steege (3rd), Kevin Leistikow (2nd), Jason Moellers (1st); Doug Sheppard, RSB VP



CONVENTIONAL CORN: L TO R: Hanna Arians of RSB, Eric Smith (3rd), Mitchell Boevers (2nd), Sydney Matthias (1st), Doug Sheppard, RSB VP



NO-TILL CORN: L TO R: Hanna Arians of RSB, Jamison Steege (3rd), Jim Fettkether (2nd), Brian Meyer (1st), Doug Sheppard, RSB VP



CONVENTIONAL BEANS: L TO R: Hanna Arians of RSB, Mitchell Boevers (3rd), Steve Boevers (2nd), Brian Meyer (1st), Doug Sheppard, RSB VP

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Send news to ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com



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