

Esther Wittenburg visited with friends along the Grump Days Parade route.

Readlyn Hero: Esther Wittenburg

Look up the word "incredible," and you should find 110-year-young Esther Wittenburg's picture.

She still lives in her own home with assistance from her son, Virgil. The two of them often visit friends in nursing homes!

Once Readlyn's Grump Committee chose "Grumptown: Where Heroes Gather" for the 2019 Grump Days' theme, the Readlyn Gardeners immediately knew who they wanted to invite to ride on their float in the annual Saturday parade. But, would she want to do it since she is very humble? When Esther was asked if she would be interested, her answer was, "Yes, I think that would be nice."

Thinking she might have second thoughts, once the float was decorated, she was shown a picture of her float. She had no apprehension just merely asked, "Can I throw candy?" She delightedly rode a golf cart to the location of the float. On the way she was greeted by fellow Readlynites who love this delightful lady.

During the golf cart ride she shared that she was born on a farm near Tripoli. She played golf, and actually did ride a golf cart when she played since her husband had a bad knee. Since the road was a bit bumpy in places, Esther commented how the winters are hard on roads. Her alertness is amazing!

During the parade she was pleased to be able to wave to so many of her spectator friends along the parade route. She was greeted by lots of applause and cheers. While throwing candy, she kept apologizing that she should have supplied candy rather than using the gardeners' candy. The parade route actually passed by her house where her "kids," Virgil, Dee Krueger from Henderson, NV, Larry Bock from Cedar Rapids, IA, and Marlee Ryan of Tripoli, IA, were gathered.

After the parade, Dee reported, "Her eyes were sparkling for the rest of the day. It was a day to remember for all of us!



Readlyn Gardeners provided Esther Wittenburg with a float for the annual parade.



Hero Esther Wittenburg was all smiles at the Grump Days Parade. Photos contributed



Grump's Grumblings

By Larry Ladage



This will be my last article for the *Chronicle* as the 2018 Readlyn Grump and I thought I would give a little recap of my year. It was quite a year!

After I was elected as Grump during last year's Grump Days, I went to the Tripoli parade and Denver parade, along with several of the other past Grumps.

In July, the Historical Society held their annual ice cream social and the Queen and I helped dish out sundaes

Early fall, I participated in the Golf Cart Ride on the Readlyn Bike Trail. That is a great way for those that cannot walk or bike it, to see the sights.

Readlyn Savings Bank holds a Grumptoberfest in the fall. I helped judge the costume contest for that event.

In December, the former Grumps always try to get together for dinner and a picture. I organized the dinner this year at The Watering Hole. We had quite a few former Grumps and their spouse or friend attend.

Christmas time saw Santa visit Readlyn and I helped

him hand out candy to all the kids that attended.

The Community Club hosted the Valentine Ball again this past year and Janet and I attended, as we have for every one of them. Great fundraising event for Readlyn and the surrounding areas.

The Community Club Annual Meeting and Dinner was held in March. We sneaked in a night when the weather was "OK" and it was a great event as usual. We voted that night for the 2019 Grump. As we all know, our winter was a winter we won't forget for a while.

I always try to help with the Easter Egg Hunt in the city park. I was able to do that again this year and then we had our Easter gathering that night at our house.

Throughout the year, I tried to attend as many of the Senior Citizens' Dinners as I could, as well as Grump Committee Meeting.

Also, Readlyn became the home of Bremer County's Freedom Rock. I am very proud of the fact that it is here.

My last "duty" was to attend this year's Grump Days this past weekend and hand off my title to this year's new Grump. It was a challenge this year, as I have a few medical challenges going on right now. Hopefully, I will be back up and going strong real soon. I would like to congratulate Roland Schmidt on being elected the 2019 Grump. Please support him as you did me. He will do a great job representing Readlyn.

A personal thank you to EVERYONE that helped this year go smoothly for me. I won't list names or groups because I'm sure I would leave someone out. It has been an honor to represent Readlyn. Tell everyone you see, "We really aren't Grumpy."

Larry Ladage, 2018 Readlyn Grump



By Cassidy Brunscheon



Being Miss Readlyn has given me many opportunities to become more involved in the town I call home. I met so many people and had many new experiences through Miss Readlyn, and it's something I'll never forget. I want to congratulate Anna Richards on being the next Miss Readlyn and Roland Schmidt on being the new Grump. I know they both will do an excellent job and will have just as much fun as Larry and I had.

My favorite part of being Miss Readlyn was reading to kids in December for Santa Day! It was just so much fun to not only read to them, but to also interact with the future of Readlyn. Thank you to Sheila Boevers and Dani Sauerbrei for always answering their phones whenever I had a question about an event for Miss Readlyn. Thank you to everyone in Readlyn for allowing me to represent you, I hope I have made everyone proud. Readlyn will always have a place in my heart.

Cassidy Brunscheon, Miss Readlyn 2018



Community Calendar

Mondays - Novel Knitters at the library 6 pm **Tuesday**, **July 2** - V.F.W. Post #5661 at Readlyn Telephone Company 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 4 - Have a safe and fun Fourth of July!

Tuesday, July 9 - Coloring at the library 1-3 pm

Tuesday, July 9 - V.F.W. Auxiliary 7:30 at the library

Thursday July 11 - Introduction to Space Weather at the library 5:00

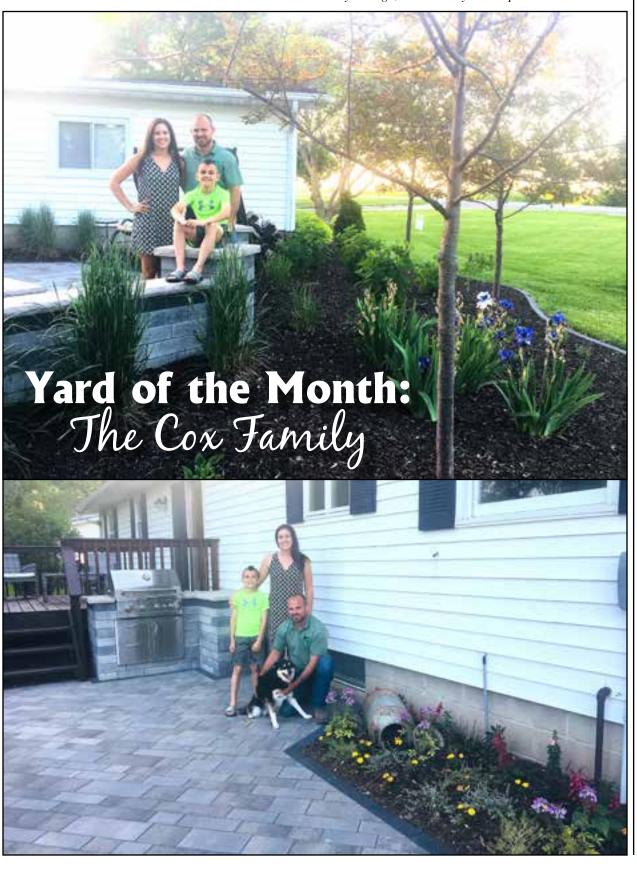
Wednesday, July 17 - Senior Citizens lunch and cards at Inspired, 11:30 am

Thursday, July 18 - Deadline for July 31 *Chronicle*, 5 PM

Sunday, July 21 - Readlyn Historical Museum Ice Cream Social, 5-7 PM

Thursday, July 25 - Readlyn Reads Book Discussion @ the Library 7 pm "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance

Wednesday, July 31 - Merry Elders at Inspired 11:30 am



Readlyn Community Happenings

~ Obituary ~



Virgil and Mary Matthias, June 14, 1969

Matthias' 50th anniversary

READLYN--Virgil and Mary Matthias will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner at a later date.

Virgil Matthias and Mary Mills were married June 14, 1969, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn.

Virgil retired from Farm Bureau and Readlyn Savings Bank, and Mary is a former elementary school teacher in the Denver school district.

Their family includes children Greg (Kris) Matthias of Readlyn, Julie (Greg) Froning of Dike, Annette (Darin) Trimble of Cedar Falls, Eric (Andrea) Matthias of Gilbert, AZ and Brett (Justina) Matthias of Gardner, KS. They also have 12 grand-children (two grandsons deceased, Brock and Jared) and five great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to P.O. Box 32, Readlyn, IA 50668.



Virgil and Mary Matthias



Linda Mary Schneider

Linda Mary Schneider, age 93, of Readlyn, Iowa, died Friday, May 31, 2019, at Pinnacle Specialty Care in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Linda was born on August 7, 1925, in rural Readlyn, Iowa, the daughter of Gottlob and Meta (Thies) Steinbronn. She attended country school for a few years and Immanuel Lutheran School in Klinger through the eighth grade. After completing school, Linda worked for various farm families helping care for their children and households. On June 26, 1947, Linda was united in marriage to Ervin Schneider at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn. The couple made their home in Readlyn and rural Fairbank, Iowa. Linda spent her time raising their five children. After the kids were grown, Linda went to work for Wapsie Valley Schools working as a cook in Oran.

Linda was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn where she was a member of Ladies Aide for many years. Family was very important to Linda and she enjoyed taking care of her grandchildren, spending time with family, and attending family reunions. She also loved the outdoors where she would spend much of her time in her garden and tending to her flower beds. Linda always had a kind word for everyone and will be remembered for her concern for others.

Linda's memory is honored by: two daughters, Diane (Stephen) Weicken of California, Missouri and Janet (Steve) Luetkenhaus St. Peters, Missouri; three sons, Wayne (Jan) Schneider of West Des Moines, Iowa, Gary Schneider of Independence, Iowa, and Brad Schneider of Waterloo, Iowa; nine grandchildren, Justin (Ragan) Schneider, Ryan Luetkenhaus, Whitney (Jeromy) Beaty, Rachel (Craig) Vogler, Eric Luetkenhaus, Rebekah (Daniel) Gerlt, Angela (Erick) Roe, Trevor Schneider, and Alex Schneider; seven great-grandchildren, Tanna, Daniel, Adelaide, Lillian, Adelaide, Eleanor, and Wil-

liam; two sisters, Marlys (Russell) Bennett of Rochelle, Illinois and Mary Hoppenworth of Belvidere, Illinois; and three sisters-in-law, Ruth Steinbronn of Waterloo, Iowa, Ann Steinbronn of Monticello, Minnesota, and Florence Anderson of Harlingen, Texas. Linda was preceded in

death by her parents; her husband, Ervin in 2006; and four brothers, Paul, Adolph, Edwin, and Reuben Steinbronn.

Visitation was on Thursday, June 6, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn where the family greeted friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 7, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Pastor Phil Girardin officiating. Burial followed at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Readlyn. Memorials may be directed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or the Lutheran Hour and online condolences may be left at www. kaisercorson.com. Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family with arrangements.

His Hands Pantry open Tues., Fri.

His Hands Food Pantry, serving the communities of Denver, Fairbank, Frederika, Oran, Readlyn. Sumner, Tripoli and Westgate, provides food assistance to those in need. His Hands is open Tuesdays 5:00 - 8:00pm and Fridays from 9:00am - noon. The Food Pantry is located at 5001 Main Street, Oran. For more information, call (319) 638-4357.

College News

Kuhlman Completes Educator Preparation Program

AMES, IA-- Graduating Iowa State University students seeking teacher licensure were corded at a ceremony on May 10, in C.Y. Stephen's Auditorium. As part of the celebration, each student received honors cords that were placed around their shoulders by the influential mentor of their choice.

Kassidy Kuhlmann, an Agricultural and Life Sciences Education major and Wapsie Valley High School graduate, is now prepared to teach agricultural education.







Spring Center Farm

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Readlyn Community Library

We put the READ in Readlyn

Barb Sowers Nancy Lockard Patrick Brodigan Tina Ristau



Cash Memorials

In Memory of Maryke E. Lien Marty & Kristi Marticoff

In Memory of Brock Niebuhr Roger & Marlys Deterding

In Memory of Bob Kerr Marlene Kuker

In Memory of Jerry Suhr Al & Marlene Bradley Barb Meyer

In Memory of Linda Schneider Kenny and Bonnie Piehl

Book Memorials

In Memory of Darlene Tiedt "Because" by Mo Willems and "I'm Having a Sky Blue Day" by Maggie Testa from Farmers Co-op Readlyn and

Thank you for your generosity

Phone and Fax: 319-279-Email: readlynlib@gmail.com Website:

www.readlyn.lib.ia.us

Mario Cart Tournament June 25th at 11:00am

Register at front desk. Prizes for 1 out of 4 participants. Awards for top three racers in each division.

Coming Soon - Readlyn Library Digital Media Center

We are happy to announce that the Readlyn Library has been approved to receive grant funds to establish a Digital Media Center thanks to the Community Foundation of Readlyn and Bremer County! The project will create an all-inclusive media studio providing hardware, software, and training for the professional grade preparation of photographic materials, video recording and editing (including green-screen), audio recording, media duplication and manipulation, teleconference capabilities, and skype. The **first phase** of the project will be transitioning office and conference room spaces into their new roles. The office space will be used to set up audio, video, and photo editing equipment. The conference room will be transitioned into a photo and video studio. The second phase of the project will be acquiring the required hardware and software to furnish both areas for their intended purposes. The third phase will be to implement various new library programs in conjunction with our community partners.

Watch our Facebook page for Teen Events **Coming in July!**

Video Games...in a Library?????

Play video games in the library (and learn)! This week the Readlyn Library received its very first video game console, a Nintendo switch, that is available for patron use. Currently, Minecraft and Mario Cart are the only two games in our inventory but we are seeking input on future titles to acquire.

While video games in the library may make some book purist uneasy they directly fit into the libraries core objectives. In fact, the American Library Association (ALA) endorses video games classifying them in a similar category as board games. Stating: "Video gaming at the library encourages young patrons to interact with diverse peers, share their expertise with others, including adults, and develop new strategies for gaming and learning." Video games teach children and adults how to learn, cooperate, solve problems in a group setting, and socially interact.

An article co-authored by the ALA lists the following ways video games fit the library mission:

- Public libraries have a mission to provide cultural, recreational, and entertaining materials, as well as informational and educational materials. Games provide stories and information as they entertain and educate.
- School & academic libraries have a mission to curriculum support. Games provide stories and information, presented in a new format, that encourage critical thinking and problem solving and accomplish objectives of curriculum frameworks and meet AASL standards.
- Special libraries have a mission to provide resources and support their industry or profession. Games provide stories and information, presented in a new format, that meet business goals and objectives and provide continuing education for employees.
- Games have literary value you have to know how to read, to play.
- Social games encourage language skills through peer learning. In game chat or forums, if "rogue" is misspelled "rouge," the misspeller will be corrected. "Wield" is another word easy to misspell but easy to learn in a game context.
- Games encourage literacy activities like reading, writing & creating content about & around the game.
- Games can enrich vocabulary and expose players to language roots e.g. fighting the flaming monster Incendius can plant the key to unlock the more ordinary word "incendiary" upon later exposure. Crone, spawn, inquisitor, hydromancer, lore keeper, magister, elemental, tainted, and evocation are other examples of vocabulary builders that can readily be found in games.
- Games meet developmental needs of teens established by the National Middle School Association they encourage social interaction among peers and non-peers, enforce rules and boundaries, encourage creative expression, reward competence and achievement, provide opportunity for self-definition Some games have a cathartic effect in releasing emotions in Grand Theft Childhood, youth reveal that violent videogames in particular help manage anger & frustration.

Some videogames are healthy! Dance Dance Revolution gets heart rates up to 140 beats per minute, according to "Project GAME (Gaming Activities for More Exercise)" published in Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport in 2005, and more calories are burned playing Tekken than walking around the block. A 2004 study: The Effects of a ConsumerOriented Multimedia Game on the Reading Disorders of Children with ADHD. in West Virginia discovered a correlation between playing DDR and improving reading test

Hours

10-7 Monday 10-7 Thursday 10-5 Tuesday 10-5 Friday 10-5 Wednesday

9-12 Saturday





JOIN US Tuesday, July 11th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Introduction to Space Weather



Interested in learning how space weather affects everything from radio communications to oil pipe lines? Join us on July 11th at 5:00 for an introduction to solar effects. Hosted by the former Detachment Chief of Sagamore Hill Solar Observatory.



June's title: Hillbilly Elegy By J.D. Vance

Pick up a copy at the library and join us for



Hillbilly Elegy

discussion on Thursday July 25th at 7:00 pm

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for more than forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your

The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.'s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love," and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually one of their grandchildren would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of success in achieving generational upward mobility. But as the family saga of *Hillbilly Elegy* plays out, we learn that J.D.'s grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and most of all, his mother struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, never fully escaping the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. With piercing honesty, Vance shows how he himself still carries around the demons of his chaotic family history.

A deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, Hillbilly Elegy is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.





Readlyn, Long Ago

Compiled by Bob Thran

Early Readlyn Businesses: Livery, Hospital, Hotel

I will begin with the premise that we are all familiar with the period of history in which episodes of *Bonanza* and especially *Gunsmoke* took place. This was Readlyn in the very early 1900s, dirt streets and wooden sidewalks! One of the earliest business in Readlyn was the livery business.

According to records Nick Marsh was the owner of the livery stable in Readlyn. The livery in Readlyn was located on Main Street in the first block north of the depot. It was on the lot where Fred Koschmeder once had a garage. At present, the Readlyn Telephone Company owns the property.

Liveries provided individual horses for transportation and pleasure riding and rented wagons and buggies drawn by a team of horses. Boarding and grooming horses were also services provided by liveries. It can also be assumed that Nick Marsh was a horse trader. The business sold harnesses and saddles, etc. He also provided a horse-drawn buggy taxi service.

The following expenses for a creamery inspector are from the 1908 expense sheet of the State of Iowa Dairy Commission.

March 27, hotel, Waterloo, \$2.00, livery from Fairbank to Crane Creek to First Maxfield Creamery (located 2 miles west of Denver) to Readlyn \$4.35, meal at Maxfield 50¢. March 28, hotel, Readlyn \$2.00, livery to Knittel to Klinger \$3.00. March 29, hotel Oelwein \$1.50, etc. (The expense sheet shows no rail expense entry

I will begin with the premise that we re all familiar with the period of hisory in which episodes of *Bonanza* and between Waterloo to Fairbank and Readlyn to Oelwein. The inspector probably used a rail pass.)

According to other records the fare between Readlyn and Oelwein was 25¢. When families began owning automobiles, the livery business was eventually phased out. The building was torn down somewhere in the early 1920s.

The sign on the facade of the Readlyn livery building advertises brand names McCormick saddles and Weber harness.

Readlyn Hospital

After Dr. Eli Osnes opened his practice in Readlyn, he had a hospital built in 1919 located on the back half of the lot behind the only residence on the corner of Third and Main Street in Readlyn. He and his wife, Emily, his nurse, lived in the house located on the same lot just west of the hospital. The hospital had a waiting room, a doctor's office, an operating room and several rooms for patient care. In the back part of the hospital, Dr. Osnes had a garage for his two automobiles, one used in his practice and a luxury 1937 black Terraplane for Sunday driving.

Dr. Osnes practiced in Readlyn until 1943 then moved his practice to Valle-jo, California, near San Francisco. Louie Schweer and his carpenter crew traveled to Vallejo spending several months constructing a clinic for Dr. Osnes. I remember August Detterding living in the house adjoining the hospital after Dr. Osnes left.

Doctor Roland Miller was the next physician who practiced in Readlyn. He



and his family lived in the hospital. After Doctor Miller moved to Waterloo, the next doctor, Dr. Allen, practiced a short while before leaving. The building ceased being used as a hospital and became an apartment. Coach Walter Johnson came to teach in Readlyn in 1944, his family residing in the building. Over the years many families made the old hospital their home until it was torn down in the early 1960s. It seems inconceivable now that Readlyn at one time had the services of a hospital. During the many years Dr. Osnes practiced here, the hospital did play an active role in the community and an important part of Readlyn history.

After Doctor Miller's death, his family donated his surgical instruments to the Readlyn Historical Society, a gesture greatly appreciated.

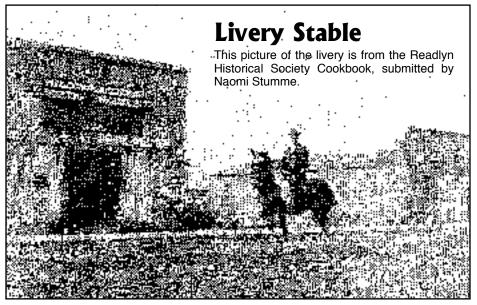
The Hotel in Readlyn

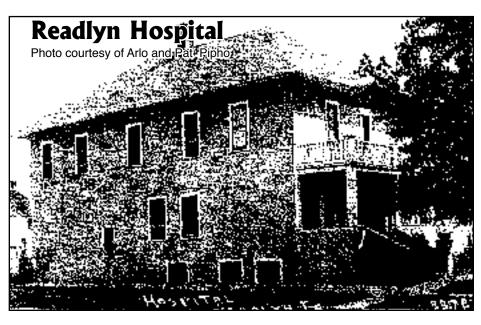
The nearest building on the picture (above) is my grandfather's butcher shop. The larger white structure to the south is the hotel building that was once an integral part of Readlyn history. Looking further down main street you see buildings constructed before the Readlyn Fire of 1912.

Why a hotel in Readlyn? Basically, the only transportation into and out of Readlyn was the railroad which came through in 1903. In the early 1900s, there

were no stagecoaches coming through Readlyn, few autos, fewer trucks, some horse-drawn wagons and horse-drawn buggies. Drummers (salesmen) coming to Readlyn to drum up business would often stay overnight at the hotel. Records show the charge for a hotel room for one night was \$2.00. In time, the hotel outlived its usefulness yet occupied a desirable corner lot location. As I remember my mother telling me, Augie and Em Wilkening came from Sumner, purchased the hotel building and had it moved. The lot was an ideal corner location for the gas station they built.

The hotel building was removed, given a quarter turn to the right and placed on a basement foundation on the back part of the lot which it formerly occupied. A front porch was added. The hotel building was converted into a duplex. I also remember that circa 1940, Walter (Doc) and Hulda Meier lived in the west half of the building when their son, Jerry, was a baby, and Leo and Lucinda Wittenburg occupied the east half. Many families over the years made the former Readlyn hotel building their home. The building met its demise in May 2014 when a fatal fire occurred. This historical part of the town of Readlyn was torn down and now a building housing additional items for Readlyn's Historical Society occupies the site.





Deadline for July 31 Chronicle: Thurs., July 18, 11 AM



~ Obituaries ~



Darlene Tiedt

Darlene Tiedt, 91, of Readlyn, Iowa, passed away on Friday, June 7, 2019, at the Oelwein Health Care Center.

Darlene was born on February 13, 1928, in rural Fairbank, Iowa, the daughter of Herman and Lydia (Matthias) Moeller. She attended elementary schools in Denver and Readlyn. She graduated from Oran High School in 1945 and the Iowa State Teacher's College (UNI) in 1946. She resided on the Eldo Moeller Sr. farm while earning money for her family during the Depression. After college, she taught in two rural schools. On July 20, 1947, Darlene was united in marriage to Earl Tiedt at St. John's Lutheran Church

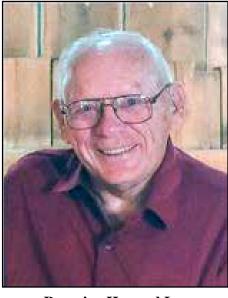
in Fairbank. Together, Darlene and Earl farmed in the Readlyn area while raising their five children. Earl died on January 8, 1997

In her leisure time, Darlene enjoyed gardening, tending to her flowers and the lawn. She also enjoyed cooking and playing cards.

Darlene is survived by a son, Lowell Tiedt of Anamosa; a daughter, Cheryl (Joe) Hart of New Hampton; a son, Layton (Karen) Tiedt of Fairbank; a daughter, Cheila (Rick) Goedken of Farley; and a daughter, Charla (Chuck) Gardner of Estherville; 16 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren; a brother, Dorlin Moeller of Oelwein; a sister, Lois (Jerry) Heineman of Fairbank; and a brother, Dr. Ron (Diana) Moeller of Mason City; a sister-in-law, Marlene Moeller of Iowa City; and her seven beloved godchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Earl Tiedt; her siblings and their spouses, Verla (Ralph) Kane, Leon (Betty) Moeller and Kenneth Moeller.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn with Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary officiating. Burial was in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Readlyn. Visitation was on Tuesday at the church from 9 to 11 a.m. Memorials may be directed to the Zion Lutheran Church, Oelwein Health Care Center or to the family for a later designation. Online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Readlyn assisted the family.



Romaine Howard Lee

Romaine Howard Lee, 80, of Tripoli, Iowa, passed away with his family by his side on Monday, June 3, 2019, at the Waverly Health Center in Waverly, of lung cancer.

Romaine was born on September 10, 1938, at home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the son of Norma (Schroeder) and Howard Russell Lee. He was baptized on October 2, 1938, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and confirmed on April 6, 1952 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Readlyn. As a teenager, Romaine proudly worked as a farmhand. Romaine attended school at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School and then Readlyn High School, graduating in 1956. Romaine entered the United States Navy on April 28, 1961 and served active duty during the Vietnam Conflict. On April 28, 1965, Romaine transferred to Naval Reserve until his

honorable discharge on April 27, 1967. On September 15, 1963, Romaine was united in marriage to Helen Lorene Ramlow at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg. Romaine was a carpenter and worked in construction for 35 years, retiring in September of 2000.

Romaine was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Tripoli. Leisure time was spent fishing, riding his motorcycle, spending time with his grandkids and telling stories. He also really enjoyed attending the biannual Navy USS Whetstone LSD 27 reunions.

Romaine is survived by his wife of nearly 56 years, Helen; three daughters, Stephanie (Chad) Peters of O'Fallon, Missouri, Jennifer (Andy) Liebsch of Ogden, Iowa and Melissa (Nathan) Hunemuller of Spring Valley, Minnesota; one son, Michael (Jennifer) Lee of Rochester, Minnesota; nine grandchildren, Brady, Hannah and Noah Peters, Addison and Jayden Liebsch, Landan and Kesley Hunemuller, and Alivia and Deziray Lee; two brothers, Robert Lee of Hiawatha and Larry (Julene) Lee of Independence, Iowa; one sister, Diane Johnson of Readlyn, Iowa; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sylvia Schwerin; sister-in-law, Eunice Lee; brothers-in-law, Lorraine Johnson, and Duane Schwerin; and parents-in-law, Loraine and Edua Hamlow and several nieces.

Funeral services were Friday, June 7, 2019, at Grace Lutheran Church in Tripoli, Iowa, Pastor Dennis Niezwaag officiating. Burial was at Grace Lutheran Cemetery, Tripoli, with military rites by Navy Operational Support Center and Tripoli VFW Post #4019, and the respectful presence of Patriot Guard riders.

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Sylvia J. Schwerin

Sylvia J. Schwerin, 77, of Sumner, died Thursday, May 30, 2019, at Community Memorial Hospital in Sumner.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at St. John Lutheran Church in Sumner, Iowa with Rev. Tracy Hinkel officiating. Interment followed at St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery, rural Sumner. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at Becker-Milnes Funeral Home in Sumner and for one hour preceding services at the church

Sylvia Joan, daughter of Howard and Norma (Schroeder) Lee was born September 1, 1941, at the family's home in Cedar Rapids. She was baptized at home by Rev. Stauffaeher on September 21, 1941, and confirmed on April 3, 1955, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Readlyn. Sylvia received early education in the Readlyn Parochial Schools, prior to graduating from Readlyn High School in 1959.

While in high school and for some time after, she babysat in the Readlyn area. On June 3, 1962, Sylvia was united in marriage with Duane Schwerin at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The couple farmed south of Sumner for many years. She was a long-time member of St. John Lutheran Church in Sumner where she was active in W.E.L.C.A., Young Mother's Circle, Quilting Group, and, along with her husband, Duane, taught Sunday School and Bible School for many years. Sylvia also volunteered at Prairie View Residential Care (where she was instrumental in starting the Prairie View Review), and helped with the Special Olympics for many years. She enjoyed fishing, crocheting, embroidery, gardening, baking, playing cards (especially Schafkopf), and playing piano.

Sylvia is survived by her three children, Debra Schwerin-Kleppe of Tripoli, Tamera (Eric) Sterba of Sumner, and Brian (Tammy) Schwerin of Jewell; eight grandchildren, Justin (Danielle) Kleppe of Oelwein, Timothy Schafer of West Des Moines, Lindsey (Roger) Monteith of New Hampton, Branden Kleppe of Shell Rock, Colton Schwerin of Jewell, Makyla Sterba of West Union, Alexandria Schwerin of Jewell, and Tiffany Sterba of Sumner; four great-grandsons, Duane and Dakota Monteith, and Logan and Wyatt Kleppe; four siblings, Robert Lee of Hiawatha, Romaine (Helen) Lee of Tripoli, Larry (Julene) Lee of Independence, and Diane Johnson of Readlyn; several nieces and nephews; and her dog, Katie.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Duane in 1989; daughter, Sandra, in 1982; great-grandson, Daniel Monteith, in 2010; sister-in-law, Eunice Lee; brother-in-law, Lorraine Johnson; and her dog, Susie in 2015

VFW Auxiliary meets

#5661 met at the home of Verdeen Pavelec on June 11 with 5 members present. The meeting opened with prayer and pledge of allegiance. The minutes and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. We did not receive general orders and chairman reports. Volunteer hours were turned in, a motion was made by Ellen Thies and seconded by Darlene Peters to pay the bills, carried.

We had a very good service on Memorial Day at Readlyn School gym and a good

turnout at noon potluck at the Readlyn room. Five members attended Darlene Tiedt's funeral. We received a letter from Charles Grassley about the Veterans Bill. We're going to celebrate the Auxiliary's 70th Anniversary which started in January of 1949. A Kwik Trip gift card was given to Verdeen Pavelec after being hospital-

A motion was made by Darlene Peters and seconded by Marjorie Macken to adjourn, carried. Hostess was Verdeen Pavelec.

Grump Days card tournaments

Twenty-four players participated in the Pepper Tournament on Friday evening of Grump Days. The winners and their scores were:

1st Place: Kurt and Julie Gleason - 242 2nd Place: Shirley Kuker and Judy Henn - 194

3rd Place: Ron and Judy Leistikow -

4th Place: Clint Munk and Nick Tiedt

The Schafskopf Tournament was held Saturday afternoon. The winners were:

1st Place: Wayne Kuethe 2nd Place: Charlie Albrecht 3rd Place: Mark McElhose

Send news of your club, organization or church to the *Readlyn Chronicle* at: ReadlynChronicle@gmail.com





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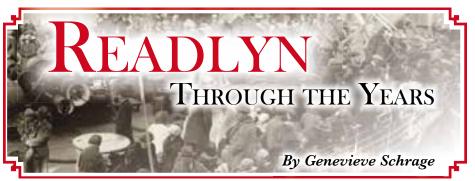
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[Note: I have known Genevieve Mauer Schrage for many years. She has an outstanding memory of the early years of Readlyn. I asked if she would share her stories and she was glad to do that. She has many stories to tell and we will print in the *Chronicle* as space allows, Part 1 and so on. Thanks to her niece, Nancy (Brase) Lockard, for her assistance. Ron Leistikow, *Chronicle* Committee]

The Newest Town in Bremer County - Readlyn Iowa

I have been told by a number of people that I have a good memory. The only reason that I could believe that is that I have told my story about my ancestors so many times that it has become indelible on my mind. With each child, and I have five of them, I tell my story over and over again as they grow older and can absorb what I tell them. From then on, I am not responsible for their forgetfulness.

I shall begin with the Peter Mauers, I and II, who remained in Germany. Then Peter Mauer III came along, born in Switzerland, high up in the Alps, but he was a full-fledged German. With the influx of Germans who were traveling to America in the mid-1850s, having the idea of a better life, Peter III decided to go by himself. After waiting many months, he finally had passage rights. It took six to eight weeks to cross the Atlantic, and every trip was encountered by storms, maybe a fire or two, and many hardships aboard the ship.

Peter arrived in New York and then went west, searching for good farmland. He stopped in Ohio for a while, meeting a nice young lady by the name of Katherine Ritzke. After two years, in 1855, he moved on and found good farmland in Bremer County, Iowa. He decided this is where he wanted to settle.

All the while, he was thinking about his girlfriend he had left behind in Ohio. So he went back to where she lived and begged to marry her. They came back to Iowa and, with government assistance, settled on a 360-acre farm where with much hard work they built a set of farm buildings in-

cluding the house. This was almost like settling in no-man's-land, the closest town being Waverly, 13 miles away.

Fifty years later in 1904, the small town of Readlyn sprang up after the Chicago Great Western Railroad was built from Oelwein to Clarion. The man responsible for its building was Mr. Read. The path of the train was built through Peter's farmland, during the period around 1902, at which time many houses were being built one mile west of the Maurer farm buildings. A new name for the town was being studied by Mr. Read. He had considered Readsville, along with several others, and finally settled on Readlyn.

The Maurer farmland bordered the east edge of Readlyn. After the railroad track was finished and all building materials were moved out of the area, the track had a very welcome existence.

Many farm buildings had been built in this area, preceding the coming of the railroad. The need to travel 13 miles one-way by horse and wagon to Waverly after supplies was changed to travel by train. After Readlyn had stores and businesses, that could help supply the farmers with their needs, the distance was still shorter. Readlyn was incorporated in 1904. Everyone welcomed the shorter distance to town.

Peter and Katherine Maurer had four children. It so happened one of the sons who wished to farm and work the fallow ground was happy about the situation. The two girls got married and moved away. Steve had a photography studio in Tripoli, IA. The farmer son, Benjamin Franklin Maurer, who was called "Frank" for short, was in his thirties when he began to notice a young lady driving by with her horse and buggy, became vigilant and began to ask questions as to who this young lady was.

Mary Koschmeder's parents had moved into the Knittel neighborhood a mile and a half south in 1870. Their names were Anton and Mary Koschmeder. Their daughter, also Mary, was born in 1872. The Koschmeders wanted to get out of the city

of Cedar Falls with their big family. By the time Frank really noticed the young lady, Mary, she had reached the age of 20 and she, herself, was looking for a young bachelor. She was purposely driving by the Frank Maurer farm.

The Koschmeders had four children when they moved south of Knittel. In 1883, Anton and Mary Koschmeder were divorced. The three oldest sons had heard there were jobs to be had out West, so they took their mother and baby sister along with them to Oregon.

The four middle children stayed back in Iowa. When Mary, the daughter, was 17, her dad sent her out West to see what her mother was "up to." She stayed one year, had several jobs, then came back. That is when all the romancing began between her and Frank Maurer. They were married when Mary was 21 and Frank was 36. It was in 1894. Do you think they were old enough?

It wasn't too many years that passed before Frank had the beginnings of so-called anemia at that time, nowadays, leukemia. They had a family of seven children and life wasn't easy on the farm at that time. For health reason, Frank and Mary spent time in Texas, but returned after awhile. The two oldest sons joined the Navy when World War I was declared. John and Lou-

is, my father, came home after the war was over in 1918. It was then that my grandfather, Frank Maurer, was ready to turn over his farm to Louis and Bill. He had already sold part of it previously to Herman Judas.

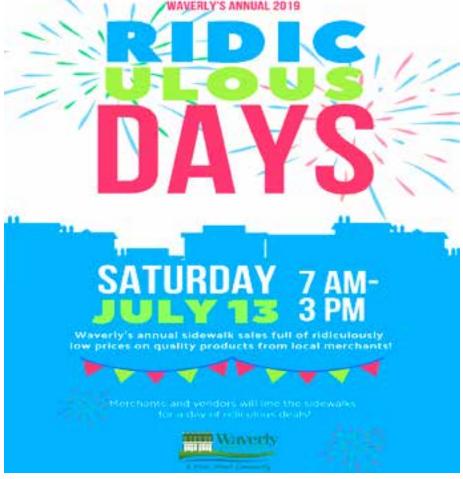
My Uncle Bill bought 120 acres with the buildings across the road from the newly incorporated town of Readlyn. Louis started to haul sand from the Wapsi, a mile and a half away, in order to make cement blocks. His mother couldn't understand what was going on; she was the last to know that Louis had a girlfriend, a teacher, and he planned to get married on November 20, in McIntire, Iowa. The buildings had a good start with their erection, so they moved onto their farm. In 1923, Frank passed away.

The surviving members of the family included Mary, the mother; Mabel, the daughter, who left to pursue a job; Clarence, the youngest son who left to attend high school and college; Bill, who eventually got married in 1925, divorced in 1926, then got married again in 1931, and John, who never married and most of the time lived with Bill's family. Mary, the mother, spent part of her time with Bill. She was his chief cook and bottle-washer.

To be continued

Deadline for July 31 Chronicle: Thurs., July 18, 11 AM







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Wapsie Valley Future Farmers of America

42nd Annual Wapsie Valley FFA Banquet

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter

The 42nd annual Wapsie Valley FFA banquet was held on April 28, 2019. There were 31 members and 74 guests in attendance. At the banquet, members were recognized for all of their accomplishments throughout the past year, as well as community members who have been outstanding role models and volunteers for our chapter members. The top members from each grade were also awarded along with scholarships.

Before the banquet, a meal was served by the Fairbank Food Center. The banquet then moved into the Wapsie Valley High School Auditorium where the 2018-2019 officer team, President Jacob Risse, Vice President Hannah Miller, Secretary Anna Richards, Treasurer Lydia Martins, Reporter Reily Richards, Sentinel Kaylee Kleitsch, and Advisor Mr. Sacquitne started the evening with opening ceremonies and welcome. Next, members' parents and Wapsie Valley Administrators were recognized and thanked. None of our accomplishments throughout the past year would have been possible without these two groups of supporters. Throughout the banquet, each member was recognized individually for their accomplishments

throughout the past year. All of the members who participated at State and Nationals were also recognized. The Friends of the Wapsie Valley FFA awarded two scholarships each for \$500. The recipients of the scholarships were Lydia Martins and Grant Grober. The chapter is truly grateful for all of the support from the Friends of the Wapsie Valley FFA as they do so much to help the members. Lvdia Martins received the prestigious Dekalb Award sponsored through Dekalb/Bayer Crop Science. This year's star scholarship winner was Jacob Risse. The star greenhand was awarded to Nick Grober. Kaylee Kleitsch was named the star sophomore. Hannah Miller won the star junior award and Jacob Risse won the star senior award. The overall star award was presented to Jacob Risse. Lydia Martins, Jacob Risse, Julia LaRue, Bryce Kleitsch, Olivia Willey, Trystan Lampe, Grant Grober all received the Star Leadership Award for their continued support throughout their four years in FFA. This year's Blue and Gold Award recipients were Mark Owens, Natalie Risse, and Carolyn Schmitz. These individuals were awarded the Blue and Gold Award for their help and support throughout the last year with chaperoning events, allowing us to use the school's kitchen, or helping with the chapter's projects. The Honorary Degree was awarded to Taylor Anderson, Ellen Doese, and Tom Risse. Each of these individuals has gone above and beyond to help our chapter and its members. The Black Hawk Farm Bureau received the Distinguished Service Award for sponsoring our chapter. The chapter cannot thank them enough for their generous support that made it possi-

ble for each member to receive a chapter t-shirt. As the 2018-2019 Wapsie Valley Officer Team retired, they gave a few final words to each other, before watching the year in review slide show. To end the night, the 2019-2020 Wapsie Valley Officer team was installed which includes: President Anna Richards, Vice President Reily Richards, Secretary Hannah Miller, Treasurer Nick Grober, Reporter Kaylee Kleitsch, and Sentinel Kennadi Neil.

Sponsored by Black Hawk Farm Bureau



The 2019-2020 Wapsie Valley FFA officer team L-R: Anna Richards, Reily Richards, Hannah Miller, Nick Grober, Kaylee Kleitsch, and Kennadi Neil.

Wapsie Valley FFA takes on State FFA Leadership Conference

By Reily Richards, Chapter Reporter

The 2019 Iowa State FFA Leadership Conference was held on April 15 and 16. The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter had 26 members attend to participate in career development events, receive their Iowa Degrees, or carry the Wapsie Valley FFA flag. Members who participated in events include:

Experience the Action: Anna Richards, Kennadi Neil, Hannah Miller, Sloane Banger, Reily Richards, Kyle Voy, Cole Neil, Dallas Wittenburg - 3rd place Gold

place Gold

Chapter Website: Kaylee Kleitsch

Secretary's Book: Anna Richards - 1st

Chapter Website: Kaylee Kleitsch Silver

Ag Sales: Bryce Kleitsch - Silver **Ag Discussion Meet:** Dylan Lampe - 3rd place Gold

Team Ag Sales: Lydia Martins, Trystan Lampe, Blake Rechkemmer, and Grant Grober - Gold

Poultry: Kaylee Kleitsch, Dori Waschkat, and Karissa Michael - 2nd place Gold

Iowa Degrees: Hannah Miller, Reily Richards, Anna Richards, Brittany Shover, John Ebaugh, Sam Schnor, Sloane Banger, Kennadi Neil, Jason Harks, Ethan Garlow, Cole Neil, Kyle Voy

Dairy Entrepreneurship: Anna Richards - 3rd Gold

Goat Production Entrepreneurship: Lydia Martins - 2nd Gold

Agricultural Education Assistant:

Hannah Miller - 1st Gold Flag Carrier: Brendon Brown Courtesy Corp: Jason Harks, John Ebaugh, Reily Richards, Julia LaRue,



Wapsie Valley FFA members and supporters who attended the State Leadership Conference



Kyle Voy, Cole Neil, Brendon Brown, Karissa Michael, Nick Grober, Mary Bodensteiner, Trystan Lampe, Bryce Kleitsch, Grant Grober,

While at the State FFA Leadership Conference, members attended sessions where they listened to retiring addresses from the state officers. They also got to hear inspiring words from the keynote speaker, Matt Stutzman. In between sessions, members even got the chance to walk around and learn about different agriculture colleges and careers in the career fair.

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Jacob Risse and Hannah Miller accepted the Ambassador Award for the chapter.

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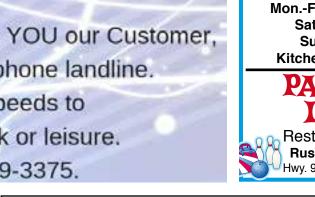
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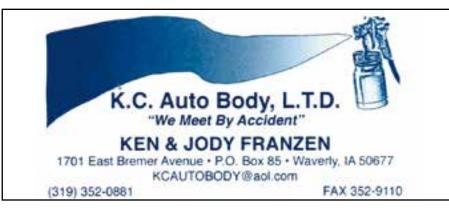
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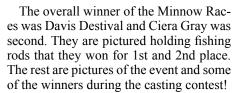
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I was pleased to hold a Casting Contest and Minnow Races for Grump Days. I was so busy planning, my article took a back seat this month. I had a great time hosting these events and I look forward to hosting them for many years to come!











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News from Wapsie Valley Elementary



The April and May Warrior Way All Stars (Fairbank above, Readlyn below) were recognized for showing the Warrior Way by being kind, respectful, responsible, safe, and always doing their best.





Readlyn 6th graders performing in the Readlyn Talent Show.



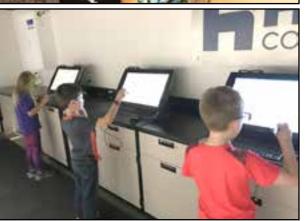
Wapsie Valley Fairbank 4th graders authored their own state book and read them to the 2nd graders.



The students were able to engage in different activities in the STEM trailer that was sponsored by the Fairbank and Readlyn PTO's.













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News from Wapsie Valley Elementary





Literacy Week hosted the 3rd Annual Breakfast with Books event where all students were given a book donated by the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation. The breakfast items were donated by the Readlyn Savings Bank and Northeast Security Bank.







We had lots of Guest Readers come in during Literacy Week and read to our students.





During Literacy Week, students were able to do different activities including reading with glowsticks and reading





Students in 1st & 3rd grade participated in the Bike Rodeo where they learned about







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Readlyn Historical Society receives donations

The Readlyn Historical Society would Wes Sauerbrei like to thank the following for all the donations received since our last reporting:

Valentine Ball - \$500

In memory of: **Berniece Schumacher**

Readlyn Historical Society Verdeen Pavelec Brenda Buenzow Grace Kuethe Judy Henn Ron and Judy Leistikow Vernon Clefisch

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Readlyn Historical Society GaryLee Thurm Judy Henn Vernon Clefisch Roger and Marlys Deterding Grace Kuethe

Delores Sauerbrei

Readlyn Historical Society Vernon Clefisch Roger and Marlys Deterding Judy Henn

Other monetary donations:

Mary Lockard Vemon Clefisch Berniece, Wes, and Delores were members of the Historical Society and are truly missed. These donations are all appreciat-

Don't forget to attend our Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 21 from 5:00- 7:00 P.M. at the museum. Sundaes will be \$.25. We especially invite the newcomers of Readlyn to come for an opportunity to visit the museum and meet other community



Pictured above is Vernon Clefisch with a place setting of China that has been donated to the Readlyn Historical Society. The cover sheet states: "The set of dishes displayed here is part of a wedding gift given to my Grandparents, Adolf and Amanda, nee Oltrogge, Bartels, who were married in Readlyn on April 30, 1911. The dishes had been ordered and shipped by rail to the Readlyn train depot. The complete set of dishes arrived safely packed in sawdust within wooden barrels. It is unclear how many barrels were shipped as the set of dishes was comprised of many pieces. Included in this display is their wedding picture that depicts the style and setting of that time. I am delighted to share this display with the Readlyn Historical Society and thank them for accepting the donation. Vernon L. Clefisch, Grandson of Adolf and Amanda"

Volunteering

I would like to thank the Rainbow Clovers 4-H Club, the Wapsie Valley FFA and the Archery Club for helping clean up after Grump Days at the Readlyn Park. Special thanks to Larry Pavelec for removing the posts and taking down the picket fence. It is rewarding to see the young people commit to helping their community at 6:30



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Nashua • (319) 535-3456 or cedarvalleyportables@gmail.com

CrawDaddy Outdoors, LC

Owner: Darrin Siefken 107 E. Bremer Ave., Waverly (319) 352-9129

The Jig & Fly Shop and Gary's Wood & Craft

Garylee Thurm 405 5th St. Place, Readlyn (319) 279-3219

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Tripoli Nursing Home

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Wapsie Valley Honor Roll

Wapsie Valley 2018-2019 2nd Semester Honor Roll *4.0 GPA - **4.0 Cumulative GPA

Seventh Grade:

Adair, Jackson Barnes, Reagan Brandt, Aliya Buhr, Jadyn* Curley, Anna Gray, Corina' Jans, Jack Jergens, Dayton Kalenske, Kimberly Kleitsch, Brock* Kleitsch, Brody Lansing, Lexie' LaRue, Isabel* Matthias, Gabriel Risse, Kate VanDaele, Ava* Weepie, Ella **Eighth Grade:** Bellis, Brylee* Brown, Keegon Etringer, Brooklyn* Hammitt, Jenna Hyde, Ashlyn Jones, Emma* Kane, Hunter Kleinheksel, Chloe Knight, Hannah* Matthias, Sydney O'Donnell, Casey

Rosengarten, Kalvyn

Schmitz, Kane Sullivan, Autumn Voy, Elle Freshmen: Aiello, Jada** Blaylock, Brody Burgart, Paige Eitzenhefer, Hailey Grober, Nicholas Imbrogno, Lydia*3 Kayser, Maxwell Larson, Chloe Mann, Michael Martin, Sydnie Muir, James Neil, Ellie** Porath, MaKenna Powell, Ayden Robinson, Jaylyn Schares, Elly Schares, Ryan Seemann, Bridget** Silva, Nolynn Wilcox, Ronald Sophomores: Bellis, Blayde Hershey, Olivia Imbrogno, Grace** Kelley, Asa Kleitsch, Kaylee Miller, Joslynn* Oltrogge, Éthan** Ott, Tyler Risse, Kobe

Rubner, Jordan

Schmit. Macev* Schmitz, Courtney Stark, Brody*7 Wittenburg, Dallas** Wolfe, Camryn Juniors: Banger, Sloane Beesecker, Kaci** Biretz, Morgan Blaylock, Tanner Huebner, Cavle Hyde, Gavin** Kane, Samantha Kaufman, Traeton Miller, Hannah** Neil, Cole Parker, Alexandra Richards, Adrianna** Richards, Reily Sauerbrei, Katie**

Schnor, Samantha* Silva, Emma VanDaele, Elsie** Seniors: Brunscheon, Cassidy** Coerlin, Veit* Franzen, Connor Hammitt, Maria Harford, Sadie Kleinheksel, Hayley Krall, Kaleb LaRue, Julia* Lorek, Celin Martins, Lydia Rechkemmer, Blake Risse, Jacob* Rochford, Nolan Sauerbrei, Tanner* Schmit, Carley* Sheppard, Abby



CrawDaddy Outdoors, LC

Darrin Siefken, Owner **207 East Bremer Avenue** Waverly

319-352-9129

info@crawdaddyoutdoors.com www.crawdaddyoutdoors.com



Immanuel Lutheran Church

2683 Quail Avenue Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3977 Pastor Philip Giradin Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor 2649 230th Street Readlyn, IA 319-279-3758 No Sunday School Divine Parish Worship at St. Matthews, 9:00 a.m. Mid-week Service at Zion, Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Martha Circle, 1st Wednesday of month Women of Life, 3rd Tues. of month, 7 PM



St. Paul Lutheran Church

120 West 4th Street Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3961 Pastor Philip Giradin Worship 8:30 AM



Zion Lutheran Church

240 Elmer Avenue Readlyn, IA 50668 (319) 279-3643

Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary, Pastor Sunday Divine Worship Service 8:00 a.m. Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays Mid-week Service Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle 1st Thursday 1:30 p.m. Evening Circle 1st Thursday 6 p.m.



Hours: Tuesdays, 9-11 AM Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM First Saturday of the month 9-11 AM

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