

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 9 No. 37

www.thepapernow.com

January 6, 2016

Local News

Charles Woodson Named Recipient of the Craig Long Award



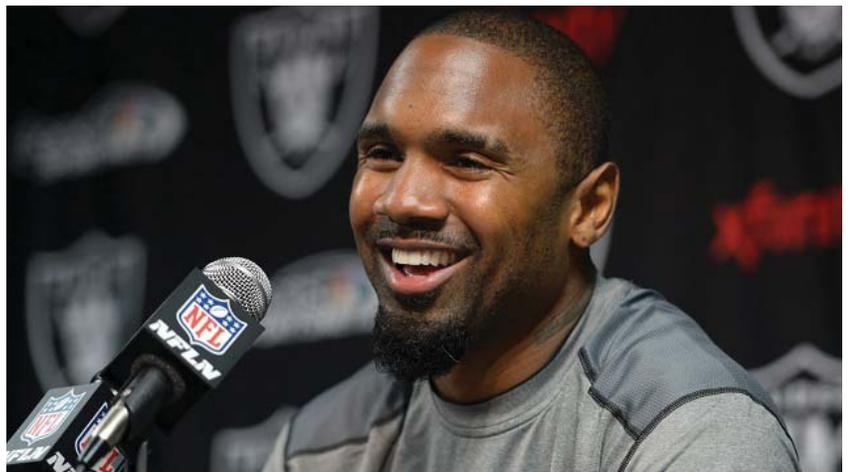
Safety Charles Woodson was named the recipient of the Oakland Raiders Craig Long Award, the team announced Friday.

Chosen by a select group of local media and facilitated by the Oakland Raiders' media relations department, the Craig Long Award is presented annually to the player who best exemplifies professionalism and collaboration with the media at large.

Woodson, who announced last week that he will retire from the NFL at the conclusion of the 2015 season, has started all 15 games for the Raiders this season and leads the team with five interceptions. He was named AFC Defensive Player of the Month for October and his season totals also include 86 tackles (61 solo), nine passes defensed, one forced fumble and three fumble recoveries.

Long, who passed away in 2007 at age 36, was a valuable member of the Oakland Raiders' public relations staff from 1997-2004. An Iowa native, Long fulfilled his childhood dream of working in the front office for his favorite team.

Past Craig Long Award winners: 2015 – S Charles Woodson and 2014 – DL Antonio Smith.



Letter to the Editor

I have been a member of the Laurens Swim Team board for several years. We have been planning for the summer of 2016, which would be our turn to host the Conference Swim Meet at the end of July. This meet ends the AHEELA season and brings upwards of 300 swimmers plus their families to the host community. Hosting the meet gives the community a chance to work together to provide a quality event and show outsiders what we have to offer both inside the pool and in the community. Having been a spectator at the AHEELA Conference meet for the last 7 summers, all the host communities have created a well organized and enjoyable day for all.

The Laurens Swim Team may be small in numbers, but they are able to compete at the same level as the larger teams. Last summer there was a medal sweep in the boys 8 & Under 25 Free, with all three medals coming home with us. We brought home medals in relays, individual events, and hold several Conference Records. The Laurens Swim Team also tied for the Sportsmanship Award, which is voted on by the teams in the conference.

In the last three years I have also been a member of the Laurens Pool Committee, actively working to replace the current pool. It has been a difficult process but also rewarding. I know that the day we open our new

pool, all the committee members will feel a huge sense of accomplishment and be grateful that we were able to be a part of something that will benefit Laurens for years to come. This process has not be an easy one and sometimes we feel like we are fighting an uphill battle. We recently received a \$35,000 donation that has given us a much needed boost in morale.

Faced with the current condition of the pool and the pressure of putting on a quality meet, we sent an anonymous survey to the AHEELA teams to send to their families. While we were encouraged by comments that supported us, "Laurens was the L in AHEELA years ago - and has always hosted great meets from the very beginning! I'm sorry to think that people have even approached you about not having the conference." We also received more than we bargained for in terms of negativity. Here are a few examples:

- "I think a smaller pool makes it difficult to host that many swimmers, coaches & spectators all at the same time. The pool is old, hard to get out of & dive into. One of our least favorite places to go to for a meet. I think there are better choices for that large of meet."
- "No starting blocks; deep gutters. Crappy pool. Hate having a regular season meet there, let alone conference!"
- "They have limited facilities to host so many people in one area. I have had safety concerns with their pool for awhile. The "wall"

that the little kids have to climb up to get out and the fact that they can't dive. I realize this is also a fundraiser for the host team. To make it fair to Laurens, could an alternate location be chosen to host (maybe not even one in the conference), and they be allowed to do the normal fund raising things like concessions, etc? Nothing against the ability of Laurens to organize a meet, but at some point the condition of the pool has to become a factor in the discussion. Also the lack of facilities (bathrooms, etc) is a concern. I truly feel bad for them that the community can't or won't fund a better pool for their families."

As a Swim Team Board, we decided it was in the best interest of the other teams if we skipped our turn. While our kids are accustomed to diving in the shallow water and getting out of the pool with the large gutters, we had to consider the safety and competition level of the swimmers from the rest of the conference. There is a hope that in the next few years our new pool is built and we can budge in rotation and still take our turn. It is our belief that hosting a meet of this size would benefit the community in more ways than just us. Laurens deserves the chance to show the AHEELA Conference what we are capable of.

*Kelly Tate
Laurens Swim Team Board President
Laurens Pool Capital Campaign
Committee Member
318 Elm Street
Laurens, IA 50554*

*At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
January 6, 2016*

This time of year I like to reflect back on the year. Here are some of the highlights of 2015 at LPL. The change I think you would first notice when you come into the Library is the new upholstery on our chairs and the new cushions in the Pat Harms Activity Center. Our Top circulating kids' book is, no surprise, *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*. It was followed quite closely by a few classics: *Pinkalicious*, *My Truck is Stuck* and *The Recess Queen* as well as many superhero books that went with our Summer Reading theme. Top DVDs were *The Giver*, *Scooby Doo 13 Spooky Tales*, *Big Hero 6* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*. Top titles in adult fiction include: *The Nightingale*, *At the Water's Edge*, *Go Set a Watchman*, *The Stranger*, and *Girl on the Train*. Our best attended library program was the Halloween magician with 171 people here!

Just a few new books this week: *A Man Called Ove* by Frederick Backman, *In the Waning Light* by Loreth White, *After She's Gone* by Lisa Jackson, *Lady's Command* by Stephanie Laurens, and *Guest Room* by Chris Bojalian (Audiobook too!) If you're in the mood for nonfiction, we received Carly Simon's biography, *Boys in the Trees*.

Is one of your New Year's Resolutions to get a better handle on your money? Are you interested in learning to make wise investing

decisions? We can help! The Smart Investing@your library® program can help anyone learn about money, develop a budget, save for college, plan for retirement and much more. We are offering Smart Investing courses that feature a face-to-face "kick-off" January 19th, then 4 self-paced online classes, and a "wrap-up" session taught by ISU Extension. Participants will sign up for one of three investment education courses focused on their stage in life: "Starting Out" course is for beginning investors, "Building Up" targets those in mid-life, "Making It Last" focuses on those near or in retirement. Each course involves four online classes and is tailored to the investment challenges of each group. Topics include: balancing risk, cutting investment costs, choosing an investment adviser, and fine-tuning an investment portfolio at each life stage. Contact the Library to sign up and you will be one step closer to fulfilling your resolution! Smart Investing is made possible by a grant to Iowa Library Services by FINRA Investor.

Event Calendar

- Tot Time every Monday at 10 a.m.
- Tell Me a Yarn Mondays 5-7 p.m.
- Writers Free for All is 3rd Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Book Club is 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Card Making is the 4th Tuesday of the month
- Smart Investing @ Your Library classes begin Jan 19

**Friday Night,
January 8th Special:**

Hot Beef special

**Full dinner menu is
also available.**

Serving from 5-8PM



*Laurens Women's
Club to Meet*

The Laurens Women's Club will meet on Friday, January 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Laurens Public Library. The program will be about "What Was the Best Christmas Gift or Card You Ever Received?" with everyone participating. Members of the serving committee will be Elaine Harriman and Jan Grossnickle.

For all of your IT needs!

Computer
Data and
Information

CDI Technologies

Web Design-Software Systems-Database Design
Mechanical Design and Network Administration

Give us a call 712-260-8904
or visit us on the web www.cditech.net



The Pool Project Committee would like to say Happy New Year and THANK YOU to all who have donated to the new pool project in 2015!

January Outpatient Clinic Schedule

Cardiology

Iowa Heart - January 5
Call: (800) 515-6279

Iowa Heart Ultra Sound

January 5 & 19
Call: (515) 574-6248

Oncology

Next Clinic in February
Make Appt. w/ Peg Sones
Call: (712) 335-5232

NW IA Bone, Joint & Sports Surgeons

Dr. Hamann, Orthopedics
January 7, 14, 21 & 28
Dr. McClain, Podiatry
January 6, 13, 20 & 27
Call: (800) 248-4049

Berryhill Mental Health

Wed., Thurs. & Friday
Call: (800) 482-8305

Mental Health

Chris Carr
January 4, 11, 18 & 25
Every Monday
Call: (712) 225-8054

Dermatology

Dr. Green, Katie Blomgren & Crystal Meyer
January 5 & 11
Call: (515) 955-4440

Pulmonology

Dr. Meyer
January 20
Usually on a Tuesday
Call: (800) 622-8317

Urology

Dr. Christ, Bobbi Honkomp
January 4 & 18
Usually 3rd Monday
Call: (712) 262-6214

Ear, Nose, Throat & Neck

Dr. Jorgensen
January 14 & 28
Call: (712) 262-8120

Diabetes Center

Every Tuesday
Call: (515) 574-6350

NW IA Surgeons

WEEKLY
Call: (712) 335-5230

OBGYN/Surgeon

Dr. Wilson - Next Clinic in Feb.
Make appt. with Jenny Benna
@ (712) 335-5230

Wound Center

Friday of each week
Call: (712) 335-5201

**Cosmetic Surgery
Vein Procedures**

Dr. Kolegraff
January 8
Call: (712) 332-6001

Stroke Screening

January 18
Call: (515) 574-6505 for an appointment

FREE transportation to and from Pocahontas Hospital, Pocahontas & Laurens Unity Point Clinics. Call the Pocahontas Transit Bus @ 335-3704.

**Pocahontas
Community Hospital**



606 NW 7th St.
Pocahontas, IA 50574
(712) 335-3501

An Affiliate of UnityPoint Health

Pocahontas Hospital participates in Humara & United Health Care

- You too may give:*
- In your own name*
- A loved ones name*
- A business*
- In memory of someone who passed away*
- It may be an anonymous donation*

A gift to the Laurens Pool Project maybe eligible for a tax deduction. Consult your tax professional to take full advantage.

Please take time to send your donation now if you haven't already done so. We need everyone's help!

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS
*can be sent to: Laurens Pool Project
c/o City of Laurens
272 North 3rd Street,
Laurens, IA 50554*

**Like us on Facebook:
Laurens Pool Project
www.laurens-ia.com**

The Paper

Published weekly by
My Laurens, Inc.
112 Walnut St.
Laurens, IA 50554

Phone:

(712) 841-2684

Fax:

(712) 841-4662

Website:

www.thepapernow.com

E-mail:

publisher@mylaurens.com

Publisher:

Rodney Johnson

Editor:

Amanda Tendal

Rights to Use Content: The Paper, its content, archived materials, and our websites, are provided solely for your personal, non-commercial use. The Paper, its content, our websites and all the materials available on our websites are the property of My Laurens, Inc., and are protected by applicable copyright, trademark, and intellectual property laws. You may download, print or transmit The Paper for your personal, non-commercial use. Any commercial use of copyrighted materials requires prior authorization from My Laurens, Inc. Unless explicitly authorized by My Laurens, Inc., you may not modify copy, create derivative works, reproduce, republish, transmit, sell, or distribute in any manner or medium (including by email or other electronic means) any material from The Paper or our websites for commercial purposes. You may not use The Paper or materials available on our websites, in a manner that constitutes an infringement of our intellectual property rights/copyrights or that has not been authorized by My Laurens, Inc.

For information about requesting permission to reproduce or distribute materials from The Paper, please contact My Laurens, Inc. at (712) 841-2684 or publisher@mylaurens.com.



LAURENS AREA YOUTH GROUP

JANUARY SCHEDULE

LAURENS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 3RD - HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 10TH - JUNIOR HIGH

JANUARY 17TH - HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 24TH - JUNIOR HIGH

JANUARY 31ST - HIGH SCHOOL

Help Wanted Accountant/Billing Clerk

Laurens Municipal Power & Communications (LMPC) is looking to hire an Accountant/Billing Clerk. Preferred applicant should have experience with accounting, bookkeeping, Microsoft Office and working in a small office environment. Wage DOQ and excellent benefits package.

Send resumes to: Laurens Municipal Power & Communications, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, IA 50554. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. LMPC is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

COME WORK FOR US AT
FISHER HYDRAULICS
IN LAURENS, IOWA

Fisher Hydraulics in Laurens, IA is currently accepting applications for the following;

2nd shift machinists Mon-Thur 5pm-3:30am

We are seeking dependable and motivated applicants. Experience is preferred but we are willing to train the right applicants. Come work in a team oriented and friendly atmosphere with state of the art equipment. Shift premium is paid during training and overtime is available. Pay increases available after 90 days and every 6 months thereafter to top of pay scale.

A Pre-employment Drug Screen is required. **Fisher Hydraulics** is an Equal Opportunity Employer offering expanded benefits that include Competitive Wages, Medical, Dental, Flexible Spending Accounts, STD/LTD, and Life Insurance Plans, 401K Plan, paid Personal & Vacation days, & paid Holidays.

To apply: Call 712-845-2634 ext. 113, during the hours of 7:00 am-4:30 pm, Mon.-Thurs. and speak with Diane. You may also stop in and fill out an application.

Fisher Hydraulics
a LIGON company

VACANCY
LAURENS-MARATHON CSD
2015-2016

Immediate Opening for a Part Time Nurse
Position will be for approximately 20-25 hours a week.
Approx. Hours 8-1

Interested applicants need contact:
Troy Oehlertz, Principal
Laurens-Marathon Community School District
300 W Garfield St.
Laurens, IA 50554
712-841-5000
E.O.E/AA

Calling All Supplies!

The L-M Elementary will be participating in their first MakerDay this Spring! We are asking parents, grandparents, anyone (!) to save/donate the following items during the upcoming months:

Duct Tape

Masking Tape

Straws

Cardboard - thick and thin

Toilet Paper/Paper Towel Tubes

Wrapping Paper Tubes

Egg cartons

Any small items that could be used for wheels (spools, lifesavers, etc.)

These items can be dropped off at the main office of the school (box under the table marked "MakerDay").

If you are a business and would be interested in donating snacks for the elementary students on their MakerDay, please email Meredith Allen: ms.meredithallen@gmail.com.

Save the Date: Friday, March 4th
- MakerDay Open House



<p>MONDAY \$2.00 BUD & BUDLIGHT</p>	<p>TACO TUESDAY 5-8PM</p>	<p>THURSDAY CREATE YOUR VERY OWN PERSONAL PAN PIZZA 5-7pm</p>	<p>FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR ~ 5-7pm 1/2 PRICE DRINKS</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY LUNCH 11am - 1pm January 13</p> <p>Vegetable Beef Soup Ham Sandwich</p> 	<p>WEDNESDAY DRINK SPECIALS 4-6PM ~ SAVE 50¢ ON ALL DRINKS/ BEER</p>	<p>SILVER DOLLAR SALOON</p> <p>135 N 3rd St—Laurens 712.841.6986</p>	

Blood Drive a Success!

Thanks to all the wonderful blood donors who volunteered their time to make a life-saving blood donation at the December 23rd Laurens blood drive.

A total of 19 people registered to donate and 20 units of blood were collected at this drive, which will impact 60 lives!

A special thanks also goes out to Connie Dallenbach, West Iowa Bank and the Laurens community for helping to organize and sponsor this drive. Committed volunteers are key to maintaining the blood supply in our community.

Congratulations to milestone donor: Nicholas Zurek - 1 gallon!

As the 15th largest blood center in the country, LifeServe Blood Center provides blood and blood products to more than 100 hospitals in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.

The next blood drive in Laurens will be Thursday, February 25th, at the United Methodist Church. For more information about blood donation or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, call us at: (800) 287-4903 or visit us online at: www.lifeservebloodcenter.org



Laurens 712-841-4930

Spirit Lake 712-336-9111

Toll Free 877-849-1756

Insure Your Possibilities®



Caleb Jamison
Cedar Rapids, IA
Office: 319.366.3570 ext. 225
Cell: 712.358.2041

Insurance.
Retirement.
Investments.



Mutual of Omaha

Insurance products and services offered by Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company or one of its affiliates. Registered Representatives offer securities through Mutual of Omaha Investor Services, Inc., a Registered Broker/Dealer. Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisor Representatives offer advisory services through Mutual of Omaha Investor Services, Inc., a SEC Registered Investment Advisory Firm.

AFN42811



Grace Lutheran Church Marathon, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Albert City & St John Lutheran Church Rural Albert City

Pastor John Mayer

Saturdays 5 p.m. Worship Service @ Grace Lutheran Church - Marathon

Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship @ Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Albert City

Sundays 9:00 a.m. @ St John Lutheran Church Rural - Albert City

This Week at First Christian Church

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, Jan. 6
7 p.m. - Mission Council

Thursday, Jan. 7
2 p.m. - Coffee with Pastor

Friday, Jan. 8
7 p.m. - AA

Sunday, Jan. 10
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Elder's Meeting
10:30 a.m. Worship
6-8 p.m. - High School Youth Group at United Methodist

Our Town Our Paper!

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Thursday: January 7, 2016
7:00 PM - Hand Bell Rehearsal

Sunday: January 10, 2016
Baptism of Our Lord
9:00 AM - SS & Confirmation
9:15 AM - Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM - Worship w/2nd Offering for Mission church
11:30 AM - Take down decorations
1:00 PM - Youth Group Steering Committee Mtg. at UMC
4:00 PM - Laurens Care Center
6:00 PM - Youth Group (JH) at UMC

Tuesday: January 12, 2016
10:00 AM - Coffee Time



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Fri., Jan. 7th:
Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

Sun., Jan. 10th:
Sunday School resumes @ 9:10 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group Board meeting here @ 1 p.m.
Youth Group (JH) meet here from 6-8 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 11th:
SPRC meeting on Mon., Jan. 11th @ 7 p.m.
Girl Scouts meet here from 4-5 p.m. (K-5th) & 5-6 p.m. (6th-8th)



Sacred Heart Church Laurens

Father Francis Makwinja
Weekday Mass : Friday at 8:00 AM
Weekend Mass: Sunday at 10:30 AM (November - February)
Cluster Parishes
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sioux Rapids
Weekday Mass: (Monday&Wednesday) - 8:00 AM
Weekend Mass: Sunday - 8:30 AM (November - February)
St. Louis Catholic Church, Royal
Weekday Mass: (Tuesday & Thursday) - 8:00 AM
Weekend Mass: Saturday - 5:00 PM (November - February)



Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops Scheduled for 2016

Confinement site manure applicators and anyone interested in learning about manure issues should plan to attend a two-hour workshop offered by Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach in January or February 2016. Pocahontas County will offer the confinement manure workshop in the office on Thursday, January 21, 9:30 – 11:30 am. These workshops are offered in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. There is no fee to attend the workshops, but applicators will need to pay certification fees to complete certification requirements.

“Iowa law requires confinement site manure applicators to attend two hours of continuing education each year of their three-year certification period, or take and pass an exam once every three years,” said Dan Andersen, assistant professor, ISU Ag and Biosystems Engineering and coordinator of the manure applicator certification program.

A total of 69 counties will participate in the confinement site manure applicator workshops. In addition, a series of seven dry/solid manure applicator certification meetings will be held in February. ISU Extension and Outreach county offices have a complete list of workshop dates and locations, or view a list at: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confinementsitebrochure.pdf>

The workshops serve as initial certification for those applicators that are

not currently certified, recertification for those renewing licenses and continuing education for those applicators in their second or third year of their license.

Due to uniform certification deadlines, applicators are encouraged to attend workshops prior to March 1 to avoid being assessed a late fee of \$12.50 for those who are re-certifying. Those unable to attend one of the workshops need to schedule time with their ISU Extension county office to watch the training DVD. Due to scheduling conflicts, many extension offices will no longer accept walk-in appointments to watch these DVDs, but do offer scheduled dates and times to provide this training. If you can't attend training during one of the scheduled reshow dates at your county extension office, you will be charged a \$10 fee to view the training at your convenience. If attending the workshops or watching the two-hour training DVD is not convenient, confinement site manure applicators may contact their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam to meet certification requirements.

Applicators now have another option, online certification, which an applicator can take their training online at DNR MAC eLearning site at <https://elearning-dnr.iowa.gov/>. The applicator will need to sign-in and get an A&A account.

For more information about the Manure Applicator Certification Program or visit: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html>

Pocahontas County 4-H Scholarship Applications Available

All Pocahontas County Senior 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply for 1 of up to 10 \$500 Scholarships that will be awarded to the college of their choice. These scholarships are made available by the generous donations to the Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment each year. Applications are available online at www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas or may be picked up at the ISU Extension and Outreach Office Pocahontas County. All applications are due no later than February 1, 2016. No late applications will be accepted.

Send Your News to
The Paper!
www.thepapernow.com
100% User
Generated Content!
Subscribe and
Submit **TODAY!**

Winter Webinar Series Offered for Master Gardeners in 2016

Three part series shows how Master Gardeners support food security

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener program will host a winter webinar series in 2016. Master Gardeners will gain educational hours while learning the realities of hunger in Iowa, the best way to work with food banks, food safety and more. Two-hour webinars are scheduled at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office for January 7th, January 26th and February 8th.

Winter webinar topics include:

- January 7, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm - Hunger in Iowa: Learn the realities of hunger and teaching methods to use when working with food-insecure adults. Presented by Christine Hradek, food and nutrition educator for ISU Extension and Outreach as well as Susan DeBlieck, Master Gardener program assistant for ISU Extension and Outreach.

- January 26, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm - Working with Food Banks: Find out how Master Gardeners can work with food banks to donate garden produce. Presented by Sara Bonefas, interim director of the Food Bank of Iowa as well as Susan

DeBlieck, Master Gardener program assistant for ISU Extension and Outreach.

- February 8, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm- Best Practices for Food Safety: Get information on the best practices for handling garden produce going to food banks and the importance of food safety procedures. Presented by Shannon Coleman, assistant professor in food science and human nutrition and ISU Extension and Outreach specialist as well as Susan DeBlieck, Master Gardener program assistant for ISU Extension and Outreach.

This webinar series is part of a collaborative project between the Master Gardener program in Iowa and the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education. This collaboration aims to improve the food environment for Iowans with low income, develop a strategic plan for planting food bank donations in gardens across Iowa, and increase the amount of food donated to food banks by Iowa Master Gardeners. Any Master Gardener wishing to apply for a mini grant to support a food security project is required to register and take part in the webinar series. Mini grant applications for up to \$500 are due on March 1, 2016.

To register, contact Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach Office, at 712-335-3103 or email hfrek@iastate.edu. The webinars are free of charge and open to anyone who may be interested.

Pocahontas County 4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-In

Pocahontas County 4-H/FFA market beef weigh-ins will be held at the Dale Wenell residence, 11413 500th St., Albert City on SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016 from 9A.M.-11 A.M.

All market beef animals that will be exhibited at the 2016 Pocahontas County Fair must be weighed at this time. This includes lead steers and heifers, 2nd year bucket calves, and advanced cattle feeder pens. The cost is \$2/tag and \$2/implant if you want your calves implanted. Payment is due at weigh-in. Market beef must weigh a minimum of 950 pounds at fair weigh-in in July. **You must be enrolled in 4-H before the January 9 weigh-in if you are exhibiting market beef as a 4-H'er at the 2016 Pocahontas County Fair! No state fair identification will happen at this time!** You may weigh in the following number of animals: Lead animals—you may weigh 10 animals, but you may only exhibit 4 lead animals and only three of one sex. Advanced Feeder Pens—you may weigh 5 heifers and 5 steers and you will exhibit 3 in a pen. Only 1 pen of steers and 1 pen of heifers may be exhibited by an individual. If you have any questions or need to identify State Fair Beef, please call Lisa at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103.

Yard and Garden: Enjoying Traditional Indoor Holiday Plants

The holiday season is here, and so are holiday plants. Poinsettias are popular, but there are many other options beyond the traditional plant to beautify homes this season. Here are tips from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists on how to handle seasonal plants this holiday season. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.

What is mistletoe? Mistletoe is a semi-parasitic plant with small, leathery leaves and small, white berries. Mistletoe plants manufacture their own food, but must obtain water and minerals from their host plant.

American mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*) can be found growing in deciduous trees from New Jersey and southern Indiana southward to Florida and Texas. The scientific name *Phoradendron* is derived from Greek and literally means “thief of the tree.”

Traditions involving mistletoe date back to ancient times. Druids believed that mistletoe could bestow health and good luck. Welsh farmers associated mistletoe with fertility. A

good mistletoe crop foretold a good crop the following season. Mistletoe was also thought to influence human fertility and was prescribed to individuals who had problems bearing children. Mistletoe has also been used in medicine.

It has been used as treatment for pleurisy, gout, epilepsy, rabies and poisoning. Mistletoe also played a role in a superstition regarding marriage. It was believed that kissing under the mistletoe increased the possibility of marriage in the upcoming year. Today, kissing under the mistletoe is a fun holiday tradition, signifying goodwill, friendship or love.

Mistletoe sold during the holiday season is gathered in the wild. Most mistletoe is harvested in Oklahoma and Texas.

Are there different types of Christmas cacti? A plant purchased during the holiday season may be a Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*), a Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) or a hybrid.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are similar in appearance. However, the stem segments (phylloclades) on the Christmas cactus have scalloped edges, while the stem segments on the Thanksgiving cactus have two to four pointed teeth along their edges. They also bloom at slightly different times.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are short-day plants. Plants initiate flower buds as days become shorter in fall. Thanksgiving cacti typically bloom in early to late November,

while Christmas cacti usually bloom in late November to mid-December. Flowers are available in shades of white, orange, pink, red, and purple.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti will not bloom properly if exposed to artificial light at night in fall. Flowers may also fail to develop if plants are exposed to temperatures above 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Night temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit with slightly warmer daytime temperatures are ideal for flower formation.

In late summer/early fall, plants should be placed in a cool location that receives bright light during the day, but no artificial light at night. An unused bedroom or basement may have the proper environmental conditions.

Schlumbergera bridgesii and *Schlumbergera truncata* are epiphytic plants. Plants grow in the crotches of trees and derive water and nutrients from rains and decaying organic matter. They are native to the mountainous forests of southeastern Brazil.

Which indoor plants are attractive additions to the home during the holidays? While the poinsettia is the most popular holiday plant, there are several other plants that can be purchased at florists and greenhouses to brighten up the home during the holiday season. Other attractive possibilities include the Christmas or Thanksgiving cactus, amaryllis, cyclamen, kalanchoe, Norfolk Island pine and paperwhite narcissus.

Smart Investing @ Your Library

The Laurens Public Library will launch the “Smart investing @ Your Library” program to promote investor education on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 from 6:30 p.m.

Anyone in the Pocahontas County area is invited to participate and should stop by the library, call (712) 841-4612, to register.

Following the January 19th kick off session, participants will continue their education via 4 weeks of on-line classes at their convenience either at home or at the library. An investment manual will be provided to the first 25 registrants and online investment resources will also be shared. A face to face wrap-up session will be held Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

The only cost to attend the program is a commitment to learn more about investing. For more information, contact the Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach Office at 712-335-3103.

Crop Advantage Series – Info to Manage Costs, Increase Profits

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach announces its “Crop Advantage Series” meeting in Storm Lake on January 12, 2016. The meeting will be held at the Siebens Forum at Buena Vista University. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is hosted by Paul Kassel, extension field agronomist.

“Crop Advantage Series presents the latest crop production information from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach,” states Kassel. This year’s Crop Advantage Series will focus on the importance of risk management programs and ways to control costs.

John Sawyer, Extension soil fertility specialist, is one of the morning’s keynote speakers. Sawyer will discuss research that will help farmers make decisions on fertilizer application and nitrogen management.

Chad Hart, Extension economist at ISU, will discuss managing margins in 2016 and beyond. Hart will also give his views on the grain markets for 2016.

Workshop sessions in the afternoon include a corn disease update by Daren Mueller, Extension plant pathologist. Erin Hodgson, Extension entomologist will discuss the likelihood of corn rootworm problems in 2016. Jamie Benning, Extension water quality program manager, will share new information on the economic benefits of cover crops.

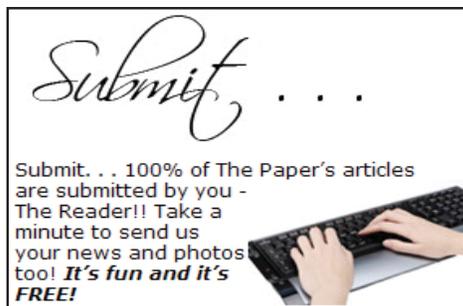
Other topics include a discussion on cover crops, weed control, corn planting rates, and use of UAVs in agriculture. Workshop sessions also include soybean disease, farm business decisions and spray applications strategies.

Advance registration is \$50 that includes workshop materials, lunch and refreshments. Registration after January 5 or at the door is \$60. Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) can obtain up to five CEU credits. The fee for the CCA credits is included in the registration cost.

Private pesticide applicators will be able to obtain their continuing instructional course credits at this meeting. The cost for the private pesticide applicator certification is included in the registration fee. The program adjourns at 4:15 p.m. for persons attending the pesticide course. Contact Paul Kassel at 712-262-2264 or Ellen Anderson at 712 732-5056 for more information on this program.

ISU Extension and Outreach in Iowa will hold fourteen Crop Advantage Series meetings from Jan. 5 to Jan. 29, 2016. The workshop topics are different at each of the thirteen meetings in the series. Additional information and online registration is available on the Crop Advantage website at www.cropadvantage.org.

Extension and Outreach connects Iowans to Iowa State University’s academic programs and scientists. We’re working to make sure Iowa State becomes the university that best serves its state.



Yard and Garden: Properly Propagating Popular Plants

Some plants are so beautiful that it's worth the extra effort to spread them around. That's where propagation comes in. With a little work and the proper cuttings, certain plants' beauty can be easily shared.

Here are some tips from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists on how to propagate several popular plants. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.

How can I propagate an African violet? African violets are easily propagated by leaf cuttings. Select a firm, healthy leaf and cut it off with a sharp knife. Leave 1 to 1½ inches of the leaf stem (petiole) attached to the leaf blade. Fill a pot with a moistened 50:50 mix of vermiculite and coarse sand. Insert the petiole of each leaf cutting into the rooting medium at a 45 degree angle. Firm the rooting medium around the petiole of each leaf cutting. After all cuttings are inserted, water the rooting medium and allow it to drain for a few minutes. Next, cover the cuttings with a clear plastic bag.

Secure the plastic bag to the pot with tape or a rubber band. (The enclosed environment drastically reduces the loss of water from the leaf cuttings and prevents them from wilting and dying before they have a chance to root.) Set the pot in a brightly lit location, but out of direct sunlight. Roots usually form in four to five weeks. The leaves of new plants usually appear in six to eight weeks. Several plants usually form at the base of each petiole. Separate the plants by carefully pulling or cutting them apart. Pot up plants individually into containers using a well-drained potting mix.

How do I propagate a rubber tree? The rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*) and weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*) can be propagated by air layering. Air layering is a procedure used to induce roots to form on a plant stem while it is still attached to the parent plant. Complete or partial girdling of the plant stem interrupts the downward translocation of carbohydrates and other compounds. The accumulation of these compounds promotes rooting at the point of injury.

Materials that are needed to air layer a rubber tree include a sharp knife, sphagnum moss, a sheet of clear plastic, twist ties and a rooting hormone. The procedure for air layering a rubber tree, weeping fig and other woody *Ficus* species is as follows.

Select a point on a stem about 12 to 18 inches from a shoot tip. Remove any leaves in the immediate area. Using a sharp knife, make a cut completely around the stem. The cut should penetrate down to the woody center of the stem. One inch below the first cut, make a second cut completely around the stem. Finally, make a third cut connecting the previous two cuts. Remove the ring of bark. Scrape the exposed surface to insure complete removal of soft (cambial) tissue.

Dust a small amount of rooting hormone on the exposed surface. (The rooting hormone promotes root development. However, the stem will root without it. It will simply take longer.) Place one or two handfuls of moist sphagnum moss around the exposed area. Wrap a piece of clear plastic around the sphagnum moss. Make sure none of the moss protrudes out the ends of the plastic wrap. Secure the plastic wrap above and below the sphagnum moss with twist ties.

Roots should appear in the sphagnum moss in several weeks. When a good root system has developed, cut off the stem just below the bottom twist tie. Remove the twist ties and plastic sheet and pot the rooted stem in a well-drained potting soil.

How can I propagate a Christmas cactus? Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter cacti are easy to propagate. Remove sections of the plant consisting of two to five flattened stem segments. Cut or pinch off each section at a joint. Allow the cut/pinched ends of the cuttings to callus overnight. The following day, fill a pot or other container with perlite or coarse sand. Water the rooting medium and let it drain for a few minutes.

Insert the cut/pinched end of each section about one inch deep into the perlite or coarse sand. Firm the perlite or coarse sand around the sections to keep them upright. After all the cuttings are inserted, water the rooting medium again. Allow the perlite or sand to drain for a few minutes and then set the container in a brightly lit location. Periodically examine the cuttings over the next several weeks and water the rooting medium when it begins to dry out. The cuttings should root in about six to eight weeks. When the roots are 1 inch or longer, plant the cuttings in a pot using a well-drained potting mix.

December 21, 2015

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 11:30 a.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Richard Main, and Ben Storms. Trustee Jerry Runneberg joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

The agenda for the December 21, 2015 meeting stands approved as presented.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Main to approve the minutes of the November 18 and December 7, 2015 meetings as presented. Ayes: Main and Storms. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Main to approve the list of bills for November, 2015 in the amount of \$967,628.61. Ayes: Main and Storms. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A & M Laundry	Floor Mats & Mops	\$	85.28
AFLAC	Insurance Premiums	\$	227.40
Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.	Legal Fees	\$	131.24
Alliant Energy	Natural Gas	\$	186.25
Amaril Uniform Company	Hi-Vis Jacket	\$	266.72
Avesis Third Party Administrators	Insurance Premiums	\$	199.50
Bankers Trust Company	Bond Payment	\$	419,362.50
Big 10 Network	Programming Fees	\$	668.16
Biorn Corporation	Collections	\$	15.99
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Insurance Premiums	\$	9,107.33
Buena Vista Stationery	Supplies	\$	210.83
Century Link	Transport Fees	\$	514.53
Century Link	Directory Listings	\$	53.29
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expense	\$	401.34
Consortia Consulting	Consulting Fees	\$	910.00
Department of Energy	WAPA Energy Bill	\$	33,897.23
Echo Group	Supplies	\$	975.59
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding Administration	\$	120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding Expense	\$	30.00
Fire Proof Plus, Inc.	Extinguisher Testing	\$	139.25
Fox Sports North	Programming Fees	\$	1,639.68
Harold K. Scholz Company	Supplies	\$	3,028.42
Hearst Television	Programming Fees	\$	820.12
Internal Revenue Service	Federal/FICA Taxes	\$	7,922.42
Iowa Network Services	Communication Services	\$	150.27
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Withholding	\$	4,492.00
Treasurer, State of Iowa	Withholding Tax	\$	1,328.00
Treasurer, State of Iowa	Sales Tax	\$	7,222.00
Iowa Utilities Board	Assessment Fees	\$	3,359.01
Laurens, City of	November Billing	\$	84,613.02
Laurens Food Pride	Supplies	\$	16.56
Laurens House of Print	Supplies	\$	48.15
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Communications Bill	\$	233.27
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Transfer to Money Market	\$	90,000.00
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Efficiency Rebates	\$	42.59
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Refunds & Deposits	\$	363.65
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Utilities Bill	\$	75.57
Laurens Plumbing/Hwy 10 Hardware	Supplies	\$	20.28
Laurens State Bank	Investments	\$	150,000.00
Laurens Sun	Publications	\$	106.00
Long Lines	Long Distance Fees	\$	1,341.82

Long Lines	Switching/Billing/Internet Fees	\$	6,415.47
Mid American Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$	65,000.00
National Cable Television Cooperative	Programming Fees & Supplies	\$	16,750.01
Newgard Auto Parts & Supply	Supplies	\$	31.62
Nextstar Broadcasting	Programming Fees	\$	1,494.80
Norsolv Systems	Supplies	\$	84.51
North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative	Power Bill	\$	11,039.70
Northwest Communications	Transport Fees	\$	722.56
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	21,338.10
PLIC – SBD Grand Island	Insurance Premiums	\$	576.21
Post Master	Postage	\$	315.10
Pro Cooperative	Fuel	\$	8,786.92
RFD TV	Programming Fees	\$	9.46
Richardson's Service	Supplies	\$	34.76
Rovi Guides	Programming Fees	\$	591.77
Schmidt, Tom	Safety Footwear	\$	145.00
Spencer Municipal Utilities	Programming/Transport Fees	\$	1,762.01
Stone Printing & Office Supply	Supplies	\$	230.00
Stuart C. Irby Company	Transformer & Pad	\$	6,805.20
Tower Distribution Company	Programming Fees	\$	752.64
Unity Point Health	Server Support	\$	150.00
Verizon Wireless	Wireless Service	\$	267.51
	Total	\$	967,628.61

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report. Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Main to have the General Manager seek out CD rates for a \$100,000 CD before the end of the year and the Investment Committee will decide what to do. Ayes: Storms and Main. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Main to approve Doug Wenell's application for LMPC's All Electric New Home Incentive. Ayes: Storms and Main. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Main to approve a one-time payment of \$250.00 in Laurens Chamber Bucks to each full-time employee. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the proposed list of bad debt accounts to be written off. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to increase the allowable wage scales for each position by 3 percent. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to set the General Manager's wage at Grade 5, Step 35 of the General Manager's wage scale. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion and vote, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Richard Main
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees

City Council Minutes

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 pm, December 21, 2015. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council Members Jean Swanson, Sid Enockson, Rich Newgard, and Julie Potter; City Attorney, Ann Beneke; Police Chief, Chris Toner; Public Works Director, Julian Johnsen; and City Manager, Barbara Smith. Councilman Ken Kunickis arrive at approximately 5:20.

Newgard motioned to approve the consent agenda consisting on the agenda, minutes from the December 7, 2015 meeting, and the list of claims; seconded by Swanson. Ayes all; motion carried.

Mayor Johnson was given the oath of office by Smith. Newgard and Potter then received the oath of office by Johnson.

Chad Cleveland, Dick Main, and Jerry Runneburg talked to the Council about the Utility's 2014 audit and 2016 budget; as well as past and present projects.

Potter motioned to approve Change Order #3; seconded by Kunickis. Ayes all; motion carried.

Newgard motioned to approve Resolution 56-15, Supplement Record to the Laurens Code of Ordinances; seconded by Kunickis. Roll call vote: ayes all; motion carried.

Potter motioned to approve Resolution 57-15, Application for Tax Abatement Under the Laurens Residential Urban Revitalization Plan; seconded by Kunickis. Roll call vote: ayes all; motion carried.

During council member reports, semi parking was discussed and whether a semi-tractor is allowed to be parked in a residential driveway.

During city staff reports, Smith talked about the contract with Shamrock Recycling and the proposed surcharge indicated by Shamrock. This discussion will be placed on the next agenda.

CLAIMS	12-21-15		
AFLAC		INSURANCE	587.68
AIRGAS		SUPPLIES	27.95
AMAZON		BOOKS	267.34
BAKER & TAYLOR		BOOKS	800.74
BARB SMITH		MILEAGE	38.18
BROWN SUPPLY		SUPPLIES	1,638.85
CENTURY BUSINESS		MAINT CONTRACT	119.07
COUNCEL		MAINT CONTRACT-LIB	21.11
DEE JACKSON		SNOW REMOVAL	16.00
ECHO GROUP		SUPPLIES	1,185.38
FIRST COOP		PROPANE	28.36
HALLETT		SAND	170.16
HIWAY TRUCK		PARTS	154.74
HORSETECH		SHIPPING	31.58
IRS		TAXES	4,741.32
IAMU		MEETING	20.00
IA CODIFICATION		ORDINANCES	573.00
IA ONE CALL		LOCATES	13.55
J & J SERVICE		REPAIRS	585.02
JCL SOLUTIONS		SUPPLIES	64.25
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		CHAMBER BUCKS	3,000.00
LAURENS EQUIPMENT		CHAIN	57.26
LAURENS FOOD PRIDE		SUPPLIES	8.57
LAURENS HOUSE OF PRINT		STICKERS	138.50
LMPC		COMMUNICATIONS	426.41
LMU		UTILITIES	446.01
LAURENS PLUMBING		SUPPLIES	740.62
LAURENS STATE BANK		POSTAGE-LIB	55.30
PETTY CASH		POSTAGE	202.46
POC CO AUDITOR		ELECTION	1,030.50
POC CO SOLID WASTE		LANDFILL FEES	5,415.35
PROFESSIONAL COMP		IT	168.00
RICHARDSON SERVICE		REPAIRS	102.04
STAR LEASING		COPIER LEASE-LIB	68.00
TREAT AMERICA		LEA MEALS	1,220.86
USPS		POSTAGE	323.58
UTILITY EQUIPMENT		SAW	175.00
VERIZON		COMMUNICATIONS	355.97
VISA		SUPPLIES	172.36
WELLMARK		INSURANCE	7,040.14
		TOTAL	<u>32,231.21</u>

PAYROLL		12/7/2015	
	001	GENERAL	4,686.31
	110	ROAD USE TAX	1,585.22
	600	WATER	2,410.76
	610	SEWER	1,946.56

670	GARBAGE	<u>2,226.60</u>
	TOTAL	<u>12,855.45</u>
	PAID TOTAL	<u>45,086.66</u>

BY FUND

001	GENERAL	15,171.52
110	ROAD USE TAX	4,159.57
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	4,031.30
176	HOMETOWN PRIDE	222.91
600	WATER	7,261.18
610	SEWER	4,597.36
670	GARBAGE	<u>9,642.82</u>
		<u>45,086.66</u>

Potter motioned to adjourn at 6:24 pm, seconded by Swanson. Ayes all; motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Barbara Smith, City Clerk