# Peacly Seadlyn Community Club — Designed/Printed by Horizon Publishing Co., Jesup, IA, December 25, 2019



Tamara and Jim Wolff - 1st place



Gene and Micki Thurm - 2nd place



Dan and Connie Wedemeier - Tied for 3rd place



Gary and Connie Sauerbrei - Tied for 3rd place

# Community Club Lighting Contest winners named

With all of Readlyn's beautiful Christmas lights decorating homes, eight brave residents accepted the Readlyn Community Club's request to choose the best.

Judges traveled in three separate groups throughout town to select their favorites. Pictured are their results; since the pictures do not do the lights justice, please take time to drive by to enjoy the winners, honorable mentions, and every other decorated home.

For any decorated home not selected, we're sure your children, grandchildren, and neighbors appreciate your efforts. Keep up the great work! Thank you.

Following are the list of winners and their addresses:

1st place – Tamara & Jim Wolff – 346 Briggs

2nd place – Gene & Micki Thurm – 608 Parkview

3rd place (TIED) – Dan & Connie Wedemeier – 510 West 3rd St.

Gary & Connie Sauerbrei – 407 Goodell (decorations centered around Gary's late dad's Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer)

Honorable Mention:

Jessica Buck – 326 Main Street
Dave & Lisa Matthias – 511 Malone
Scott & Connie Matthias – 345 Kalman
Dan & Mindy Oltrogge – 607 Westview
Larry & Vicki Pavelec – 406 5th Street
Dustin & Jenny Platte – 124 Goodell
Barney & Gina Wiersma – 700 Parkview



and



to our readers!



# Readlyn Community Club meets Dec. 5

The meeting was called to order on Dec. 5, at 7 PM by Vice President Hailey Broten.

Present: Hailey, Ron and Louie Hartman, Aubrey and Eric Johnston, Roland Schmidt, GaryLee Thurm, and Pat Wehr.

Secretary's Report from October 10, 2019, was read; moved by Louie and seconded by Eric that the report be accepted; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Christmas Fund \$3672; \$540 in Jennifer's fund. Moved by Louie and seconded by Eric that the RCC donate \$300 from the emergency fund to further assist Jennifer; passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

Committee Chairperson's Summaries completed:
 Chairperson - Nick Kuker – Grump Committee
 Sheila Boevers – L'il Grumpsters (Will send appliation form)

Hailey & Scott Broten – T-shirts (sort of) GaryLee Thurm & Roger Deterding -Pop cans Pat Wehr – Golf Cart Ride (waiver form included) Pat Wehr - Fall & Christmas Decorating (map included)

Pat Wehr - Christmas Lighting Contest

We decided after Grump Days last year that we need summaries from each chairperson to make sure events run even more smoothly. If your name is not listed above, and you chaired an event, please submit a summary. I will place them on a flashdrive and make hard copies to place into a notebook.

• Christmas Decorating – Thank you to everyone that came out and helped. We had great participation. Thanks to Marlys and Roger Deterding for keeping it organized year after year. Thanks, also, to Elton Schutte for donating his six Santas.

## **New Business:**

- Christmas On Main Updates
- Map will be finished this week and Pat will post them around town on Monday; also posted on Facebook.
- Hay bales will be delivered Thursday night by Andy and Sheila Boevers and put up and down Main Street.
- Steve and City Crew will close down streets by 5:30 pm and will block off area by Trolley prior to 5 pm.
- Parade will line up by St. Paul's this year. It will end at the opposite side of town because we will be lighting a 15' tree that will be brought in and placed by the City Hall by LaVern Leistikow.
- Louie and Ron Hartman will purchase 20 hams.
- These can be stored in Jess Buck's freezer in her basement.
- Hailey is in charge and will make forms, they will be by Santa, winners will be drawn at 7:30 and names will be written on boards placed by the tree. Winners will be announced at the lighting ceremony. Must be present to win unless you are GaryLee.
  - Lighted Signs
- Louie and Ron will put the letters on the signs and put them out on Thursday.
- Small Sign says "SANTA HERE" and has the arrow pointing to the historical building.
- The large sign says "PARADE LINEUP HERE" and will be put down by St. Paul's.
- Pat will contact the library to advertise the event on the sign coming into town from the south by Kuhlmann's

Insurance was purchased through Kelby Bergman out of Tripoli to add extra coverage for the trolley rides.

Santa visits will start at 5:30 at the Historical Building. (See the map sent to you yesterday for times and location of other events.)

Only five entries for the lighted parade so far.

Grump Meetings will start next month or in February.

- Tami will let us use the Watering Hole.
- Hailey has already lined up entertainment for Friday and Saturday night.
  - Possible grumps were discussed.

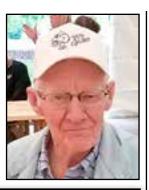
## **Annual Meeting**

- Louie volunteered to be chairperson, Pat, Lauri Phelan and Dani Sauerbrei will once again round out her committee.
  - Plan on another Trivia competition.
- Hailey will check the school calendar to try to find
  the hast with in Enhancement Manak
- the best night in February or March.Officers: President, Hailey; Vice President, Jessi-

Continued on Page 14

# Grump's Grumblings

By Roland Schmidt



Hello everyone and welcome to winter! I'd like to wish good luck to the Wapsie Valley wrestling and basketball teams as their seasons get started. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated.

On December 3, we had a Christmas get-together with the Grumps, 10 spouses and one friend. The event was catered by Sunrise Catering and the food was delicious. We packed bags for the Christmas on Main "The Grump Who Stole Christmas" event. It's always fun getting together with the other Grumps.

As you're all getting ready for Christmas, remember the reason we have Christmas, Jesus. And don't forget the people who have their birthdays on Christmas. Sometimes those people get forgotten on their birthdays. On December 25, I'd like to wish my son, Myron, a Happy Birthday! And 2 days after that don't forget to watch the Hawkeyes take on USC in the Holiday Bowl.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Spring will be here before you know it, so enjoy the cold while you can!



Jonathan Smiley, D.M.D

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# New patients welcome!

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# Community Calendar

**Mondays** — Novel Knitters 6:00 pm at the library

Saturday, January 4 — Take down Christmas decorations 1:00 pm - Volunteers Welcome!
Saturday, January 4 — Pepper Tournament

at the Watering Hole, 2:00 p.m. **Tuesday, January 7** — V.F.W. Post #5661

7:30 pm Readlyn Telephone Co. **Tuesday, January 14** — Coloring at the li-

brary 1 – 5 pm; VFW 7:30 pm

Wednesday, January 15 — Senior Citizens lunch and cards 11:30 am Inspired

**Thursday, January 16** — Foot Clinic 10:30 am

Thursday, January 16 — Deadline for January 29 *Chronicle*, 5:00 pm

**Wednesday, January 22** — Merry Elders 11:30 am at Inspired

**Thursday, January 30** — Readlyn Book Discussion, *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt 7pm at library

# Miss Readlyn Comments

By Anna Richards



I hope that everyone is enjoying this crazy fall we are having. I can't believe it was in the single digits at the beginning of one week and in the upper 40s by the end!

Grumptoberfest was a huge success. I helped carry trays, talked to community members, and judged the costume contest for Grumptoberfest. I loved being able to see all of the amazing costumes people in the community came up with and help pick out the best ones. The other judges and I had a very difficult time picking out winners, everyone was so creative!

I went and watched the school play, "Charlie Brown," and had a great time. Everyone that was involved in the musical did an outstanding job. All of their hard work and dedication definitely paid off.

I, along with other FFA members, attended National FFA Convention in Indianapolis from October 30th - November 2. We had a lot of fun touring Fair Oaks, Purdue University, and spending time at the convention. We got to listen to several keynote speakers, hear retiring addresses from officers, and got to listen to the national FFA band and chorus.

Congratulations to the Wapsie Valley volleyball team on an amazing season and getting runner-up at the state tournament. They did a great job this year and have a lot to be proud of. I had a great time going down to state and watching them play as well as cheering in the student section. The support that Wapsie Valley teams receive from the community is amazing.

My senior season of basketball started in November and it has been a lot of fun already. I am very excited about the coming season and seeing what all our team can accomplish. We have a lot of new players and a very different team from last year, so it will definitely be exciting.

Readlyn had Christmas on Main again this year on December 13. Unfortunately, I had a game this year and was not able to attend but I have gone several times in the past and it has been a lot of fun. It's a great way for people in the community to get out and have fun during the winter.

# SPECIALS:

# Mondays

Tenderloin \$3.00

Tuesdays

Hamburger \$1.75 **Wednesdays** 

Maid-Rite \$2.50 **Thursdays** 

Taco \$2.00 Taco Salad \$6.00

# **Fridays**

Fish Sandwich \$4.00

Mon.-Fri. 10:30 am-10 pm Sat. 11 am-10 pm; Sun. 4-9 pm

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# Readlyn Community Happenings Senior Citizens meet Nov. 20



Glennys Wedemeier with her 2 daughters, Chris and Robin

# Glennys Wedemeier enjoys 85th birthday

Glennys Wedemeier celebrated her 85th Circle. birthday on Wednesday, December 4, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church during a Christmas dinner sponsored by the Martha

Daughters Chris and Robin accompanied her for the meal, and everyone enjoyed singing "Happy Birthday."

# V.F.W. Auxiliary meets

The Wayne Teisinger V.F.W. Post and Auxiliary #5661 met December 10, 2019 for a Christmas potluck at 6:00 p.m. at the Readlyn Library.

In lieu of Christmas gifts, we gave dollars to send to Veterans Hospital. Auxiliary had a short meeting, with chairman reports summarized. Volunteer hours were turned in. Christmas on Main was discussed. 319 canceled stamps were turned in.

Verdeen Pavelec visited Jean Wells and

Arlyce Heidman, Auxiliary members, in Sumner. We sent a box for Christmas to Melissa Bennett stationed in Kuwait. We gave blankets, soap, dental floss, shampoo, lotion, socks, deodorant, and toothbrushes to LZ Phoenix home for veterans. In Waverly, we're helping Darlene Peters frost cookies for Santa.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ellen Thies and seconded by Wilda Albrecht. Carried. The evening was spent visiting.

# A Special Thank You

Esther's Cottage in Fairbank experienced its first holiday season open to the public. Esther's was open Fridays and Saturdays, October through December

Esther's features antique, vintage, new and gently used items. Holiday décor and toys, toys, toys. If you're a do-it-yourselfer when decorating, you will find all that you need at Esther's.

Proprietors CJ and Shannon Wilson extend our sincere gratitude to all. You made

our first holiday season a successful venture. Success to us is defined as seeing that beaming smile as you clutched that "special find.'

Esther's will continue to be open to the public during the spring and fall Fairbank City Wide Garage sales and by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling 563-608-1775.

Again, thank you to everyone visiting Esther's. We look forward to seeing you in 2020.



The local Red Hatter's enjoyed homemade Aronia-apple cider during their visit to Esther's. The cider was not spiked; however, you can't tell that from the photo! Thank you to Yukon Gold farms for providing the Aronia berries for the cider.

attended the 11:30 AM meal at Inspired for the Senior Citizens' lunch and meet-

Charlie Albrecht led everyone in prayer before the meal.

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Albrecht in the absence of Ron Leistikow.

### The Meeting

The treasurer's report was read by Charlie Albrecht and the balance in the account after expenses was \$162.00. The minutes from the October 16, 2019, were read.

Motion by Verdeen Pavelec and seconded by Roland Schmidt to approve the treasurer's and secretary's reports. Car-

There were no birthdays or anniversaries in November.

We welcomed Marilyn Lampe, who has

On November 20, 2019, 16 members moved to Readlyn from Frederika. It was great to see Larry Ladage and GaryLee Thurm back at our meeting.

## **Old Business:**

Christmas decorations are up and will be lit on Thanksgiving Eve. They will be taken down on January 4, 2020. There was good help this year from students from the high school.

### **New Business:**

Christmas on Main is Friday, Decem-

Ron and Judy Leistikow are in charge of Christmas sacks. There has not been a date set for filling the sacks.

Grump meal will be at the library on December 3 at 5:30 PM.

Motion by Larry Ladage and seconded by Don Billhorn to adjourn. Carried. Mary Lou Billhorn reporting for Lois Thacher



Luella Harms and Harold Meier

# Sister and brother share birthday month

Luella Harms, who turned 103 on Dec. 6, shares her birthday month with her brother, Harold Meier, who turned 94 on Dec 13.

Luella is a resident of the Tripoli Nursing Home, Tripoli. Harold lives with his wife in Readlyn.







# Phone an

# Readlyn Community Library We put the READ in Readlyn

Patrick Brodigan

Nancy Lockard

Tina Ristau

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

# In Loving Memory

# Cash Memorials In Memory of Dianne Oltrogge

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R.J. & Corlyn Freitag
Jim & Doris Wehliing
Kevin & Kathy Kuhrt
Gene & Mcki Thurm
Karan Boevers
Cathey Schweer-Barth & David
Barth
Joan Williams
Thomas Hart

**In Memory of Larry Kuhlmann** Dean and Lois Buhr

Andrea Matthias

Sonja Bast

# **Book Memorials**

In Memory of Diane Oltrogge "Dasher" by Matt Tavares from Nancy and Trent Lockard

"The Frog Book" by Steve Jenkins from Dan and Connie Wedemeier

**In Memory of Larry Kuhlmann** "Blackout" by John Rocco from from Dan and Connie Wedemeier

In Memory of LaVerne Lobeck "Earth" by Stacy McAnulty from Dan and Connie Wedemeier

In Memory of Lloyd Kuker "I'm Tough" by Kate McMullan from Dan and Connie Wedemeier

Thank you for your generosity



Dora: The Lost City of Gold Yesterday The Angry Birds Movie 2



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JOIN US Tuesday, January 14th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

# **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

# **Thank You!**



The Readlyn Library would like to thank everyone who made our annual Cookie Walk a huge success. This was our 3rd best year for cookie sales since 1998! Yes, we have been sweetening you up for 21 years. We would especially like to thank everyone who donated baked goods, funds, and our board members who helped set up, tear down, and kept the cookies, coffee, and cider flowing.

Fundraising aside, this Cookie Walk was an incredible success because of the community spending a Saturday morning together, sharing their time and enjoying each others company.

Thank you all!





# **Readlyn Reads - Book Talk**

January's title: The Wednesday War by Gary D. Schmidt

Pick up a copy at the library and join us for discussion on **January 30th** 

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend

on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

# **Baby's First Book!**

The Readlyn Library presented the Behnke family with a book from our Baby's First Book program, just in time! Congratulations! We hope they enjoy spending time together reading and continue to visit us as their family grows.

We strive to promote a lifetime of reading. If you know anyone in the Readlyn area that is expecting, stop by the library and register them to receive a free book.



Readlyn Chronicle Wednesday, December 25, 2019 Page 5



# Readlyn, Long Ago

**Compiled by Bob Thran** 

# READLYN TRAGEDIES

# Wilbert Thies, 45, killed Saturday in Farm Accident

READLYN---Funeral services for Wil- theran Church in Readlyn. bert H. Thies, 45, who was killed instantly Saturday afternoon when he apparently fell into a combine he was operating east of Readlyn were held Tuesday afternoon, October 16, 1973 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Readlyn.

Internment was made in the church cemetery with full military honors by the Acker-Matthias American Legion Post of Denver and VFW Post 5661 of Readlyn.

He was born December 28, 1927 at the farm home where he still resides, the son of John and Marie Schall Thies.

At the time of his death he was a member of the Readlyn Lions Club, the ASC Committee of Bremer County, the Denver American Legion Post, the Readlyn VFW Post and he was a trustee of St. Paul's Lu-

Survivors include his father, Route 1, Readlyn, two brothers, Burton of Readlyn and Erwin of Waterloo, one sister Margaret, Mrs. Harold Henning of Shell Rock; many nieces and nephews He was preceded in death by his mother, one brother and

The casket was not opened. Cleveland funeral home of Readlyn had charge of the services. — The Tripoli Leader

Wilbert, Henry (Bob) Lobeck and I were stationed in close proximity in Korea during the Korean War and spent a day together. I will always remember that day. Wilbert was a quiet, soft spoken, trusted friend. I am glad I did not see his accident. His brother, Burton,



Wilbert Thies

# Last Rites Tuesday For Drowning Victim, Jeffrey Risse, 2-1/2

READLYN (Special) — Funeral services were held at Waverly Tuesday, June 6, 1956, for Jeffrey Risse 2-1/2 year old son of Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Risse, who accidentally drowned late Sunday in a stock tank on his parents

Services were at Cleveland Chapel, the Rev. E. Dornbusch of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Readlyn, in charge. Burial was in Harlington cemetery, Wa-

The child was found in the tank by an older sister, after having been missed about half an hour. He was rushed by his parents to Readlyn, 4-1/2 miles to the southwest, where firemen unsuccessfully administered artificial respiration And used a resuscitator for 45 minutes before he was pronounced dead.

He is survived by four brothers, John 8; Joe 7; Jim, 3 and Jerry, two weeks,

and two sisters, Judy, 6, and Jane, 5. — The Tripoli Leader

Jeffrey was rushed to the telephone office, the fire whistle blown, firemen responded immediately, attempting to revive him to no avail. Driving by later, it was a heart-wrenching sight to see a little body lying alone in the grass on the front yard covered with a blanket while his parents were inside notifying relatives and making funeral arrangements.

# Rites Are **Held For** John Meier

# Dies Friday Noon At Borchert Hospital, A victim of Pneumonia

Funeral services for John (Johnny) Meier, Jr. 23, manager of the Spahn & Rose Lumber Co., Bremer, who died Friday, January 31, 1939, at the Borchert Hospital, Tripoli, of pneumonia, following an attack of tonsillitis, were conducted Monday at Readlyn.

A service at 1:30 p.m. was held at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Meier, Readlyn, and at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery. Rev. Bernard Bruch, pastor of the Lutheran Church, Bremer, officiated.

Meier became ill nine days ago and was taken to the hospital last Monday.

Born July 31, 1917 at Readlyn, he attended grade school there and graduated from West High School at Waterloo in 1935. He entered the employ of Spahn & Rose at Readlyn in 1936 and was made manager of the firm's plant at Bremer in 1939. He had been working until a week ago Thursday.

Surviving are his parents, three brothers, Walter of Readlyn, Harvey of Denver, and Verne of Donald Street, Waterloo; a sister, Mrs Herbert Btitzman, Waterloo. — From the Tripoli Leader

The article seems to be wrong about no funeral in church. In those days viewing was in the home and the body transported to church for the funeral. Johnny's death at age 23 was a shock to Readlyn. Seldom is there a death from pneumonia now. Johnny was born several years too soon.

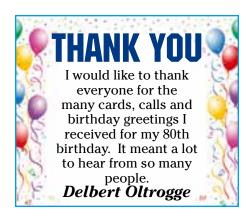
# **Funeral Tomorrow for Orville Thoms, Drowning Victim**

Readlyn (Special) — Funeral rites for Orville W. Thoms, 21, who drowned in the Mississippi River near Harpers Ferry, May 24, 1959 will be tomorrow (Thursday), at 2:00 p.m. in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Klinger. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Mr. Thoms, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thoms, rural Fairbank, fell backward from a boat into the river in 16 feet of water late Sunday afternoon. He never came back to the surface and his body was not recovered until Monday morning. He had been fishing in the Mississippi River with two companions.

Remains are at Matthias Funeral Home in Denver.

He is survived by his parents and three sisters, Mrs. Roger Kohlman, St, Louis, Mo., Mrs. James Scroggins, Gillette, Ark. and Barbara, at home.









John Meier

# News from Community Lutheran School





# Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

CLS students shared the Good News of Christ's birth while caroling to many Readlyn citizens and businesses on December 6. Merry Christmas!

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# Readlyn Lighted Parade - Dec. 13



The Grump Who Stole Christmas!



Tru Serve Insurance entry



Readlyn Fire Department entry



Readlyn Garden Club entry



Readlyn Telephone Company entry



Schuldt Repair entry



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Jaci Hogan and son Caleb passing out Christmas lights at Tru Serve Insurance during Christmas On Main event.



City employees Steve and Barney enjoy hot chocolate served by Women of Life Circle.



Readlyn City Clerk Lois Buhr welcomes Colby and Joyce Withers with glasses of punch.



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# Christmas on Main - Dec. 13



Hanna Wiersma gives out prizes to winners at Readlyn Savings Bank.



Jim and Tamara Wolff visit with Nick Tobey who provided music at Christmas on Main.



These kettle corn poppers kept the treats coming!



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Patrick and Nancy wish you all a Merry Christmas from the Readlyn Library.



Inspired helpers welcomed visitors.



Community Club President Jess Buck thanking everyone for participating.

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The highlight of the night was the tree lighting at Christmas On Main.



David Heinemann sang "O Christmas Tree," and then lead everyone singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



# News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



Wapsie Valley 5th grade students experienced 2 days full of adventures...hiking, geocaching, zip lining, low ropes, team building, encouraging each other, overcoming fears, fishing, and more!













For 3 weeks our Elementary Warriors have been collecting change for Pennies for Patients which raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our amazing communities raised \$3963.21. As a school, we raised this money in honor of Liam, nephew to our staff member Ashley Happel, who is currently battling Leukemia. He also received special gifts to help him in his fight against cancer. We are thankful for this opportunity for our students to meet him and see why the act of giving is so important. Thank you, Becker Family, for being a recipient to our Kindness Project.







Readlyn Elementary chose to celebrate the reaching of their goal for Pennies for Patients with an all-school assembly where pies were thrown in the faces of Mr. Smith, Mrs. Harskamp, and Mrs. Forsyth!

# Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

# Wapsie FFA Educates its Youth about the Importance of Agriculture

By Reily Richards, Chapter Vice President

On Friday, November 29, some Wapsie Valley FFA members spent the morning in both Readlyn and Fairbank Elementaries. While they were there, FFA members taught 3rd through 6th graders about corn and its significance in agriculture. Members went over where corn is grown, what it is used in, and its importance. The students were amazed to find out that corn is grown in all 50 states and

is used in so many everyday items. They also got to participate in some fun activities to learn even more about corn and review the information they learned. FFA members love being able to educate the youth about agriculture, and look forward to this event every year. While it does teach elementary students in the Wapsie Valley Community about agriculture, it also grows public speaking and leadership skills in the FFA members who participate. When asked why she thinks

Food For America is important, Elle Voy, a freshman FFA member, said, "It's a fun opportunity to connect with potential future FFA members and to educate them on an industry that is so important to this community.'

This day was also the start of the annual poster contest for the Wapsie Valley 3rd through 6th graders. On December 10, all posters were picked up and will be evaluated based on their creativity and use of the theme. A winner will be selected from each class with their poster being put into the Wapsie Valley FFA Calendar.

The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter is proud to announce that this year's canned food drive was held in preschool through 6th grade in both Readlyn and Fairbank elementary schools. This event also started on November 29, the day of Food for America, and was picked up on December 10. All food collected went to the Fairbank food pantry to help those in need over the holiday season.



Members taught elementary students the importance of corn in their lives.



P.O. Box 332 101 Main Street Readlyn, IA 50668



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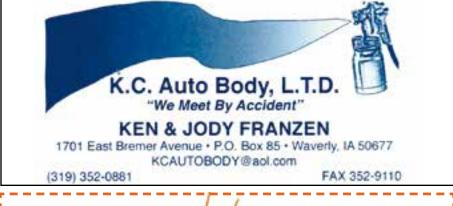
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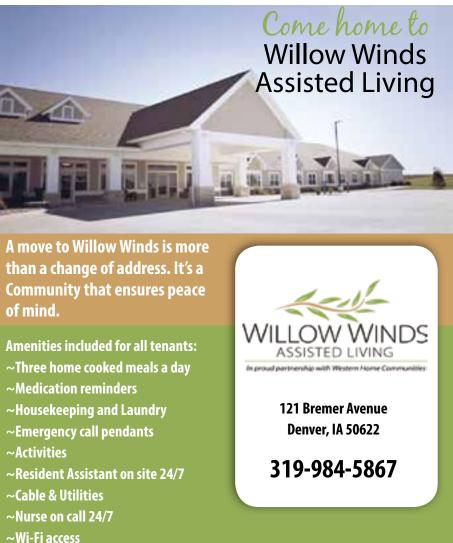
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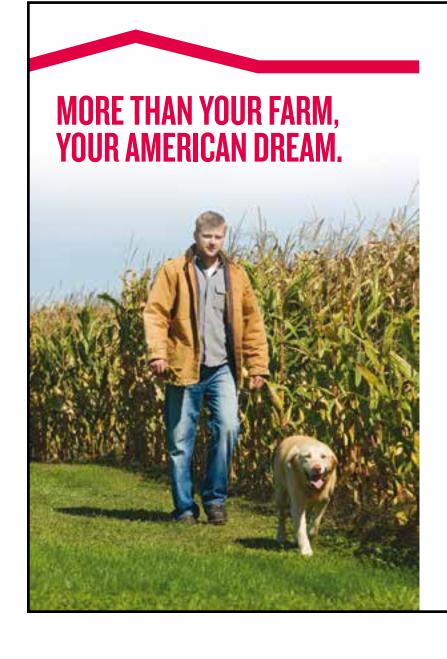
www.WillowWindsDenver.com



With the help of the Trustees, the Readlyn Fire Department was able to purchase this 2004 Freightliner 1500 gallon pumper. This newer truck will replace an older pumper in the fleet. Also, two winners of two half hogs from the Readlyn Fire Department's community event fundraiser have been drawn. The winners of the 2 half hogs are: Greg Klunenberg from Denver, IA, and Darlene Peters from Readlyn, IA.







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### "Tactics for Late Season Success"

Merry Christmas from my family to yours, Readlyn Outdoors readers!

As the hunting seasons wind down some, folks think it can be very hard to take a deer. The whitetails have seen months of pressure with all the different seasons Iowa offers, and they have seen very hard pressure from the shotgun seasons in the days leading up to late season. While, yes, the deer have seen a lot of pressure, Iowa's late deer seasons can be a very fun and productive time to bag a great Iowa mature buck or a doe to finish filling the freezer for the year. This month, I will take you through the tactics I use to hunt whitetails in the late season.

It was many years ago, but I remember it well. It was December 23, 2000. I was still a young hunter, but was gaining experience. I had never really hunted the late muzzleloader season at this point, but I thought I would give it a try.

The winter season had already been brutal that year and there were many inches of snow on the ground. Having never hunted the late season, I really wasn't sure what to expect. I decided I would hunt from some of my bowhunting stands and this particular evening, I had decided to sit over a cut bean field. The snow was so deep on the walk to my stand I was having trouble just walking along the edge of the field, mixed in with the thirty mile an hour northwest wind and sub-zero temperatures I thought to myself, "What am I doing? This is crazy!"

As I sat in my stand that afternoon, it got colder and colder. The wind got even stronger and I was downright cold! About an hour before dark, I finally caught some

movement back in the timber. I thought finally, some action! I watched carefully and realized this was not just a deer making its way to the field, but this was, at the time, the largest whitetail I had ever had a chance at!

The buck slowly worked its way out of the woods along an old logging road that led to the bean field. I thought, "Perfect! He's going to walk in front of my stand for an easy thirty yard shot!" Once I got a real good look at this deer and his drop tines, I was shaking uncontrollably! I was so cold and the adrenaline was flowing, I could barely raise my gun! As he approached he turned off the logging road and headed straight at me! He walked right to the base of the tree and I shot him at five yards. I was so excited and hooked on late season from that time on.

With my inexperience at the time, I was actually very lucky on that hunt and didn't realize I had stumbled into a very productive pattern for late season. I had also made some mistakes that I'll get into.

When you hunt late season, be it with muzzleloader or bow, the pattern for this time of year centers around FOOD. That is the main deal of this whole season. If your hunting area doesn't have a January food source, find one that does. Everything a whitetail does in the winter centers around their stomach.

What I like to do to get ready for a late season hunt is scout first, to find a group of deer on a food source. Deer this time of year will be herded up on any available food source. I will drive around my hunting areas checking the cut crop fields looking for what fields the deer are using before I plunge in to hunt.

I normally use trail cams in all of my deer hunting, but this time of year that can be very tricky. The deer will bed very close to the food source, so, by checking a camera, you will usually do more harm than good by bumping them off the field. In certain scenarios cameras can be utilized, but I usually have better luck keeping my distance and scouting from a warm truck.

Once you've found a good field to hunt, you must pay attention to details on everything. As I said earlier, these deer are pressured and you must stay sharp with every move. You must pay great attention to wind direction, your scent control, and entrance routes to your stands. I was lucky on that December hunt to make it to the stand without bumping deer. The woods are very open this time of year and, as I said earlier, the deer will bed very close to the food. By close, I mean usually within a hundred yards or so. You must plan a way

in that keeps the wind in your face and doesn't expose yourself too much.

That leads me to stands. That December hunt, one of my mistakes was hunting twenty feet up a tree fully exposed to the elements. Even with my high quality Mossy Oak clothes of today, one will not make it long exposed to sub-zero temps and wind chill.

I have turned to ground blinds for late season. Ground blinds allow you to set up on fields, sneak in from behind and get yourself out of winter's wrath! Sometimes you can even get away with using a small propane heater to help keep warm. But with ground blinds, it's best to get them out a little in advance to allow the deer to get accustomed to seeing it near their field.

As for the weather, the colder it is, the better the hunting will be. They have to eat, and the cold drives that need even further.

One last tactic is I only hunt in the evenings during late season. The deer bed so close to the

food its very, very hard to get in position in the morning darkness without spooking them. In some circumstances it can be done, but in my experience evenings are the most productive with the least intrusion

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during late season. The Siefken share their knowledge with you!

Late season can be a lot of fun and, with these tactics, you should see a lot of deer! So as Christmas rolls around, get yourself a late season tag, bundle up and head for the woods. You may get that big buck you've been after all season! And until next time, Get Outdoors!



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Fourteen of the past Grumps and spouses enjoyed a Grump Supper served at the Readlyn Library by Sunrise Catering on December 3. 2019 Grump Roland Schmidt organized the event. Everyone enjoyed getting together to reminisce about the past years while serving as "The Readlyn Grumps." One of the activities was a guessing game, and then we all helped fill Christmas sacks for Christmas On Main. Thank You, Roland, and thanks to the Library for letting us use their facility.



# **Pepper Tournament**

The pepper tournament was held at the Watering Hole on Saturday, December 7. The winners and their scores were:

1st Place: Reiny and Corlyn Freitag - 203

2nd Place: Roger and Connie Buhr - 185 3rd Place: Shirley Kuker and Joan Matthias - 167

4th Place: Lynnette Biermann and Suzanne Heineman - 128

The next pepper tournament will be held at the Watering Hole on Saturday, January 4 at 2:00 p.m. Entry fee is \$3.00. Bring a partner.

# Community Club meeting (cont.)

Continued from Page 2

ca Buck; Secretary, Pat; Dani Sauerbrei, treasurer; Eric Johnston volunteered to be a director, and Hailey will check on another director. We will vote on these at the Annual Meeting; write-ins are always welcomed

\*Removing Christmas Decorations – Saturday, January 4, 1:00; please mark your calendars.

Next meeting – Thursday, February 13, 2020, 6:30 for board and 7:00 for members; moved by Judy and seconded by Hailey to adjourn the meeting; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Wehr, Readlyn Community Club secretary



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