

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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February 10, 2016

Local News

New Giggle Mirror at Laurens Public Library

Library Director Glenda Mulder's nephew Bryce and niece Logan are pictured checking out the Laurens Public Library's new giggle mirror!

This was purchased with donations in memory of their little sister Mia Faith Stoullil.

This new item at the library should provide entertainment for many of the library's young patrons. Maybe some young at heart patrons will enjoy it, too!



United in Faith Contributes to Helping Hands Food Pantry

United in Faith Shared Ministry members brought special offerings every third Sunday as a campaign against hunger. United in Faith is a shared ministry consisting of three congregations, Grace Lutheran, Marathon, Our Savior's Lutheran, Albert City, and St. John Lutheran, rural Albert City. Congregations brought pantry and hygiene items or money for their offerings. A total of \$2,397.23 was given in monetary offerings and 399.81 pounds of food or hygiene products were delivered to the Helping Hands, a Food Pantry in Albert City. A Thrivent Action Team coffee to celebrate the giving to the Helping Hands Food Pantry was held last November at St. John Lutheran Church. A Thrivent Impact Card purchased the coffee and food items. The remainder of Thrivent Impact Cards last fall purchased 477.48 pounds, which was added to the other items for a total of 877.26 pounds given to the food pantry.



Country Maid is Pleased to Announce Acquisition

Country Maid, Inc. is pleased to announce its acquisition of all the assets of Dutch Country Apple Dumplings, Inc. The company was founded by Andy Hamsher in Orrville, Ohio in 1987, and has fulfilled its commitment to treating customers, vendors, associates, and owners according to Christ's example.

"Country Maid is grateful that Andy has entrusted us with the task of serving Dutch Country's customers by continuing to produce high quality cake rolls and apple dumplings. We believe that Country Maid's culture and humble beginnings align us to continue Andy's vision," stated Country Maid's CEO Darin Massner.

The acquisition provides Country Maid the opportunity to strengthen its position in the fundraising market while diversifying into the retail channel. It expands the company's position as a safe, quality food manufacturer while growing its product portfolio and distribution capabilities.

Country Maid has been a producer of high quality laminated dough and other pastry products for nearly twenty five years. As a 100 percent employee-owned company, Country Maid continues to grow and live out the mission of "Helping Others Help Themselves". To learn more about Country Maid, visit the website www.countrymaid.net.

Dutch Country



Local Producers Encouraged To Enroll In FSA ARC/PLC Program

Enrollment for the 2016 Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) began on December 7th. Currently just 15% of farms have completed enrollment in Pocahontas County. The deadline to enroll in ARC/PLC is 8/1 2016. The Pocahontas Farm Service Agency (FSA) office is encouraging producers to get enrolled early prior to spring planting preparations. No appointment is necessary to enroll.

The ARC-CO program provides revenue loss coverage at the county level. ARC-CO payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC-CO guarantee for the covered commodity. PLC program payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price for that commodity. If payment triggers are met for the 2016 ARC and/or PLC programs, payments would be issued sometime after October 1, 2017.

If enrollment is not completed by 8/1/2016 and later payments are issued on 2016 contracts, any farms not enrolled will NOT be paid. 2014 ARC-CO payments issued on Pocahontas County farms were substantial! Please make 2016 enrollment a priority. Any questions or concerns can be addressed by contacting the Pocahontas FSA office at 712 335-3596.

Upcoming Class Reunion

The Laurens Classes of 1970 and 1971 will be holding a reunion on July 9, 2016 beginning at 5:00 at the Laurens Country Club. The event will be in conjunction with the Laurens Summer Fest, so additional ways to participate will be available. Those in the Class of 1970 are encouraged to contact Bob Stewart at 515-556-4900, roberthstewart@yahoo.com; and the Class of 1971 should contact Frank Koenig at 319-212-0688, frnkkoenig@hotmail.com. Classmates should also join the Facebook reunion page. A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

**Friday Night,
February 10th Special:**

**To kick off lent any fish
or shrimp on menu will
be 10% off! Full menu
also available!
Serving from 5-8PM**



Beginning Experience

There's a special loneliness for those who find themselves single again. But, now there's help...Beginning Experience of Northwestern Iowa will be holding their next weekend for divorced, widowed, or separated persons on March 4-6, 2016, at Camp Okoboji in Okoboji, Iowa. Through talks, group dialogue, and personal reflection, persons of all faiths have an opportunity for growth, healing, and closure on the past in order to begin anew. Guidelines recommend that participants be widowed at least one year, divorced at least six months or separated 6-9 months prior to divorce. Please contact Patti Willer Snyder at 706 Vestal; PO Box 875, Storm Lake, IA 50588; pattisnyder77@gmail.com; 712.299.3697 and leave a message for further information or to register.

One Blood Donation Will Save Three Lives

Each year, more than 500,000 lives are positively impacted across Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota because of LifeServe Blood Center blood donors.

It takes less than one hour to give blood and in that hour, a volunteer blood donor can help save the lives of up to three different hospital patients. LifeServe encourages regular blood donors to schedule their next appointment, and invites new, first time donors to roll up their sleeve to save lives.

Make a difference and schedule your appointment at an upcoming blood drive.

- Laurens Community Blood Drive, Thursday, February 25, 2016 from 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM at United Methodist Church, 201 West Main Street.

Sign up to save a life today! Schedule a blood donation appointment online at lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800.287.4903.

LifeServe Blood Center was established in April, 2010 when The Blood Center of Iowa joined operations with Siouxland Community Blood Bank. As one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe Blood Center provides blood and blood products to more than 100 hospitals located across Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. LifeServe is committed to saving lives by providing premier service to volunteer blood donors and access to a safe, quality blood supply for hospitals and patients. For more information about blood donation or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 800.287.4903 or visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org.

**VACANCY
LAURENS-MARATHON CSD
2015-2016**

Full Time Night Custodian

Hours will be 3:00p.m. -11:00p.m.

Must be able to lift up to 40 lbs

Maintenance experience preferred

Interested applicants need to send a resume/application to:

Jeff Kruse, Superintendent

Laurens-Marathon CSD

300 W Garfield St

Laurens, Iowa 50554

Position will be opened until filled

E.O.E/AA

Albert City Library News for February 2016

Ahhh....February...the month of Love! Our newest nonfiction for adults includes some books on this theme: *People Tools for Love and Relationships* by Alan C. Fox –if you want to improve your connections to others, be it a spouse or friend, and don't we all?...this book is for you! This book asks us to remember what matters most and gives us insights and tools to reach our goals of closer relationships with those we love. *We'll Be Friends Through Thick and Thin* –celebrates the blessings of laughter and friendship through poetry that puts a smile on your face, reminds us what true friendship looks like and that it is better than chocolate in so many ways! *The Pioneer Woman Cooks-Dinnertime* by Ree Drummond includes comfort food classics, 16 minute meals and other delicious ways to solve supper all with that special dash of love. Ree the ever happy, calm and collected, ranch woman shows us how it is done in her kitchen. *The Duck Commander Kitchen presents Miss Kay Celebrating Family and Friends...* need I say more? This family oozes with love and it is reflected in Kay's new cookbook. There is salt sprinkled throughout with bible verses, sweetness galore with beautiful pictures of family, and honest to goodness recipes with that southern charm and simplicity that Miss Kay lovingly shares with the world. *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi explores what happens when a young brain surgeon, with a promising future, is diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he is a doctor saving lives and the next day he is the patient struggling to live! Can he make sense of life, of death? Paul Kalanithi died before he finished the book, but his words live on as a guide and a gift for all of us. *A Doctor in the House—my life with Ben*

Carson, by Candy Carson describes the chaotic life with a neurosurgeon. Together they have lived through poverty, tragedy, wealth, joy, all with a healthy dose of laughter and love.

Fiction offers Always Something There to Remind Me by Beth Harbison, a riveting novel of the tender agony of first love. Young adults will enjoy *What We Left Behind* by Robin Talley which describes what happens to high school sweethearts that are hopelessly in love and determined to not fall into the casualties of long distance romances that fall apart, as they head off to separate colleges. Can they survive or succumb to the complexities of life?

Movies relating to love include: *The Age of Adaline* starring Blake Lively as a 29 year old who survives a near death experience and from that day on never grows older. Adaline guards this secret until a charming philanthropist and his parents force her to confront her destiny in this unforgettable tale about the timeless power of love. *Woodlawn*, a true story about the spiritual awakening capturing the hearts of nearly every player on the Woodlawn High School football team. Their dedication to love and unity in a newly desegregated school filled with racism and hate, leads to the largest high school football game ever played in the torn city of Birmingham, Alabama, and the rise of superstar, Tony Nathan.

Brother's Keeper – identical twins, Andy and Pete have always been there for each other. With high school graduation near, Pete plans to marry the love of his life and head off to seminary to become a preacher. Andy, a rebel at heart, has no plans and seemingly no future. In a cruel twist of fate their lives are altered forever. *Brother's Keeper* is a powerful reminder that only forgiveness can truly heal.

Special children's books for February come from donors in memory of Betty Brown-long time 2nd grade teacher in Albert City. Betty loved poetry, and children remember learning a poem each

month, so we have purchased Caroline Kennedy's *Poems to Learn by Heart*, *A Child's Book of Poems* by Gyo Fujikawa, *Read-aloud Rhymes for the Very Young* by Jack Prelutsky and *Poetry for Young People* by Robert Frost. All the books have wonderful illustrations to accompany the poems, truly to engage the children and make for beautiful books. Thank you donors!

On our website we have a new link to a Community Calendar. We are trying to post upcoming community events as a service to the community. Please be patient as we try to plug in monthly information. Please let the library know of community events you would like posted.

Maddy Bjork is providing Tech Time for all those device challenged individuals (and there are a lot of us out there). She is a pro at I-phones, I-pads, laptop computers and the like. No question is too silly or complicated. Come in and let Maddy make your life run more smoothly in this high tech world on Wednesday nights from 4-5 p.m. The charge is \$5 per session. If your smart-phone has outsmarted you....then this quality time is for you!

Lego building has been a great pastime at the library for the last several months. We have a different Lego contest every month. Children and adults alike have enjoyed the process. What do children learn from Legos? Lego building awakens creativity and strengthens fine motor skills, builds confidence and self esteem, plus it is lots of fun! It is an activity parents and children can do together, creating quality time that speaks volumes to children that they are valued and loved.

Keep in mind that the library has magazines, cookbooks, cake pans, puzzles, books on tape, CDs, large print books for the visually impaired, along with all the regular fiction, nonfiction, movies and children's books. There is something in the library for every interest. We are here for you. Come in and check it out!

Albert City Library Lego Building Contest Winners!



Emily with her winning creation titled Who wants to go to New York? The Statue of Liberty.



Alexandra and Addilyn with their 2nd place creation: Mansion with an Arch.



Asher with his 3rd place creation: Town.

*Sign of
an Early
Spring!?*



Laurens resident, Dawn Nelson spotted these robins in her back yard on Saturday, January 23! Many of us are hoping this is a sign of an early Spring!



Lenten Lunch Schedule:

Feb. 17th ~ Laurens Care Center
(program by New Hope Baptist Church)

Feb. 24th ~ Bethany Lutheran Church

March 2nd ~ Laurens United Methodist Church

March 9th ~ Sacred Heart Catholic Church

March 16th ~ First Christian Church

All lunches will be held @ 11:30 A.M.
with a Love Offering.

Laurens Public Library Event Calendar

- Baby Sitting Clinic 11:00-4:00 February 24
- Lego MindStorm Robotics 4:00-6:00 February 24
 - Tot Time every Monday at 10 am
 - Tell Me a Yarn Mondays 5-7 pm
- Writers Free for All is 3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm
 - Book Club is 4th Monday of the month at 7 pm
 - Card Making is the 4th Tuesday of the month
 - Cricut Play Date March 1st at 6:30 p.m.



Friday February 19, 2016

5:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Adults \$10.00

Children (12 & under) \$5.00



**Knights of Columbus
Sacred Heart Parish Center
250 Ralston Street
Laurens, IA 50554**

Call Town & Country
Floral for all your
Valentine's Day Needs!

Roses, fresh bouquets, balloons, plants,
home decor and more!!!

Order Early, Please.

Workplace orders delivered free.

Call: 841-4616

After hours: 841-4417

Valentines Week Hours:

Monday-Friday ~ 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday ~ 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday ~ 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Valentine's Day comes from the Heart....

Heart 'n Home

3 easy ways to order:

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Text: 712.358.4210

Online: HeartnHomeOnline.com

Free local deliveries

Fresh flowers | Spring Silks | Chocolates
Tassel Ridge Wine | Bath & Body | & more!



Click Here



*Roses are red
Violets are blue
We really need a new
swimming pool
Will you help support us
too?*

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL REMODELING CONTRACTORS

The City of Laurens is seeking qualified general contractors to bid on remodeling jobs within the City. The work is being financed through a grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Typical repairs may include re-roofing, re-siding, foundation repair, window/door repair and/or replacement, painting, electrical and mechanical work.

No person will be excluded from the opportunity to submit bids on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, handicap, political affiliation, citizenship, or family status.

Minority and women contractors are encouraged to participate. Contractors with Certifications of training in Lead-Safe Work Practices will be required on some projects.

The first Open Houses will be held on February 8, 2016 with Bid Letting on February 23, 2016.

Interested contractors should contact: Simmering-Cory, Inc.
 PO Box 141
 Clear Lake, IA 50428
 641-357-7554
 or Laurens City Hall.

E.O.E.

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

Laurens Women's Club to Meet

The Laurens Women's Club will meet on Friday, February 12 at 1:30 p.m. at West Iowa Bank in Laurens. The program will be about "Vintage Clothing and Accessories" presented by Elsie Moore and Connie Dallenbach. Members of the serving committee will be Grace Hertz, Jeanette Korreck and Joyce Rigby. Everyone is asked to wear or take some vintage clothing or accessory for show 'n tell.

The Paper

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LAURENS AREA YOUTH GROUP

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 7TH JUNIOR HIGH

FEBRUARY 14TH HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 21ST JUNIOR HIGH

FEBRUARY 28TH HIGH SCHOOL

Marathon Community Center Soup & Pie Luncheon

Sunday, February 14, 2016
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Free Will Donation
Marathon Community Center
Memberships Available

Single Membership - \$35
Family Membership - \$45

SAVE THE DATE BECAUSE
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
FIRST ANNUAL

RELAX AND CREATE DAY RETREAT

If you are looking for a place to Scrapbook, meet new people and laugh, then this is the event for you! Come and escape for a day of Scrapbooking! Join us for the entire day, on **February 27 from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM at the Parish Center in Laurens, 263 Ralston St Laurens, IA 50554.** Space is limited so please be sure to reserve your seat today! Cost will be \$35.00 per person, all proceeds will be given to the Junior – Senior Laurens Marathon After Prom.

INCLUDES:

- *ROLLS, LUNCH AND SUPPER*
- *GOODY BAGS*
- *MAKE & TAKE PROJECT*
- *INTERNET*
- *CLOSE TO MY HEART VENDER*
- *RAFFLE*
- *UNLOAD AND LOAD VALET*



REGISTRATION

FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

SCRAPING FRIENDS SEATING REQUEST:

FRIEND _____

FRIEND _____

ELECTRIC OUTLET YES _____ NO _____

PLEASE SEND REGISTRATION TO THE BELOW ADDRESS, MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO L-M AFTER PROM.

KRISTIN FANSEGA 712-299-6795 OR
344 S. 1st Street
Laurens, IA 50554

LAURIE SULLIVAN 712-358-0078
428 E Garfield St.
Laurens, IA 50554

MONDAY \$2.00 BUD & BUDLIGHT	TACO TUESDAY 5-8PM	THURSDAY CREATE YOUR VERY OWN PERSONAL PAN PIZZA 5-7pm	FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR ~ 5-7pm 1/2 PRICE
WEDNESDAY LUNCH 11AM - 1PM FEBRUARY 17 Chicken Noodle Soup Ham Sandwich Dessert	WEDNESDAY DRINK SPECIALS 4-6PM ~ SAVE 50¢ ON ALL	SILVER DOLLAR SALOON 135 N 3rd St—Laurens 712.841.6986	

Thank You!

The outpouring of support with acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us since the loss of our dear Jeanie Brodale has warmed our hearts. The food, flowers, cards, and memorial gifts mean so much.

We want to express special appreciation to Pastor Jim Turner, Dennis Larson, Connie Dallenbach, the Methodist ladies, Cindy Schultz and Powers Funeral Home for each special touch you all added to the day of celebrating Jeanie's life.

*Dan and Alice Pomeroy
Megan Pomeroy and Amira Mouw
Michael Pomeroy
Deryll and Joyce Brodersen
George and Delores Pomeroy
Gail Marshall*



Laurens 712-841-4930

Spirit Lake 712-336-9111

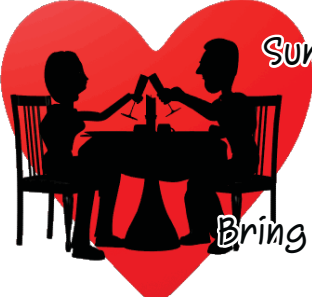
Toll Free 877-849-1756

Valentine Luncheon

at Laurens Golf & Country Club
Sunday, February 14 ~ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Baked ham dinner, includes mimosa (regular & non-alcoholic) and dessert. \$15 per plate

Bring your sweetie & celebrate in style.
Questions? Call (712) 450-2144



**2016 Laurens
Kiwanis Show
Saturday, March 19
at 7 p.m.
Laurens-Marathon
School Gym**

**Featuring:
The Senders
Rock & Roll Hall of
Fame Band**

**Adults: \$10
Students: \$5**

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, Feb. 10
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

Friday, Feb. 11
7:00 p.m. - AA

Sunday, Feb. 14
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 First Christian

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Wednesday: February 10, 2016
7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Service w/ Communion

Thursday: February 11, 2016
7:00 PM - Hand Bell Rehearsal

Sunday: February 14, 2016
First Sunday in Lent
9:00 AM - SS & Confirmation
9:15 AM - Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM - Worship
6:00 PM - Youth Group (HS) at FCC

Tuesday: February 16, 2016
10:00 AM - Coffee Time

Wednesday: February 17, 2016
11:30 AM - Lenten Luncheon at Laurens Care Center
5:00-7:00 PM - FCC Men's Soup Supper
5:00 PM - Christian Ed/Youth Mtg.
6:00 PM - 125th Steering Committee Mtg.
7:00 PM - Lenten Evening Service
Council Mtg. to follow

Thursday: February 18, 2016
3:30-5:00 PM - Kid's Club at FCC
7:00 PM - Hand Bell Rehearsal



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Wed., Feb. 10th:
Ash Wednesday
Book Club @ 9 a.m. (Wesley Room)
Hands of Hope Puppet Troop @ 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 11th:
Bible Study @ 8 p.m. (Linda Lingo's home)

Fri., Feb. 12th:
Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

Sun., Feb. 14th:
First Sunday of Lent
CAMP SUNDAY
Sunday School @ 9:10 a.m.
Fellowship @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker- Okoboji Methodist Camp staff member
Choir practice @ 7 p.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)



Babysitting Clinic 2016

ISU Extension and Outreach will be holding a Babysitting Clinic for 5th and 6th graders. It will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 from 11:00am – 4:00pm at the Laurens Public Library (273 N 3rd St.). Participants will learn the basics of CPR, home safety, money management, how to make a healthy snack. They will finish the day discussing the ages and stages of young children. Participants are asked to bring their own sack lunch. Register early for the class size is limited to 20 participants. For question, please contact Program Coordinator, Holly Frerk, at 712-335-3103 or email hfererk@iastate.edu.

Finances of Caregiving

As American life expectancy increases, it is increasingly likely that adults will end up caring for an elderly parent or relative. “For most working Americans, becoming a caregiver affects their finances, whether by reducing earnings or increasing expenses,” explains Barb Wollan, ISU Extension Human Sciences Specialist in Family Finance. “Caregivers can reduce financial risk by considering and planning for their own long-term financial well-being even while caring for a loved one.”

Finances of Caregiving, a new five-part series from ISU Extension and Outreach, will be held Tuesday evenings from February 16 through March 15 at the Humboldt County Extension and Outreach office. While the program’s focus is on tools and strategies to assist caregivers in protecting their own financial well-being, participants gain information that may also improve the financial well-being of the person for whom they are caring.

“Being a caregiver does not necessarily mean having someone living in your home,” Wollan points out. “Caregiving includes many different ways in which people provide assistance, such as transportation or household tasks. It may mean reducing work hours or leaving work entirely, which has substantial impact on both short-term and long-term finances.” Finances of Caregiving helps caregivers to gather information, become aware of resources, and consider the overall financial impact of caregiving in order to make the best possible decisions for all who are involved.

Pre-registration is required by February 12 for Finances of Caregiving. To register, contact Humboldt County Extension at 515-332-2201. Although there is normally a registration fee, the program and materials are being provided free thanks to sponsorship from Humboldt County Extension and Outreach.

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Our Town Our Paper!

Private Pesticide Applicator Training is February 18th in Pocahontas County

Private pesticide applicator continuing instruction course (CIC) program will be held in Pocahontas on Thursday, February 18th starting at 9:30am at the Rialto Theatre, Pocahontas.

To preregister for the pesticide training in Pocahontas County, please stop by the Extension office to fill-out the registration form.

Certified applicators who do not attend annual training will have to take an exam to re-certify.

Exam testing dates and times can be found at the following website: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Pesticide/pdf/2016/2016IDALSPESTICIDEAPPLICATORCERTIFICATIONWINTERTESTSCHEDULE.pdf>

Yard and Garden: Dealing with Unusual Growths on Trees

Trees add value to the landscape, so homeowners may become concerned when their trees develop unusual growths. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists explain what causes some of these growths. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.

There are black growths on the branches of my chokecherry. What are they? The black growths probably are black knot, a fungal disease that occurs on chokecherry, European birdcherry and several other wild and cultivated cherries and plums. The black growths (galls) can vary from a few inches to a foot or more in length.

Black knot is caused by the fungus *Apiosporina morbosa*. Fungal spores produced on 1-year-old and older galls initiate new infections. The knots are soft when newly formed and later become hard and black with age.

Black knot is difficult to control. If only a few galls are present, prune out the infected branches in late winter. When pruning, make the cut at least 3 to 4 inches below the gall. The pruned material should be removed from the area

and destroyed. Several fungicide applications may help prevent future infections. The fungicide applications should begin just before bud break and continue until after fruit set. Attempts to control black knot in badly infested trees are likely to be unsuccessful. When dealing with severe black knot infestations, the best options are to do nothing or remove the tree and replace it with a black knot resistant tree.

There is a large growth on the trunk of my maple tree. What is it? The growth on the trunk of the maple tree is likely a burl. Burls are abnormal swellings or growths that develop on the trunks and branches of trees. Burls can be found on deciduous trees and evergreens. The exact cause is unknown. Possible causes include bacteria, fungi, insects, wounds or environmental stress.

Burls do not kill trees. However, they may reduce the tree's vigor. On a positive note, the unusual swirling grain pattern found in burls makes them prized by woodworkers. Burls can be carved into bowls, furniture and other objects.

There are golf ball-sized growths on the branches of my pin oak. Each growth has several horn-like projections. What are they? The growths on the pin oak are a type of gall. Galls are abnormal growths of plant tissue induced to form by mites, insects or other small organisms. The galls on the pin oak are called horned oak galls because of the horn-like projections that protrude from the surface of mature

galls. Horned oak galls are caused by a tiny wasp (*Callirhytis cornigera*).

The life cycle of *Callirhytis cornigera* is unique. It consists of alternating generations that give rise to two distinct types of galls produced by two groups of female wasps. In spring, wasps emerge from mature horned oak galls. At this time, all of the wasps are female. The female wasps deposit their eggs on developing leaves. This initiates the development of tiny leaf galls along the leaf veins. Adult wasps emerge from the leaf galls in mid-summer. This group of wasps includes both male and female wasps.

Mated females lay their eggs on twigs, initiating the development of horned stem galls. Each gall houses anywhere from 1 to 160 larvae. Each larva is housed individually in a cone-like structure within the gall. Wasp development in twig galls takes almost three years. As the immature wasps reach pupation, the horns rise from within the gall to break through the surface and release the adult wasps.

Pin oaks with small infestations of horned oak galls are not seriously harmed. However, heavy infestations can cause tree decline and even death. Fortunately, heavy infestations of horned oak galls on pin oaks in Iowa are not common. There are no effective control measures for home gardeners.

Form 631.1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET ESTIMATE

FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016 - ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

City of Laurens, Iowa

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at City Hall
on 3/6/2016 at 5 pm

The Budget Estimate Summary of proposed receipts and expenditures is shown below.

Copies of the the detailed proposed Budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, and at the Library.

The estimated Total tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on regular property . . . 22.35348

The estimated tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on Agricultural land is 3.00375

At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.

712-841-4526

phone number

Barbara Smith

City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME

		Budget FY 2017	Re-est. FY 2016	Actual FY 2015
		(a)	(b)	(c)
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	607,665	575,058	594,953
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	607,665	575,058	594,953
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	103,000	0	100,432
Other City Taxes	6	110,956	124,683	119,587
Licenses & Permits	7	2,540	2,650	3,361
Use of Money and Property	8	23,538	124,765	31,732
Intergovernmental	9	324,120	294,689	294,358
Charges for Services	10	1,133,656	1,202,419	1,101,814
Special Assessments	11	500	500	1,082
Miscellaneous	12	51,700	159,000	167,118
Other Financing Sources	13	0	350,000	28,244
Transfers In	14	278,248	310,179	660,663
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	2,635,923	3,143,943	3,103,344
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	382,656	377,390	329,781
Public Works	17	154,725	143,392	179,157
Health and Social Services	18	0	0	0
Culture and Recreation	19	265,135	244,207	236,723
Community and Economic Development	20	24,500	114,500	51,164
General Government	21	106,200	100,705	188,287
Debt Service	22	292,748	218,974	219,967
Capital Projects	23	401,150	1,025,000	188,455
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	1,627,114	2,224,168	1,393,534
Business Type / Enterprises	25	1,048,026	1,087,859	944,104
Total ALL Expenditures	26	2,675,140	3,312,027	2,337,638
Transfers Out	27	278,248	310,179	660,663
Total Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	2,953,388	3,622,206	2,998,301
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	-317,465	-478,263	105,043
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	786,049	1,264,312	1,159,269
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	468,584	786,049	1,264,312

City Council Minutes

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 pm, February 1, 2016. Mayor Pro-Tem, Rich Newgard, called the meeting to order. Present were Council Members Jean Swanson, Sid Enockson, Ken Kunickis and Julie Potter; City Attorney, Ann Beneke; Police Chief, Chris Toner; Public Works Director, Julian Johnsen; and City Manager, Barbara Smith. Mayor Rod Johnson was absent.

Kunickis motioned to approve the consent agenda consisting of the agenda, minutes from the January 18, 2016 meeting; minutes from the January 27, 2016 workshop; the list of claims, and approval of the Sunday Sales Liquor License for Silver Dollar Saloon. Motioned was seconded by Swanson. Ayes all; motion carried.

There were no questions pertaining to the budget.

Potter motioned to approve Resolution 08-16, Setting the date of March 7, 2016 for the budget public hearing; seconded by Kunickis. Roll call vote: ayes all; motion carried.

Swanson motioned to dismiss the municipal infractions on the property located at 107 Hazlett Street if repairs are completed and have passed inspection prior to February 20; seconded by Kunickis. Ayes all; motion carried.

Newgard motioned to approve closing Third Street from Walnut to Main Street on June 11, 2016 for the Rally for Veteran's event; seconded by Swanson. Ayes all; motion carried. This is a street closure only. Outside liquor sales were not discussed at this time.

Potter motioned to approve Resolution 09-16, approval to open a new checking account at Laurens State Bank for the purpose of online fund raising for the new swimming pool; seconded by Kunickis. Roll call vote: Ayes all; motion carried.

CLAIMS	02-01-16		
AFLAC		INSURANCE	633.70
ALLIANT ENERGY		UTILITIES	478.17
ARAMARK		SUPPLIES	339.69
BARB SMITH		MILEAGE	75.82
BOMGAARS		CLOTHING	39.99
BROWN SUPPLY		SUPPLIES	300.00
CARPENTER UNIFORM		PD UNIFORMS	272.41
CHRIS TONER		SUPPLIES	114.81
DATA TECH		FORMS	143.51
ECHO GROUP		LIGHTING	42.84
HIWAY TRUCK EQUIP		SUPPLIES	191.00
ICMA		RETIREMENT	200.00
IMFOA-2		CONFERENCE	60.00
IRS		TAXES	4,083.81
IOW ONE CALL		LOCATES	3.65
IA UTILITY ASSOC		CONFERENCE	50.00
IPERS		RETIREMENT	4,451.02
IPERS/PD		RETIREMENT	1,835.87
KEEP IA BEAUTIFUL		DUES	100.00
LAURENS CHAMBER		DUES	50.00
LMPC		COMMUNICATION	4,314.99
LMU		UTILITIES	7,445.15
LAURENS STATE BANK		NEW ACCOUNT	100.00
METERING & TECH		WATER METER	470.57
MIDWEST BREATHING		SUPPLIES	523.81
POC CO ENGINEER		SAND/SALT	861.51
PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER		IT	228.49
R B LUMBER		SUPPLIES	631.34
RICHARDSON SERVICE		VEHICLE SERVICE	1,065.23
SHAMROCK RECYCLE		RECYCLE	1,600.41
STEVE CRAIG		CPO TRAINING	180.00
TREASURER STATE OF IA		TAXES	4,630.00
USA BLUE BOOK		REPAIRS	190.34
ZIEGLER		SUPPLIES	78.08
		TOTAL	<u>35,786.21</u>
	PAYROLL	12/21/2015	
	001	GENERAL	3,999.44
	210	ROAD USE TAX	1,348.63
	600	WATER	2,153.38
	610	SEWER	1,817.32
	670	GARBAGE	2,148.85
		TOTAL	<u>11,467.62</u>
		PAID TOTAL	<u>47,253.83</u>
	BY FUND		
	001	GENERAL	16,977.25
	110	ROAD USE TAX	5,936.39
	174	POOL RESTRICTED	100.00
	177	GRANTS	631.34
	200	DEBT SERVICE	1,500.00
	600	WATER	11,198.00

610	SEWER	4,957.94
670	GARBAGE	<u>5,952.91</u>
		<u>47,253.83</u>

REVENUES BY FUND - DEC

001	GENERAL	13,964.44
110	ROAD USE	11,313.50
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	648.03
113	EMERGENCY	50.88
121	LOCAL OPTION	8,028.35
174	POOL RESTRICTED	6,991.00
176	HOMETOWN PRIDE	9,770.00
177	GRANTS	4,890.00
200	DEBT SERVICE	836.46
300	CAPITAL IMPROVE	99.07
600	WATER	39,550.80
610	SEWER	19,381.30
670	GARBAGE	20,456.72
745	STORM WATER	<u>2,679.21</u>
		<u>138,659.76</u>

Potter motioned to adjourn at 5:20 pm, seconded by Kunickis. Ayes all; motion carried.

Rich Newgard, Mayor Pro-Tem

Barbara Smith, City Clerk

The Laurens City Council held a budget workshop at the Municipal Building at 5:00 pm, January 27, 2016. Present were Council members Rich Newgard, Jean Swanson, and Julie Potter; Police Chief, Chris Toner; Public Works Director, Julian Johnsen; and City Manager, Barbara Smith. Sid Enockson and Ken Kunickis were absent.

The fiscal year 2017 budget was discussed.

There were no motions or votes.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Barbara Smith, City Clerk