

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 13 No. 19

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October 9,  
2019

## Local News

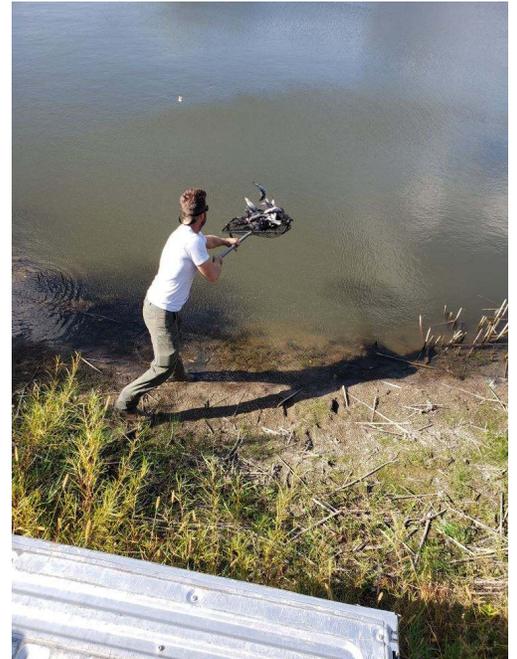
### Catfish Stocked at Sportsman's Park!

When a local group of dreamers began discussing some possibilities for the City's pond at Sportsman's Park, they decided to start by consulting with an expert from the Iowa DNR. But when Ben Wallace, Fisheries Biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources was in Laurens for the consultation last week, he had no idea he would be back so soon. When the opportunity arose Monday to stock the pond with catfish, Ben jumped at the chance.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources stocked approximately 100

channel catfish into Sportsman's Park Pond on Monday, September 30th. The catfish were raised at the Iowa DNR's Rathbun Fish Hatchery in Southeast Iowa. The catfish averaged 0.25 pounds apiece and were about 8 to 10 inches long. The catfish should reach between 12 and 14 inches by this time next year.

Wallace stated, "This stocking came about as a response to the City's desire to improve the aesthetics and recreational opportunity at Sportsman's Park Pond. Channel catfish tend to do well in about every water body that we stock them into, even in smaller ponds like Sportsman's Park Pond. We'll continue to work with the City of Laurens to identify ways to improve access and recreational opportunities at the pond."



## *Lessons of the Holocaust- Albert City Public Library- Presenter: Brad Wilkening*



"I have found this topic to be more relevant now than ever before. The violence, intolerance, bigotry, and hatred must come to an end or our very way of life will be threatened. Bullying and indifference start at an early age, and we have a responsibility to help create a safer more caring environment. We need to be upstanders and not bystanders in the face of evil. My goal is to keep the lessons of the holocaust alive. After this event we said "NEVER AGAIN", yet there are numerous places today where genocide is happening. We as individuals must do our part to help humanity survive the inhumanity that some have toward others. We cannot stand by while people are being tortured and killed for their differences, whatever they may be. I hope this presentation will make us all better students, teachers, friends, and community members. Please allow me the opportunity to try and make this difference."--Brad Wilkening

I grew up in Nevada, IA. Graduated from Augsburg College and started teaching in 1975. I have taught in Albia, Eagle Grove, Laurens-

Marathon, Storm Lake St. Mary's and have substituted in Ankeny and the surrounding metro area. I coached numerous sports while at each school throughout my career.

One of the biggest changes I have witnessed is the advance of technology, both good and bad. Social media is able to allow bullying to go far beyond anything I would have ever comprehended and the results can be devastating. I know this is an issue all schools are undertaking and trying to prevent. The holocaust is an example of the world allowing evil to exist. It is not as much a Jewish issue as it is man's inhumanity toward their fellow man.

Back in 2009 I needed to take a class to renew my teaching certificate and enrolled in a Holocaust class at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL. I had always had an interest in the topic but was not prepared for what was about to happen. During the week I found myself becoming passionate about creating a semester long class for the high school I was teaching at. This topic had been overlooked by most, mentioned as a sidelight of World War II. There is so much more that students needed to know. I did develop the class and the next summer I was chosen by the Illinois Holocaust Museum to attend a week long class at Columbia University. Only 35 people in the U.S were selected and I took the honor very seriously. While there I met some amazing teachers, great scholars on the topic and a number of survivors. I came back even more inspired.

In 2012 I spent 4 days at Newark after once again being selected for a class

sponsored by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. Only 35 people were allowed to participate in this class also. We discussed how to get Holocaust education into schools and other venues. I heard amazing speakers and again met many survivors. After talking to members of the Holocaust Education Center in Illinois, I decided I did not want to push for state mandated learning on the issue. The main reason was teachers do not want the state telling them what they have to teach and educators that would not be properly prepared to teach such a topic. As a member of Iowa's Holocaust Commission, it was decided we would make recommendations for implementing Holocaust education into existing curriculum. It will be interesting to see if this has any positive effects. I believe Storm Lake St. Mary's was the only school in the state to offer a semester long class on the topic. Even in Illinois, where it is required, most schools only spend between 2-6 weeks on it at most.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, I became convinced that my job as an educator needed to reach far beyond making my students smarter. That is what I had been doing for 25 years. Now I knew I needed to make them better people, more humane, more caring, and understanding. This is what I want this presentation to embody.-- Brad Wilkening

Mr. Wilkening will be speaking at the Albert City Public Library on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7pm. He encourages you to bring your Junior High and High School students to this presentation.

Refreshments will be served after the program.

## Library and Museum Team Up for Program and Exhibit

Did you know that clothing can make you sick, break your bones and even kill you? Come to the Laurens Public Library on October 15 at 1:30 to hear the program Fashions to Die For – Really by Iowa historian Kathy Wilson. This program explores 18th and 19th century fashions and the deadly secrets hiding behind those fabulous looks.

The Pocahontas County Historical Museum will join the fun with a supporting exhibit that afternoon from 12:30-4:00. Their exhibit, From Cradle to Grave: A Display of Clothing Worn in Happy and Sad Times, will feature clothing and artifacts from childhood to mourning.

If you are not able to come on October 15, the display will stay in place for a little while. If you or your club would like to see it, just call Connie Dallenbach at 841-2222 or Dorothy Lamberti at 845-4496 or send us an email us at: pc.historical.museum@gmail.com. to arrange a time to visit.

## Laurens Women’s Club to Meet

Laurens Women’s Club will meet on Friday, October 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Homestead Cooperative of Laurens. Lois Jirgens will present the program “Amber is a Real Gem”. The member of the serving committee will be Dorothy Long.

*Marathon Fire Department*

# FALL BREAKFAST

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆



*Sunday, October 13*  
*Serving from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Serving Pancakes, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits & Gravy, Sausage, Bacon, Hashbrowns, Coffee, Juice & Milk**

*Come Hungry, Leave Full!*

### FLU VACCINATION CLINICS

#### Protect Yourself

Provided by:  
POCAHONTAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
712-335-4142

10/08/19	12:00- 1:15	<u>LAURENS</u>	City Hall
10/09/19	8:00- 9:00	<u>ROLFE</u>	Rolfe Comm. Center
10/09/19	11:00 - 12:30	<u>POCAHONTAS</u>	Courthouse
10/10/19	10:30- 11:30	<u>HAVELOCK</u>	Northwest Internet
10/15/19	8:30 - 9:00	<u>PALMER</u>	St. Paul Lutheran
10/15/19	9:30- 10:00	<u>FONDA</u>	City Hall
10/17/19	3:30 - 5:30	<u>POCAHONTAS</u>	Courthouse

**Please call the office if these times don’t work for you.**

\*Immunizations will be given as long as supplies of vaccine are available.

FEE: \$25.00 OR MEDICARE PART B – (If eligible we will bill)  
**BRING YOUR MEDICARE CARD!**

In addition to Flu clinics, Pocahontas County Health Department also provides, In-home Home Health Care Services, including Nursing and Home Care Aide Service.

## Musical Group 'R&R Line' to Entertain at the Fonda Arts Center

The musical group 'R&R Line' will roll into the Fonda Arts Center to entertain on Sunday, October 13th at 3 PM.

The group consists of Rex Wittrock and Roger Christiansen, both of Storm Lake, Iowa. The group started playing together as a duet five years ago, blending their vocals over Rex's guitar and Roger's keyboard. The outcome has been an eclectic musical mix ranging from American standards, to traditional polkas, to 'The Eagles'.

The R&R Line has performed before in the Arts Center in 2018. In addition, they have played for block parties, anniversaries, dinner dates and numerous Senior Centers in the area. Their highlight was playing the CellularOne Stage at the 2017 Clay County Fair.

Their special guest at the Arts Center that afternoon will be song selections performed by Roger's granddaughter, Kaylea Christiansen. Kaylea is a recent graduate of Iowa Lakes Community College and has a promising music career ahead of her.

Everyone will enjoy listening to the music of R&R Line along with Kaylea Christiansen. The entertainment and refreshments will be free to the public.

# Fundraiser

Pulled Pork Sandwich Lunch

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

11 am to 1 pm

at

Laurens United Methodist Church  
201 W Main St.  
Laurens

Serving: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Salads, Bars  
Water, Lemonade, Milk and Coffee



All proceeds will be going to Heifer International  
Hosted by Laurens United Methodist Church Mission Committee

## Pocahontas County Democrat Fundraiser

October 12, 2019

Laurens Golf & Country Club

5:00pm – Social Hour

6:00pm – Dinner

7:00pm – Guest Speakers

J. D. Scholten,

Candidate for US House, 4<sup>th</sup> District

Kimberly Graham,

Candidate for U. S. Senate for Iowa

8:00pm - Auction

Items: Antiques, Collectables,  
Baked Goods, Hand-made Items  
Patriotic Bed Quilt



For reservations call:  
Sherry Williams, 335 - 4621

## Bridal Shower

A come & go bridal shower for Madison Pfeffer, bride elect of Brady Bailey will be held Sunday, October 13 from 1-3 p.m. at West Iowa Bank, 202 W Main St, Laurens.

Madison & Brady are registered at Lizziedoodle Gifts & Home Decor, Heart & Home and Zola.com.

**Fundraiser Supper**  
**5-7 pm Thursday,**  
**OCTOBER 24**  
**First Christian Church**

**MENU: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Coleslaw, Cheesy Potatoes, & Pineapple Upside-Down Cake**




**Laurens Public Library Foundation**

**WILSON**  
**TOYOTA**  
 www.wilsonofames.com



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 Office: 515-232-4081  
 Toll Free: 1-800-232-4081  
 cjm@wilsonofames.com

**Pocahontas Community Healthcare Foundation 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser Event**



**Saturday, October 19 ~ Pocahontas Expo Center**  
 Social Hour: 5:30-6:30 p.m. • Dinner: 6:30 p.m.  
 Cash Bar: 7:30 p.m. • Live Band: 8:30 p.m.

*Dinner & TWO shows this year!!*

*Enjoy a Murder Mystery Dinner and Live Music after dinner show by Stimulus Package!*

\$100/couple or \$50/single • Only 150 tickets will be sold!  
 Ticket Includes: Hors d'oeuvres, Supper & Door Prizes

Contact Amanda Tendal at PCH: (712) 335-3501 for more information or to purchase tickets. Tickets can also be purchased from any Healthcare Foundation or Hospital Board Member!



Money raised this year will be used for the purchase of Power-LOAD cot for our new ambulance!

**Pocahontas Community Hospital**

An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health

*Thank you for your support!*



*If you or someone you care about is living with a brain injury, you are not alone. We are a group who lives with or cares for someone who lives with brain injury! We exist to support, encourage, understand, inform and provide fellowship for brain injury survivors and those involved in their lives.*

### **Northwest Iowa TBI Support Group**

A monthly support group held 2nd Thursday of the month  
 Location: United Methodist Church, 201 W. Main St., Laurens (Park and enter on the south side of the church off of Olive St)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Rob Schramm by calling: (515) 570-9816 or e-mail: NWIowaTBIGroup@gmail.com

*At the Library*  
*with Glenda Mulder*  
*October 9, 2019*

One of our favorite program presenters, Historian, Kathy Wilson will return Tuesday, October 15 at 1:30 p.m. with her new program, Fashions to Die For! Did you know that clothing can make you sick, break your bones, and even kill you? It's true! It can even drive you mad! This program takes a look at 18th- and 19th-century fashions and the deadly secrets hiding behind those fabulous looks, and tackles some of those urban myths, too, including whether it was possible for Scarlet O'Hara to have an 18-inch waist! For more information, come to the library Tuesday afternoon, you won't want to miss this one!

The last time Kathy was here, she visited the County Museum next door, sharing her expertise and ideas. The Museum curators have taken those ideas to heart and made a special display From Cradle to Grave; A Display of Clothing Worn in Happy and Sad Times. The Pocahontas County Historical Museum, right next door to the library, will be open an hour before and an hour after the Fashions to Die For! program.

New novels include: *Sisters of Summit Avenue* by Lynn Cullen, *Stealth* by Stuart Woods, *Let it Snow* by Nancy Thayer, *Child's Play* by Danielle Steel, *Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, *The Paris Orphan* by Natasha Lester, *Guardians* by John Grisham and *The Book of Bones* by John Connelly.

In nonfiction: *The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11* by Garrett Graff was purchased in memory of history buff, Ron Cowan by Greg & Deb Hertz.

Our Fall fundraising supper is scheduled for Thursday, October 24. We'll again have pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, and cheesy potatoes, topped off with pineapple upside-down cake! Yum! Plan now to join us. Money raised will fund ongoing projects, as well as a few more things we have up our sleeve!

October seemed like a good month to read a good mystery, so our Book Club will be reading Karen Slaughter's *Cop Town*. Slaughter is a favorite of many of our library patrons. And with a last name like Slaughter, what else could she be but a mystery writer?! Check out a copy and join our discussion Monday, October 28 at 7 p.m.

**COMING EVENTS**

- Tot Time Every Monday at 10 a.m.
- Book Club 7 p.m., 4th Monday of the month
- Card Making 6:30 p.m. 4th Tuesday monthly
- Take it Tuesday 6:30 p.m. the 1st Tuesday of the month
  - Historian Kathy Wilson - 1:30 p.m. October 15
  - Library Foundation Supper - 5-7 p.m. October 24
    - Halloween Magician – 7 p.m. October 31
  - Story Teller Darrin Crow – 7:00 p.m. November 6

**The Paper**

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## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

Pastor Ed Frank

**Wed., Oct. 9:**

Book Club @ 9 a.m.  
Crochet Club @ 10 a.m.  
Puppet Troop @ 7 p.m.

**Thurs., Oct. 10:**

Brain Trauma Support Group mtg @ 6 p.m.  
(Wesley Room)

**Fri., Oct. 11:**

Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

**Sun., Oct. 13:**

Adult Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School (kids) @ 9:10 a.m.  
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.  
Bible presentation to 3rd Grader Students  
Caring Cards 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Youth Group BOARD meeting @ 5 p.m. at  
the First Christian Church  
Youth Group (HS) meeting from 6-8 p.m. at  
the First Christian Church



## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

**Wednesday: October 9, 2019**

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

**Sunday: October 13, 2019**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS  
9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship  
10:30 AM ~ Worship  
4:00 PM ~ Laurens Care Center  
5:00 PM ~ Youth Group Board Mtg. at FCC  
6:00-8:00 PM ~ Youth Group at FCC

**Monday: October 14, 2019**

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

**Tuesday: October 15, 2019**

7:30 AM ~ Prayer Group  
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Thursday: October 17, 2019**

9:00 AM ~ Morning Circle at Jan Hersom's

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



## *Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church*

Pocahontas, IA -- Pastor: Very Rev. Craig Collison, VF

**MASS TIMES:**

Daily Mass as scheduled in the weekly bulletin  
Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at 10:30 AM

**Confessions:** Saturday 4:15 pm at Resurrection

**Office:** 16 SW 2nd Street, Pocahontas

**Office Phone:** 712-335-3242

**Residence Phone:** 712-335-8065

**E-mail:** colly@ncn.net

**Pastoral Care:** Sister Renae Hohensee, 563-552-8666

## *This Week at First Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

712-845-6164

**Wednesday, Oct. 9**

7:00 p.m. - Lydia Group

**Friday, Oct. 11**

7:00 p.m. - AA

**Sunday, Oct. 13**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship  
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group Board Meeting at  
First Christian Church  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Laurens Area Community  
Youth Group



## ***Women Managing Horses Course Is for Female Equine Owners***

***This four-session course is designed to educate and encourage women horse owners***

No doubt about it, women are the majority owners and caretakers of horses.

In Iowa, horse ownership is big business, with nearly 55,000 horses, ponies, mules and donkeys on more than 9,000 farms. The state's total annual sales of equine was \$19.7 million, ranking Iowa 11th in the nation as reported by the United States Department of Agriculture's 2017 Census of Agriculture.

Recognizing the value of Iowa's equine, a group of Iowa State University educators and private industry professionals will hold a four-session course called Women Managing Horses, beginning November 14.

The course will touch on the major business risks of raising, handling and marketing healthy horses, as well as provide opportunities for participants to interact with some of the state's

most qualified equine experts. The women-centered course is designed for women of all ages and experience levels.

"The Women Managing Horses course is a unique program offering information on business finance as well as horse care concepts," said Peggy Auwerda, associate professor in animal science and extension equine specialist at Iowa State University. "Some of the topics are cost of production, marketing strategies, insurance, nutrition, environmental management and veterinary care."

Women Managing Horses provides research-based information and decision tools to help women manage their equine business.

"Peggy Auwerda has put together a course that is very relevant to horse owners. I'm proud her new course is inspired by Annie's Project and uses many of the same key principles such as a focus on risk management, local guest speakers and participant involvement," said Madeline Schultz,

program manager for Women in Ag at Iowa State University.

Participants will receive a workbook, and sessions will be held Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12. Each session lasts for three hours and will be held at the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Wright County office in Clarion. A meal will be shared at 5:30 p.m., and the sessions start at 6 p.m.

The cost of the course is \$75 and includes all printed materials. Register online by Nov. 12 at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/> or contact Sarah Zwiefel, outreach and marketing coordinator for ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County. She can be reached at 515-532-3453, or [szwiefel@iastate.edu](mailto:szwiefel@iastate.edu).



### **Price Reduced! 302 Bissell St. ~ Laurens, IA**

**This is a great family home!**

**1464 sq ft living, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, very nice large corner lot with a 2 car oversized garage.**

**Call for your own private showing.**

**The Sale Barn Realty & Auction**

**401 1/2 E. Elm Pocahontas, IA**

**Rick Winegarden, Broker 712-358-0974**

**Lori Jergens, Sales Associate 712-480-3593**

**Pictures & More Auctions Go To: [salebarn.ncn.net](http://salebarn.ncn.net)**



## *Aquatic, Forest and Right-of-Way Continuing Instruction Course is October 16*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will host an Aquatic, Forest and Right-of-Way Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019. The program, provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by sessions from 9 to 11:30 a.m. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Dianne Dirks at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

The course will provide continuing instruction credits for commercial and public pesticide applicators certified in categories 2 (Forest Pest Control), 5 (Aquatic Pest Control), 6 (Right-of-Way Pest Control), and 10 (Research and Demonstration). Topics to be covered are: recognition of sensitive areas, including groundwater and other non-target sites and organisms (pollinators) as potentially impacted by pesticide applications, drift and runoff; pesticide labels; restricted entry intervals and preharvest intervals; aquatic weed management; bur oak blight treatment; and roadside weed management. Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered through the PSEP Program can be accessed at [www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP).

## *4-H Awards Program*

All 4-H'ers and their families are invited to the annual 4-H Awards Matinee that will be held at the Rialto Theatre in Pocahontas on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. We will celebrate the successes of the previous 4-H year and welcome new members. All Clover Kids and 4-H members are encouraged and welcome to attend. Not a 4-H member? Please give the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County a call to get your child enrolled today at 712-335-3103.

## *Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management Course Offered October 24*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will offer the Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Thursday, October 24, 2019. The program, provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by sessions from 9-11:30a.m. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Dianne Dirks at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 7D (Community Insect Management), 8 (Public Health Pest Control), and 10 (Research and Demonstration). The course will cover topics such as: recognition of sensitive areas and other non-target sites; pesticide labels including restricted entry intervals; pests, pest management, and pesticides, including a variety of environments; and specific factors which may lead to a hazardous condition.

Additional information about this and other courses offered through the Pesticide Safety Education Program may be accessed at [www.extension.iastate.edu/psep](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep).

## *Two Dairy Field Days Spotlight Forage Management and Crossbreeding*

The I-29 Moo University is hosting two dairy field days in November. Each field day will start at 12:30 PM CST and wrap up around 3:30 PM. Light refreshments and SDSU ice cream will be served. These field days are offered at no cost, so be sure to come join us for a tour of the dairies and in-depth discussions. Details for each of the field days is below.

**Wednesday, November 13, 2019:  
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Join us at Summit Dairy, 5564 390th St, Primghar, IA 51245. Owner, John Westra will take us through a tour of the milking parlor, cattle housing, and the commodity and mixing building. Summit Dairy's breeding strategy will be discussed. Dr. Hugo Ramirez, Iowa State University, will discuss feeding this year's silage, feeding issues he is seeing, and pile management.

John Westra and his family purchased Summit Dairy in 2012. They moved from California and jumped right into caring for the 400 cows. Over the years, they expanded the dairy to over 800 dairy cows. The cows are housed in free-stalls and milked three times per day. As part of the expansion, John built a commodity and feed mixing building. This allows feed to

be loaded and mixed indoors, which reduces waste and decreases moisture variability in the feedstuffs.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019:  
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Join us at Tri Cross Dairy, 45144 289th St, Viborg, SD 57070. Take a tour of the facilities and engage in open discussion with owners, Tom Koolhaas/Wes Bylsma, and manager, Kris Vander Kooy. They will share their experiences with utilizing crossbreeding within the dairy to create a durable and productive cow herd. Amy Hazel, University of Minnesota, will discuss reasons why interest in crossbreeding in dairy cattle is growing globally, explain the basics of rotational crossbreeding for dairy cattle, and present the detailed results of a 10-year study in high-performance Minnesota dairy herds where ProCROSS cows were found to be more profitable than their Holstein herd mates.

Brother-in-laws, Wes Blysmas and Tom Koolhaas, founded Tri Cross Dairy in 2017. They both grew up on California dairies and desired to expand their farms and landed in the I-29 Dairy Corridor, near Viborg, SD. The dairy is named for its Tri-crossed, or Pro Cross breed of cattle, which are a combination of Holstein, Montbeliarde, & Swedish or Viking Red Cattle. The 4,000 cows are housed in a 1,200-foot cross-ventilated-free-stall barn and milked in a 100-head rotary parlor.

REGISTER for one or both field days at <https://z.umn.edu/I29Moo>.

QUESTIONS about the field days, please contact: Jim Salfer ([salfe001@umn.edu](mailto:salfe001@umn.edu), (612) 360-4506), Fred Hall ([fredhall@iastate.edu](mailto:fredhall@iastate.edu)),

(712) 737-4230), or Tracey Erickson ([Tracey.Erickson@sdstate.edu](mailto:Tracey.Erickson@sdstate.edu), (605) 882-5140).

The field days are hosted by I-29 Moo University, a collaboration of South Dakota State University, University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, North Dakota State, and University of Nebraska Extension Services, Iowa State Dairy Association, South Dakota Dairy Producers Association, Nebraska State Dairy Association and MN Milk Producers Association.

## *4-H Year Begins*

The new 4-H year began September 1. If you have a child in Kindergarten through 12th grade, 4-H has a spot for you. We have community clubs throughout the county and K-3 Clover Kids meet in Pocahontas.

To get enrolled, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County at 712-335-3103 or [lzeman@iastate.edu](mailto:lzeman@iastate.edu)

## *4-H Sewing Workshop*

4-H'ers have the opportunity to sew dog beds for their own dog or to be donated to an animal shelter Wednesday, October 16. This is a free workshop but we do ask that you sign up by calling the Extension office no later than October 11 at 712-335-3103.

## *When Life Gets Tough, Iowa Concern Can Help*

Sometimes life gives you a lot to handle, but you don't have to handle everything on your own. Iowa Concern is a free service connecting Iowans with information to help them navigate through a variety of life circumstances.

With a toll-free phone number, live chat capabilities and a website, Iowa Concern services are available 24 hours a day, seven days per week at no charge. Iowa Concern provides access to stress counselors and an attorney for legal education, as well as information and referral services for a wide variety of topics. The service is provided through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

To reach Iowa Concern, call 800-447-1985; language interpretation services are available. Or, visit the website, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern/>, to live chat with a stress counselor one-on-one in a secure environment. Or email an expert regarding legal, finance, stress, or crisis and disaster issues.

"All personal information given to Iowa Concern, whether on the hotline or through e-mail or live chat, is kept confidential," said hotline coordinator Tammy Jacobs.

Jacobs is coordinator for Iowa Concern and all Human Sciences Extension and Outreach hotlines at Iowa State. These hotlines answered more than 30,000 calls last year, Jacobs said. Along with Iowa Concern, callers were contacting Healthy Families, TeenLine, 2-1-1 and AnswerLine, the extension hotline for home and family questions.

She also suggests visiting Human Sciences Extension and Outreach's "Finding Answers Now" at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/content/finding-answers-now> website for additional information and resources on dealing with stress.

Jacobs can be reached directly at [trjacobs@iastate.edu](mailto:trjacobs@iastate.edu) or 515-727-0656.

## *Help Your Child Build Literacy Skills with Everyday Activities*

Activities and family time combine for learning and fun in Raising School Ready Readers, a program for preschoolers and their families offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"We are excited to share this program because it helps busy parents discover simple ways to help turn everyday routines and experiences into learning opportunities for reading and writing skills, says Kim Brantner, a human sciences specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

"This program helps parents prepare their children to succeed in school and gain independence, while they have fun together as a family," added Brantner, who specializes in family life issues.

Trained facilitators will offer a series of five interactive literacy activity nights for parents and their children ages 3 to 6. To learn more about the program, contact ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103.

"Children really love coming to these sessions because they get to play games and spend time with their parents. At the same time parents are learning and practicing easy techniques to help their children become successful readers and writers," noted Brantner.

"We know parents with children this age often wonder how to get them on a path to be successful in school and become good readers," Brantner said.

"Reading proficiently by third grade is an important predictor of high school graduation and career success," according to Brantner. "In addition, children who have good literacy skills are less likely to fail in school or repeat a grade, drop out, or exhibit delinquent behaviors."

The Raising School Ready Readers program will give your child a head start on school readiness with fun activities focusing on these important areas of literacy: 1) learning how books and print work, 2) playing with sounds in words, 3) communicating with others, 4) knowing the names of sounds and letters, and 5) making sense of books and other print materials.

ISU Extension and Outreach recently trained 24 extension staff as Raising School Ready Readers to facilitate this effort.