

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 9 No. 31

www.thepapernow.com

November 18, 2015

Local News

Nichole (Ahlers) Curran Becomes 2x Ironman

Could you dive into this 70 degree saltwater of the ocean for a 2.4 mile swim to begin an Ironman competition? You could if you were Nichole (Ahlers) Curran! Nichole got her start in swimming in the Earl Mackie Pool in Laurens. She was a member of the Laurens Swim Team beginning in 1989 at just 6 years of age! She swam as a member of the team until the summer after she graduated from Laurens Marathon High School in 2001.

When asked if we could share her story in support of the Laurens New Pool Project, her immediate response was, "Wow, what an honor! Laurens is definitely my heart so OF COURSE! My husband and I are happy to help the project any way we can."

So, with that in mind, here in

her own words, is Nichole's Ironman recap from Panama City, Florida November 8, 2015.



not to gag the entire time. The waves were nothing like the morning before and pretty terrifying for this lake girl. I tried to stay calm (hard thing for this lady) as I knew my mother was freaking out enough for everyone.

I remember going into lap two and seeing my mother submerged in the water with her clothes on dancing and screaming at the top of her lungs along with the rest of our

"2.4 Mile SWIM: Yesterday was nothing short of brutal. I've never done a competitive ocean swim. Nor do I train in it. The rough waves tore into me, along with the herd of athletes, pretty good. Lots of battle wounds (aka bruises). The salt water was horrible. It was impossible

FABULOUS support crew. Now that's love!

This was the first time this race has ever been deemed non-wetsuit legal as the water was too warm (gives you an idea of what the weather's been like) which created a bit of chaos for some of the athletes as wetsuits not only keep you warm, but make you more buoyant (especially in salt water) allowing you to conserve energy. Hence, I think it's safe to say this was our hardest swim to date. BUT we dove in and bossed that ocean. I even had the rare pleasure of beating my husband out of the water, which shall never be forgotten in our household.

TRANSITIONS: In and out... enough said. A BIG THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts to all the volunteers!!! This race would not be possible without them!

112 Mile BIKE: ZOOM ZOOM! This bad boy is my strength and passion! God didn't give me these big ol' legs for nothin'!

This course has always been known to be fairly flat, so I was surprised by some of the hills out

...continued to page 2...

...continued from page 1...

there that made me work extra hard. Anyone who knows me, knows that the smallest incline is a mountain in my eyes. Let's not forget the heat and brief rain shower making it hot, humid and slippery at times.

Although we didn't anticipate heavy wind in the forecast, coastal winds just aren't the same as the winds where I come from, unless you're biking at the downtown KC airport. In other words, a 6mph head wind felt double to me. Of course we had a head or cross wind the entire time. Mile 70ish to 85ish turnaround was by far the biggest battle of the day. Jack averaged over 20mph on the bike and I myself over 18mph. Solid rides!

26.2 Mile RUN: I felt pretty good going into the run, a little tight, but overall good. I was moving fairly decent out the gate and then started to get sharp stomach pains slowing my pace drastically. I kept thinking "Oh no, please no." I had my goal time of sub-13 hours right in the palm of my hand and could feel it slipping away. I was able to run

through mile 8 before I completely fell apart. My body wasn't having it and I was so sick. I tried to take in nutrition but couldn't keep anything down. It was hard enough chewing TUMS. It didn't help that the heat and humidity were in full force.

So of course I began to tear up and throw myself a little pity party. Walking in a race is a very hard thing for me to give into. I'm notorious for saying "If you ever see me walking, something is REALLY wrong." Well there was a whole lotta wrong going on and I was devastated. I never had an issue in my first IRONMAN nor did I in training, so didn't anticipate one here.

I saw my husband on the turnaround and began to cry. He's the kind of guy that would make it all better if he could. But, this is ironMAN, and each athlete must find their own way. I knew he was hurting pretty good too, but with amped energy he shouted "Just keep moving forward, hun! Crossing the finish line is all that matters."

So I wiped my tears and attempted the walk a little/run a little

strategy, but every time I ran I would get sick to my stomach. I dove into so many bushes that I had burs all over me after the race. Not to mention my fear of getting eaten by a

gator. I also now hold the record for most Porta Potties visited during a race... REALLY.

As I continued to get more and more upset with myself, I looked around. Lots of people were suffering. WELCOME TO IRONMAN! But what caught my attention most was the woman pushing a running stroller with a special adult in it. She was smiling from ear to ear and greeting everyone. The adult in the chair kept squeezing a squeaky horn which made me smile. The athlete driving had swam earlier in the day with a kayak holding the other adult and tied around her waist, which capsized twice due to the ocean swells. She then biked while pulling the adult bike stroller behind her. I thought "WOW, truly an inspiration!" And then I realized that it was time to shut down the pity party as I clearly had NOTHING to complain about. I wasn't disappointing Anne, and I needed to let go of my competitive pride/perfect race image. Sometimes the elements just don't play out in your favor, but as with anything, you can give up, give in or give it all you've got!

With a 17 hour cut off, I knew I was in good shape regardless of my circumstance. So I carried on running a little, getting sick and walking. It was slow going but this was my IRONMAN run and I was determined to own it proudly. If anything, it was a reality check and very humbling. I met so many people along the way struggling and enjoyed hearing their stories. I got asked

...continued to page 3...



...continued from page 2...

several times if I needed a medic to take me in and I refused. With one foot in front of the other, I became a 2x IRONMAN! Quitting regardless of my circumstance was never an option.

REASON: I always have a reason to race this beast known as IRONMAN. My first one 3 years ago was to prove to myself that I could recover from a bicycle accident leaving me with 2 broken arms, a hand, and a mashed face. I was determined to make a full recovery and come back stronger than ever. Mission accomplished!

This race was for a very different reason. It was for IRONANNE, the most wonderful person I've ever known. It's hard to believe how someone can impact your life in such a short amount of time. She was so proud of our first IRONMAN accomplishment that whenever she introduced us to one of her acquaintances, we were already known as her IRON Kids prior to. So it was a no brainer for us to honor her by doing IRONMAN Florida. We had her with us every step of the way!"

There's no guarantee that our New Laurens Pool will be the start of another Ironman, but it's pretty safe to say there will be no more great Laurens swimmers if we don't have a swimming pool!



PI.E. in School

Students at L-M are fed nourishing meals but every once in a while they get a special treat. PIE. No, it's not blueberry or cherry or pumpkin. It's Partners In Education.

Partners in Education has been going strong for 17 years. A business is partnered with a classroom. It is up to each partner to decide what they are going to do. Some read to the students, some have special field trips to their business, some grades provide artwork or entertainment for their partner.

Partners This Year Are:

Andrea Rubel, Kindergarten-County Store

Julie Hjerleid, First Grade-Dallenbach Insurance

Sylvia Ballman, First Grade-West Iowa Bank

Amy Gustafson, Second Grade-Olson, Bieri & Christensen

Emily Habben, Third Grade-Laurens State Bank

JoAnn Behrens, Fourth Grade-Laurens Care Center

Judy Boetcher, Fifth Grade-Laurens Police Department



This week the SPLASH PAD would like to say a big CONGRATULATIONS to Ironman Nichole (Ahlers) Curran! Nichole got her start in swimming in the Earl Mackie Pool in Laurens. She was a member of the Laurens Swim Team beginning in 1989 at just 6 years of age! She swam as a member of the team until the summer after she graduated from Laurens Marathon High School in 2001.

When asked if we could share her story in support of the Laurens New Pool Project her immediate response was, "Wow, what an honor! Laurens is definitely my heart so OF COURSE! My husband and I are happy to help the project any way we can."

There's no guarantee that our New Laurens Pool will be the start of another Ironman, but it's pretty safe to say there will be no more great Laurens swimmers if we don't have a swimming pool!

Please support our present and future swimmers by sending your TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS 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***

**Church Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 21st
Laurens United Methodist Church**

Coffee--9:30 a.m.
Booths open at 10:00 a.m.
Breads, Nuts, Crafts, Quilted
items, Doll clothes, Cookie Walk

Noon Lunch
Creamed Chicken and Biscuits
Serving: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
\$7 - Adults to 6 years
Children 5 and under - \$3

Festival of Trees

'Tis the Season...not to decorate yet, but to make your plan and get your registration in to The Laurens Festival of Trees.

Show us your personality! What do you collect or have a passion for? From sports teams to a favorite food -wouldn't it be fun to decorate a Christmas Tree with it?!

Registrations are available online or at the Laurens Public Library. Please turn them in to the Library by Saturday, November 21st.



Winter Coats Needed

New Hope Baptist Church is collecting winter coats for several children of families in need in the Laurens area. About any size you can think of, infant to teenage kids, can be used. If you have a coat you can donate, it would be a blessing.

We also have our food shelf open. The church is open during worship on Sundays from 4-5 p.m. and Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m.



ATTENTION VETERANS

All Pocahontas County Veterans and their dependents are invited to the
POCAHONTAS COUNTY VETERANS APPRECIATION

Saturday, November 21, 2015
(11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Pocahontas Expo Center
310 NE 1st St.
Pocahontas, Iowa

☛ Booth Representatives

☛ Free lunch for all Pocahontas County Veterans and their dependents

☛ Speaker:

○ Becky Groff – SHIP Representative

**Thank you to all Veterans
for your dedication
and service to our country!!**

For more information, please contact the Pocahontas County Veterans Affairs Office at 335-3270

Steve King to Hold Town Hall Meeting in Laurens

Congressman Steve King announced today he will be holding a town hall in Laurens.

Who: Congressman Steve King

What: Town Hall

When: Monday, November 23rd from 10–11 A.M.

Where: Laurens City Hall, 272 North 3rd Street, Laurens, Iowa

*At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
November 18, 2015*

I have to tell you that LPL's director is certifiable! In a good way, that is. I first became certified by the State Library by taking Public Library Management Classes when I became the Library Director. Now I have to complete 45 hours of Continuing Education classes every three years to recertify. Well, I just sent in my paperwork and I received notice that I am a Certified Public Library Director until January of 2019. So yes, I am certifiable!

What a great program we had last week with Sonia Rose, psychic medium! What was planned as an hour turned out to be a riveting two plus hours for our full house! We learned a lot about psychics and mediums, then got to watch Sonia Rose practice her craft. I enjoyed totally stepping outside my comfort zone and learning about something that I really knew nothing about! Some other quotes from people who were here, "Sonia Rose was very interesting. I loved hearing the people she was connecting with. She is the real deal for sure!" "Thank you so much it was very interesting and a lot of fun." "It was awesome, the time just flew by. THANK YOU!! I feel BLESSED that I attended!!" "I was elated to have my friend get the experience that she did. It gave her a peace that she had been waiting for, for a long time. We all enjoyed experiencing something we may have

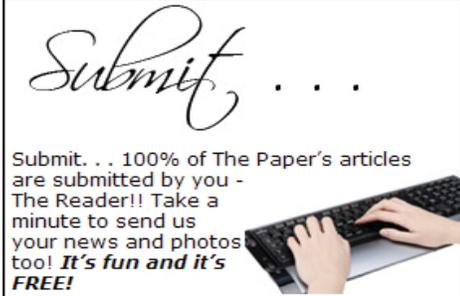
otherwise not had the opportunity." Thanks to the Laurens Public Library Foundation (and your donations to it!) for sponsoring a wide range of programs for our patrons!

New books at our library lately include: *The Immortal Nicholas* by Glenn Beck, *Avenue of Mysteries* by John Irving, *Golem of Paris* by Jonathan Kellerman, *Bazaar of Bad Dreams* by Stephen King, *Christmas Escape* by Anne Perry, *Crimson Shore* by Douglas Preston, *Stars of Fortune* by Nora Roberts, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Pesto* by Mitch Albom (Audiobook too!) and *Promise* by Robert Crais (Audiobook too!) just one new DVD – *Inside Out!*

Book Club is reading "*The Red Hat Club*" by Haywood Smith this month. This lighthearted selection features five southern women, best friends since high school, who plot revenge when one of their husbands is discovered to be having an affair. Pick up a copy and join our discussion Monday, November 26th at 7 p.m.

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
- How Murray Saved Christmas at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14



Submit . . .

Submit . . . 100% of The Paper's articles are submitted by you - The Reader!! Take a minute to send us your news and photos too! **It's fun and it's FREE!**



*Festival
of
Trees*

*Registration due
by November 21st*

*Forms available
at the Library!*

Laurens
Festival of Trees



MONDAY \$2.00 BUD & BUDLIGHT	TACO TUESDAY 5-8 pm	WEDNESDAY LUNCH 11am - 1pm November 25
NIGHT BEFORE THANKSGIVING Wednesday, November 25 Serving RUEBENS from 5-8pm 50¢ off Beer/Drinks 4-6pm		BOWL OF CHILI HAM SANDWICH DESSERT 
	FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR 5-7pm 1/2 PRICE DRINKS	THURSDAY 4-7pm Personal Pan Pizzas
SILVER DOLLAR SALOON		We will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
		135 N 3rd St—Laurens 712.841.6986

Special for Friday night, November 20th

SMOKED BONELESS RIBS
Serving from 5-8 p.m.

Come out and enjoy supper with us!





Laurens 712-841-4930

Spirit Lake 712-336-9111

Toll Free 877-849-1756

80th Birthday

Rich Olson's children, Dane Olson, Julie Potter and Erin Olson, all of Laurens, and Paul Olson of Jamestown, ND, invite you to join them for an open house honoring their dad's 80th birthday on Saturday, November 28, from 2 - 4 p.m., at the West Iowa Bank, 202 W. Main St. in Laurens.

If you are unable to attend the open house, cards may be sent to Rich at: 217 S. 3rd St., Laurens, IA 50554.

Insure Your Possibilities®



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

Insurance.
Retirement.
Investments.



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



*Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 25th
@ 7:00 p.m.
at Bethany Lutheran Church*

*The Laurens Bell Ringers will be performing.
Please bring one non-perishable item for our local food pantry.*

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:

Cardboard - thick and thin
Duct Tape
Masking Tape
Playing Cards (can be mismatched)
Straws
Old CD's
Toilet Paper/Paper Towel Tubes
Wrapping Paper Tubes
String
Egg cartons

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

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



BRIDAL
shower
FOR THE LOVELY
Leslee Allen

Saturday November 21, 2015 9:30-11:00 A.M.
HOME PLATE
310 Main Street, Pocahontas, IA.
Leslee & Brian are registered at Target



Laurens Area Youth Group meetings will be held at
New Hope Baptist Church for the month **November**.

Sunday, November 1st~ Junior High

Sunday, November 8th~ High School

Sunday, November 15th~ Junior High

Sunday, November 22nd~ High School *NOON-1 PM*

Sunday, November 29th~ Junior High

Meetings are held from 6 p.m. -8 p.m.

Laurens Area Youth Group is open to **ALL** youth grades 6th-12th.

The Youth Group is a meaningful, fun & positive program to participate in!

New Member Welcomed

At their November meeting, Alpha Omega Chapter members of Delta Kappa Gamma welcomed reinstated member Jane Schott (center) of Pocahontas. Mrs. Schott is pictured with Alpha Omega President Rae Jean Nuehring (left) and Alpha Omega member and Upsilon State Officer Sandy Aronson. Mrs. Schott recently retired as elementary teacher for Pocahontas Area Community School.

DKG is a professional honor society of key women educators in the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Japan whose mission is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

The Alpha Omega Chapter includes Humboldt, Pocahontas, and Northern Calhoun Counties.



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.

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

Pastor John Mayer

Sundays 9 a.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

Thursday, Nov. 19
2:00 p.m. - Coffee with Pastor

Friday, Nov. 20
7:00 p.m. - AA

Sunday, Nov. 22
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Worship
6-8 p.m. - High School Youth Group at New Hope Baptist Church



Our Town Our Paper!

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Wednesday: November 18, 2015
5:00 PM - Christian Ed/Youth Mtg.
6:00 PM - 125th Steering Committee Mtg.
7:00 PM - Council Mtg.

Thursday: November 19, 2015
9:00 AM - Morning Circle at Pat Boughey's

Sunday: November 22, 2015
Christ the King Sunday
Last Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 AM - SS & Confirmation
9:15 AM - Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM - Worship
12:00 PM - Youth Group (HS) at NHBC
4:00 PM - Laurens Care Center

Tuesday: November 24, 2015
10:00 AM - Coffee w/Pastor
7:00 PM - Hand Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday: November 25, 2015
7:00 PM - Laurens Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at BLC

Worship, Love, Accept~ Together in Christ's Name



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Wed., Nov. 18th:
Praise Band practice @ 5:30 p.m.
Missions Committee mtg @ 6 p.m. (church library)
Puppet Troop practice @ 6:30 p.m.
Worship Committee meeting @ 7 p.m.
Administrative Council mtg @ 8:15 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 19th:
Rachel Circle @ 9:15 a.m. (package candy)

Fri., Nov. 20th:
Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.
Deadline to order poinsettias

Sat., Nov. 21st:
UMW Fall Bazaar

Sun., Nov. 22nd:
Sunday School @ 9:10 a.m.
Fellowship @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.



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)



Women, Land, and Legacy Learning Session

Women, Land and Legacy of Buena Vista and Pocahontas Counties presents a Learning on Soil Fertility by Sarah Carlson, from Practical Farms of Iowa on Thursday, November 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Storm Lake United Methodist Church. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

To register for the Learning Session, contact Colleen Schwanz at Buena Vista County NRCS Office at (712) 732-3096 EXT 3 or e-mail: Colleen.Schwanz@ia.nacdn.net. Registration deadline is Wednesday, November 18.

Send Your News to

The Paper!

www.thepapernow.com

100% User

Generated Content!

Subscribe and
Submit **TODAY!**

Yard and Garden: Staying Clear of Tree and Shrub Damage in Winter

Trees and shrubs should not be ignored during the cold season. Winter brings food scarcity, which makes the home landscape a target for rabbits.

Rabbits can severely damage trees and shrubs unless homeowners are protective and take the right steps before winter even arrives. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists offer tips on how to protect trees and shrubs from rabbits this winter. To have additional questions answered, contact ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.

How do I prevent rabbits from damaging trees and shrubs in the yard over winter? The most effective way to prevent rabbit damage to trees and shrubs in the home landscape is to place chicken wire fencing or hardware cloth around vulnerable plants. To adequately protect plants, the fencing material needs to be high enough that rabbits won't be able to climb or reach over the fence after a heavy snow. In most cases, a fence that stands 24 to 36 inches tall should be sufficient. Small deciduous trees can also be protected by placing white plastic tree guards around their trunks.

Since Iowa's fall weather is unpredictable, it's best to have the protective materials in place by early to mid-November. After a heavy snow, check protected plants to make sure rabbits aren't able to reach or climb over the fencing. If necessary, remove some of the snow to keep rabbits from reaching the trees or shrubs.

Damage may also be reduced by removing brush, junk piles and other places where rabbits live and hide. Repellents are another option. Repellents discourage rabbit browsing because of their unpleasant taste or smell. Unfortunately, repellents aren't always effective and may need to be reapplied after a heavy rain or snow.

Which trees and shrubs are most vulnerable to rabbit browsing in winter? Small trees with smooth, thin bark are most vulnerable to rabbit damage. Apple, pear, cherry, plum, crabapple, honey locust and serviceberry are frequent targets of rabbits. Other frequently damaged plants include the winged euonymus or burning bush, flowering quince, dogwoods, viburnums, cotoneasters, roses and raspberries. Small evergreens, especially pines, are also vulnerable. However, nearly all small trees and shrubs are susceptible to damage when food sources are scarce and rabbit populations are high.

When are trees and shrubs most vulnerable to rabbit browsing? In the home landscape, rabbits feed on herbaceous plants: annuals, perennials, vegetables and grasses during the growing season. Trees and shrubs become food sources in late fall and winter, December through March. Damage to trees and shrubs is most severe in winters with extended periods of snow cover.

Aspects of Farmland Drainage to be Covered at Dec. 10 Workshop

Various aspects of farmland drainage will be the focus of a day-long workshop Dec. 10 at the Polk County Extension office in Altoona. The program begins at 8:15 a.m. and will adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

“This workshop is being offered due to increased interest in this topic the past year,” said Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The morning session will focus on sub-surface drainage design concepts, wetland determinations, Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and long-term benefits of tiling. The afternoon session will include discussions on economics, nutrient cycling in soils, controlled drainage, bioreactors, saturated buffers and managing drainage water quality with wetlands. Legal issues related to tiling and Iowa drainage laws also will be covered.

Attendees will learn information essential to designing and planning a new drainage system or retrofitting an existing system while learning about environmental impacts and new technologies that may be useful in minimizing negative environmental impacts.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach speakers include Kapil Arora, field ag engineer; Kelvin Leibold, farm management specialist; Matt Helmers, professor and extension engineer; Mike Castellano, associate professor in agronomy, Jamie Benning, water quality program manager, and John Baker, Iowa Concern attorney. USDA-NRCS drainage specialist Jim Gertsma is also scheduled to speak.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Farm Bureau of Polk County, various industry partners, and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service are sponsoring the program. Industry representatives from Prinsco, ADS, Midwest Plastic Products, and Agri Drain will be available during the workshop to answer any questions. The workshop qualifies for Certified Crop Advisor credits, which have been applied for.

Registration Information. Registration fee for the workshop is \$40 before Dec. 7; after that date the fee is \$60. Workshop materials, morning refreshments and lunch are included in the fee. Registration can be made by completing the form located at www.extension.iastate.edu/polk and making payment to Polk County Extension. For more information, download the workshop brochure or call ISU Extension and Outreach in Polk County at 515-957-5760.

Publication Offers Solution to Improve Tractor Efficiency and Cut Fuel Cost

A new publication, *Farm Energy: Case Studies – Techniques to improve tractor energy efficiency and fuel savings* (PM 3063D), is now available for download in the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Store. This publication is part of the *Farm Energy: Case Study* series and outlines ways for farmers and ranchers to improve their tractor energy efficiency and save on fuel costs throughout the year.

“Diesel fuel is the largest direct energy cost for Iowa farmers and directly impacts profitability. Small changes in tractor management style can save several thousand dollars per year on many row crop farms without affecting field operations,” said Mark Hanna, agricultural biosystems engineering specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

This publication provides suggestions to reduce fuel costs such as shifting up to a higher gear and reducing engine speed, adjusting tillage depth, decreasing travel speeds, correct tire inflation, dual vs. single tires and mechanical front-wheel drive recommendations.

The *Farm Energy* publications are part of a series of farm energy efficiency resources developed by the ISU Farm Energy team. This outreach effort aims to help farmers and utility providers to improve on-farm energy management and to increase profitability in a rapidly changing energy environment. Follow the team on Twitter @ISU_Farm_Energy.

To find this publication and others, go to the Iowa State University Extension Store, <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/>.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF LAURENS, IOWA ON THE MATTER OF FINANCING OF EQUIPMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the city of Laurens, Iowa, will hold a public hearing on the 7th day of December, 2015 at 5:05 o'clock p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 272 North Third Street, Laurens, Iowa at which meeting the City Council proposes to take action for the financing of a street sweeper.

At the above meeting the City Council shall receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the City to the above action. After all objections have been received and considered, the City Council will at this meeting or at any adjournment thereof, take additional action for the financing of the equipment listed above.

This Notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Laurens, Iowa, as provided by Sections 414.4 and 362.3 of the Iowa Code.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2015.

Barbara Smith
City Clerk

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF LAURENS, IOWA ON THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED REZOING OF FOUR (4) LOTS FROM R-1 TO C-2

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the city of Laurens, Iowa, will hold a public hearing on the 7th day of December, 2015 at 5 o'clock p.m., in the council Chambers, City Hall, 272 North Third Street, Laurens, Iowa at which meeting the City Council proposes to take action for the rezoning of the following properties:

Parcel ID	Description
0127105016	E 15' LOT 4 BLK 24
0127105017	LOT 3 BLK 24
0127105018	LOT 2 BLK 24
0127105019	LOT 50' X 140' of LOT 14 S of OL S

At the above meeting the City Council shall receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the City to the above action. After all objections have been received and considered, the City Council will at this meeting or at any adjournment thereof, take additional action for the rezoning of the properties listed above.

This Notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Laurens, Iowa, as provided by Sections 414.4 and 362.3 of the Iowa Code.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2015

Barbara Smith
City Clerk

STATE OF IOWA
2015
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2015

16207600300000
City Clerk
272 N 3rd St
Laurens, IA 50554

CITY OF LAURENS, IOWA

ALL FUNDS

Item description	Governmental (a)	Proprietary (b)	Total actual (c)	Budget (d)
Revenues and Other Financing Sources				
Taxes levied on property	594,953		594,953	596,789
Less: Uncollected property taxes-levy year	0		0	0
Net current property taxes	594,953		594,953	596,789
Delinquent property taxes	0		0	0
TIF revenues	100,432		100,432	100,000
Other city taxes	119,587	0	119,587	126,844
Licenses and permits	3,361	0	3,361	2,930
Use of money and property	31,283	449	31,732	28,810
Intergovernmental	294,358	0	294,358	280,258
Charges for fees and service	61,505	1,040,309	1,101,814	1,152,263
Special assessments	1,082	0	1,082	880
Miscellaneous	167,118	0	167,118	160,258
Other financing sources	555,220	133,687	688,907	489,238
Total revenues and other sources	1,928,899	1,174,445	3,103,344	2,938,270
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses				
Public safety	329,781	0	329,781	375,040
Public works	179,157	0	179,157	214,054
Health and social services	0	0	0	0
Culture and recreation	236,723	0	236,723	261,054
Community and economic development	51,164	0	51,164	56,382
General government	188,287	0	188,287	188,160
Debt service	219,967	0	219,967	219,897
Capital projects	188,455	0	188,455	216,237
Total governmental activities expenditures	1,393,534	0	1,393,534	1,530,824
Business type activities	0	944,104	944,104	961,007
Total ALL expenditures	1,393,534	944,104	2,337,638	2,491,831
Other financing uses, including transfers out	369,770	290,893	660,663	460,993
Total ALL expenditures/And other financing uses	1,763,304	1,234,997	2,998,301	2,952,824
Excess revenues and other sources over (under) Expenditures/And other financing uses	165,595	-60,552	105,043	-14,554
Beginning fund balance July 1, 2014	557,409	601,860	1,159,269	1,010,803
Ending fund balance June 30, 2015	723,004	541,308	1,264,312	996,249
Note - These balances do not include				
	\$0	held in non-budgeted internal service funds;	\$0	
	\$0	held in Pension Trust Funds;	\$0	held in Private Purpose Trust Funds and
		held in agency funds which were not budgeted and are not available for city operations.		
Indebtedness at June 30, 2015				
General obligation debt	\$1,096,000	Other long-term debt		\$62,703
Revenue debt	\$2,056,902	Short-term debt		\$0
TIF Revenue debt	\$0	General Obligation Debt Limit		\$2,145,616