

# The Paper

*Our Town, Our Paper!*



*Laurens, Iowa*



*Vol. 10 No. 3*

[www.thepapernow.com](http://www.thepapernow.com)

*May 18, 2016*

## *School News*

### *Girls Track Takes Crown and Sends 10 Events to State!*

Thursday night, May 12 the PAC/LM Girls Track team dominated in Garner, winning the meet to qualify for State. The Indians will send 13 athletes in 10 events to the 2A State Meet, which begins tomorrow, Thursday, May 19.

Kenzie Sullivan placed first in shot put with a throw of 37' 9.75" and her teammate Janie Brinkman finished second with a throw of 34' 8.5". Sullivan also qualified for state in the discus with a throw of 127' 2". Jill Vonnahme got first in the 3,200 meter run with a time of 11:26.25. In the 4x200, Destini Oehlertz, Taylor Thomas, Elle Ruffridge and Faith Meyer took first with a time of 1:49.60. Taylor Thomas, Elle Ruffridge, Faith Meyer and Katie Berte won the 4x400 in 4:07.86. Thomas, Ruffridge, Katie Berte and Grace Meyer ran the 4x800, qualifying with a time of 10:08.89. Ruffridge, Thomas, Grace Meyer and Olivia Ahlers won the sprint med with a time of 1:43.59. The last relay to win was the shuttle hurdle in a time of 1:08.75. Payton Hjerleid, Kara Neumann, Faith Meyer and Grace Meyer are the shuttle hurdle group. Faith Meyer also qualified in the 400 meter hurdles with a second place time of 1:06.51. Destini Oehlertz took silver in the 1,500 with a time of 5:17.57 to qualify. The girls finished the night in first place with 140 points, the second place team was 31 points below the Indians.

The Indian Boys Track team also qualified four events that night for the State meet. Jacob Kramer won the high jump with a personal best of 6'. Devon Weidauer finished second in the discus with a season best of 132' 9". Tyler Behrendsen will run the 400 meter hurdle. He placed second with a time of 58.10, which was a season best! The 4x800 team qualified with a second place finish of 8:24.47. This team consists of Tanner Youngberg, Calbe Ricke, Noah Anderson and Danny Sommerlot.



### *State Track Schedule*

#### **Thursday, May 19**

- 9 a.m. - Girls Shuttle Hurdle Relay
- 9 a.m. - Girls Shot Put
- 9:40 a.m. - Girls 3,200 Meter Run
- 11:10 a.m. - Girls 4x800 Relay
- 12 p.m. - Boys 4x800 Relay

#### **Friday, May 20**

- 9 a.m. - Boys High Jump
- 9 a.m. - Girls Discus
- 10:50 a.m. - Girls 4x200 Relay
- 11:20 a.m. - Boys 400 Hurdles
- 11:30 a.m. - Boys Discus
- 11:40 a.m. - Girls 400 Hurdles
- 1:20 p.m. - Girls 4x400 Relay

#### **Saturday, May 21**

- 9 a.m. - Girls Sprint Med
- 11:10 a.m. - Girls Shuttle Hurdle Relay
- 2:15 p.m. - Girls 1,500 Meter Run
- 3:35 p.m. - Girls 4x400 Relay

# RELAY FOR LIFE

Of Pocahontas County

Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PAC Elementary School Gym  
208 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, Pocahontas, IA



Honoring Cancer Survivors - Special Laps & Ceremonies  
Fun Activities for Kids & Adults - Refreshments

## VENDORS

Wendy Hopkins Designs – Handcrafted Jewelry  
Vantel Pearls – Amanda Gutz  
Usborne Books – Brittanie Dusenberry  
Tupperware by Becky – Becky Orwig  
Timeless Beads by Kathy Jo – Kathy Jo Kruse  
Thirty-One Gifts – Rachel Patterson  
Tastefully Simple by Sue Wenell  
Silpada – Cindy Dubbert  
Paparazzi \$5 Jewelry – Shari Nesbitt  
Origami Owl Custom Jewelry – Brandi Peters  
Nerium International – Linda Ranthum  
K & E Beads – Kelly Van Sickle & Elaine Mooney  
Clever Container – Amy Hotovec  
Bottoms Up Wellness – Sarah Pohlman Hager  
doTERRA Essential Oils Educator and Wellness Coach

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR VENDORS FOR DONATING 25%  
OF THEIR PROCEEDS TO OUR RELAY. PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THEM!

[www.relayforlife.org/pocahontascountyia](http://www.relayforlife.org/pocahontascountyia)

## *L-M Teacher Initiated into Alpha Omega Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma*

The Alpha Omega Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma initiated two women educators, Terrie Allen and Emily Habben, at their May meeting. Pictured (L-R) participating in the initiation ceremony are: Jennifer Wells of Fonda, Susan Carlson of Humboldt, Sandy Aronson of Albert City, Rae Jean Nuehring of Albert City, initiate Terrie Allen of Pocahontas and initiate Emily Habben of Laurens.

Delta Kappa Gamma 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 of DKG includes Humboldt, Pocahontas, Northern Calhoun and Northern Webster Counties.



## The Laurens Ambulance Service has a need for drivers.



You do not need a CDL, just a valid drivers license, CPR certification (we provide this training) the ability to lift 50 lbs and a willingness to serve and help the community.

If you are interested, stop down at B & K Embroidery for more information and an application.

## At the Library with Glenda Mulder May 18, 2016

We are sad because our Tot Time season is almost over. (It runs during the school year, from Labor Day to Memorial Day) But now Lori is gearing up for Summer Reading! The theme this year is "On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!" and the Summer Olympics will tie right in to our reading and story times. We have scheduled many fun guests including Dan Wardell (June 15), Blank Park Zoo (July 13) and Pockets Full of Fun (July 27). There will be other visitors, but those are the highlights. Just know that your kids will want to be at the Library every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. this summer!

New additions at the Library this week include DVDs *The Choice*, *Norm of the North* and *The 5th Wave*. New novels include: *Decent Proposal* by Kemper Donovan (Audiobook too!) *LaRose* by Louise Erdrich, *Maestra* by L.S. Hilton, *The Troublemaker* by Linda Howard, *Prayers the Devil Answers* by Sharyn McCrumb, *Beyond the Ice Limit* by Douglas Preston, *The Weekenders* by Mary Kay Andrews (Audiobook too!)

May's Book Club choice is the award winning "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger. I'm looking forward to digging into this mystery. This author uses the Boundary Waters of Minnesota for a setting in most of his books. I like this descriptive quote I found in a book review, "Told from Frank's perspective forty

years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God." Join our discussion next Monday, May 23rd at 7 p.m.!

### Event Calendar

- Hazel Twig Author Ruth Agle  
June 20 at 7 p.m.
- Tot Time every Monday at 10 a.m.
  - Tell me a Yarn every Monday at 5 p.m.
- Book Club is 4th Monday of every month at 7 p.m.
- Card Making is the 4th Tuesday of every month
  - Author Heather Gudenkauf  
July 25 at 6:30 p.m.

**Laurens Golf &  
Country Club has a  
New Lunch Menu!**

**More selection,  
lower prices,  
SAME GREAT TASTE!**



## L-M 5th Grade Iowa History Trivia

Are you ready to see how much you know about Iowa History? Ready or not, here's what we've got!!

When was the Iowa River Valley opened to settlers? (Gavin S.) ***Iowa River Valley was opened in.....1845!***

What color are the goldfinches' eggs? (Jackie N.) ***Pale blue***

Did you know that Alvin Straight was born on October 17, 1920?

He married Frances Beek on October 17, 1946. Alvin dies on November 9, 1996 in Sioux City, Iowa. (Eathen R.) ***Did you know?***

1,232 people live in Laurens, Iowa. So, ask them how many people live in their town!! (Addison O.) ***Have you asked anyone? (or has anyone asked you?)***

Now back to researching and seeing what you already know about Iowa History...

***Who is the Indian who took Abbie Gardner Sharp? (Alia W.)***

***How many different varieties did Paul and Helen have on Little Cedar Creek Game Farm? (Taylor H.)***

***True or False? Iowa is the most haunted state out of all fifty states. (Desirae W.)***

***What are the parents' names of the Villisca Axe Murderers? (Hannah H.)***

The L-M Fifth Graders will return with answers, when you return to read!!

## *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, robertstewart@yahoo.com; and the Class of 1971 should contact Frank Koenig at 319-212-0668, frnkkoenig@hotmail.com. Classmates should also join the Facebook reunion page. A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

### **FOR SALE:**

Mantis Tiller/Cultivator.  
Used very little. Purchased  
for \$350 asking \$275.  
Call: (712) 845-2416

### **FOR SALE**

NETGEAR Wireless  
Router - N300 (WNR2000)  
purchased last summer  
and never used.  
Costs \$38 on Amazon.com  
Selling for \$23.  
Call: (712) 841-4645

**SPECIAL FRIDAY,  
MAY 20<sup>th</sup>:**

**Pork Chop Dinner  
or order off our  
full menu!**

**Serving begins  
at 5 p.m.**



## *Happy 90th Birthday!*

Jeanette Oleson Johnson Hawley will turn 90 on Saturday, May 28! Birthday wishes can be sent to 311 E. Olive St., Laurens, IA 50554.

However, everyone is invited to celebrate with Jeanette at a reception in her honor, hosted by her children, to be held on Sunday, July 10, 2016 at the Laurens Country Club from 2-5 p.m.



## *Thank You!*

The family of Phyllis A. Vial says "Thank You" to friends and neighbors for their support and kindness at the Celebration of Life held on Saturday for our mother. A special thank you to the United Methodist Women for the lunch. Monetary gifts will go to Alzheimer's Research. We are grateful for family and friends like you at this time.

*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!*



# The Paper

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Realizing a new pool and bath house is not in Laurens' immediate future, The Hometown Pride Committee applied for Diamond Vogel's Paint Iowa Beautiful grant and received enough paint to give our old bath house a fresh coat.

The local Boys Scouts have taken on the painting as a volunteer project and have a good start on it. It looks so much brighter and better already!

Laurens Plumbing will also be donating the labor to repair the drainage issues in the bathhouse.

The New Pool Committee would like to thank our community for working together to make our bath house usable while funding is being secured for the New Pool Project.

**Everyone....Let's Create a SPLASH together by:**

**-Using our New Online Donation page:**

**<https://www.youcaring.com/residents-of-laurens-501476>**

**-Sending a Tax Deductible Donation to:**

**Laurens Pool Project**

**c/o City of Laurens**

**272 North 3rd Street**

**Laurens, IA 50554**

**-Dropping it off at City Hall**

**Like us on Facebook:**

**Laurens Pool Project**

**[www.laurens-ia.com](http://www.laurens-ia.com)**

## *New Arrival*

Alexis and Brad Draeger are proud to introduce to you their daughter Gwendolyn. Gwen had an exciting arrival on November 3, 2015 at Mercy Medical Center in Des. Moines. She was 9 weeks early! Gwen weighed in at 3 lbs. 3 oz and was 16 inches long. She came home January 4, 2016 after 62 days in the NICU. The family has now gotten into their new groove. Gwen is the grand daughter of Dean and Kristi Pedersen

of Laurens, Leslie Balsley of West Des Moines, Harley Balsley of Webster City, Karen Draeger and Rick Leeper of Webster City, and the late Glen Draeger of Webster City. Her great grandparents are Myles and Shirley Pedersen of Laurens, Joyce Majorowicz of Palmer, and the late Mary Powell of Webster City.



**Laurens** 712-841-4930

**Spirit Lake** 712-336-9111

**Toll Free** 877-849-1756

## *Letter of Thanks!*

*To My Dear Friends,*

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the lovely cards and notes. It made my birthday so very special. We have very fond memories of our years in Laurens. We are planning to come to Iowa over Memorial weekend. Maybe we will see some of you then!! Blessings on each and everyone of you.

*Pat Lindstrom.*

## **HELP WANTED:**

Vaughn DeLoss Construciton is taking applications for full or part time equipment operating and construction labor.

Equipment operating and concrete finishing experience preferred. Truck driving or machanic experience helpful. Currently working in Laurens. Must have a license and be dependable. Call: (712) 260-1129

EEO

## *Help Needed*

The Avenue of Flags and the grave site flags will be put up on Saturday, May 28. We will start at 8 a.m. We will welcome anyone who would like to help. If you have any questions, please call Lee Bailey at: (712) 358-4420.

# Order of Events for Memorial Day 2016

- \* Start Time - 9:00 a.m. Monday, May 30, 2016
- \* Welcome - Patricia Bailey
- \* The "Star Spangled Banner" played by the L-M Band -  
Directed by Rachel Plummer
- \* Opening Prayer - Larry Perkins
- \* Pledge of Allegiance - By Everyone
- \* "Marches of the Armed Forces" played by the L-M Band -  
Directed by Rachel Plummer
- \* Speaker - Senator Tim Kraayenbrink
- \* Reading of the Honor Roll - Patricia Bailey - Members of  
our Local Boy Scouts will place the wreaths
- \* Closing Prayer - Larry Perkins
- \* The color guard is made up of members of our local  
VFW and American Legion
- \* "Taps" will be done by a member of the band

# 2016 Laurens Swimming Pool Schedule

**Pool Manager:** Kelly Tate

## **AMERICAN RED CROSS SWIMMING LESSONS:**

**Session 1: June 20-July 1**

**Session 2: July 11-22**



***Pool Opens***  
***Saturday, May 28***  
***@ 1 p.m.***  
***(Weather permitting)***

**HOURS: Daily 1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. &  
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.\***  
(May 31-June 7, pool will be open  
4:30 to 8)

**\*The pool will be closed during  
inclement weather: Air temperature  
under 68 degrees, rain, lightning, or  
threatening weather.**

## **2016 Season Prices**

Family Season: \$100.00

Family Monthly: \$50.00

Individual Season: \$60.00

Individual Monthly: \$30.00

Daily Rate: \$3.50

Lessons: \$35.00

All passes may be purchased at  
City Hall or at the pool entrance.

**POOL PHONE: 841-4772**  
**CITY HALL PHONE: 841-4526**

*The City of Laurens*

# LARSEN FOR SHERIFF

*Vote*  
June 7<sup>th</sup>



- Well Qualified
- 35 Years in Law Enforcement
- Cohesive with Public & Other Law Enforcement Agencies
- Chief Deputy for 20 Years
- Responsible Tax Spending

Paid for by  
Brian Larsen

Marathon Fire Department  
Invites You to Join Us for our  
Annual Spring Breakfast!!

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Serving from:  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Serving pancakes, scrambled eggs,  
biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon,  
french toast, hashbrowns,  
coffee, juice and milk.



Free Will  
Donation



Please join us for a Pampered Chef  
**BRIDAL SHOWER**  
in honor of  
**Jena Hopkins**  
&  
**Kris Hauswirth**

Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>  
9:30-11:30am  
Evangelical Free Church  
212 Flower Street, Albert City, IA



No need to bring a gift - the bride and groom have picked out lots of fun kitchen gear from The Pampered Chef Catalog!

Please share a copy of your favorite recipe for Jena & Kris



**Midwest Chow  
Wagon Food Truck**

Monday-Friday  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Hwy 10 Hardware Lot  
Find our daily specials  
on Facebook or on  
Channel 2!

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

**Pastor John Mayer**

**Satradays 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  
Bethany Lutheran*

**Wednesday: May 18, 2016**

6:00 PM ~ Christian Ed/Youth Mtg.  
6:00 PM ~ 125th Steering Mtg.  
7:30 PM ~ Baccalaureate at FCC

**Thursday: May 19, 2016**

9:00 AM ~ Morning Circle at the church  
7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

**Sunday: May 22, 2016**

**The Holy Trinity**

9:30 AM ~ Graduate Reception  
10:30 AM ~ Worship w/ Honoring  
Graduates  
2:00 PM ~ Laurens-Marathon Graduation

**Tuesday: May 24, 2016**

10:00 AM ~ Coffee Time

**Thursday: May 26, 2016**

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

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



**Bethany**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*North American Lutheran Church*

*This Week at  
Laurens United  
Methodist Church*

**Wed., May 18th:**

**NO Worship Committee meeting  
NO Missions Committee meeting  
NO Administrative Council meeting**

**Thurs., May 19th:**

Rachel Circle @ 9:15 a.m. (Wesley Room)  
Dorcas Room @ 2 p.m. (Wesley Room)  
NO Bible Study at Linda Lingo's home

**Fri., May 20th:**

Men's Bible Study @ 7am

**Sun., May 22nd:**

Fellowship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship @ 10:30 a.m. - Filling the pulpit:  
Harriet Boothby  
Administrative Council meeting following  
church



*This Week at First  
Christian Church*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Wednesday, May 18**

1:00 p.m. - Willing Workers  
7:30 p.m. - Baccalaureate at First Christian  
Church

**Thursday, May 19**

2:00 p.m. - Coffee with Pastor

**Friday, May 20**

7:00 p.m. - AA

**Sunday, May 22**

**No Sunday School until Fall**

10:30 a.m. - Worship



*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

*Sacred Heart Church Laurens*

*Pastor - Father Francis Makwinja*

*Weekday Mass : Friday, 8:00 AM*

*Weekend Mass: Saturday, 5:00 PM (March - June)*

*Cluster Parishes:*

*St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sioux Rapids*

*Weekday Mass: Monday & Wednesday, 8:00 AM*

*Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10:30 AM (March - June)*

*St. Louis Catholic Church, Royal*

*Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 AM*

*Weekend Mass: Sunday, 8:30 AM (March- June)*



## *Summer Webinars Help Gardeners Grow in Knowledge*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is hosting the seventh annual “Growing Season” webinar series at multiple locations across Iowa during June, July and August. Gardeners will learn about benefits of shade in landscape, tree problems and native garden insects.

This series is offered by the Iowa Master Gardener program and is open to all interested gardeners. Participants are not required to have completed master gardener training to attend.

Each of the three webinars feature an Iowa State University faculty or staff member presenting the two-hour course at an ISU Extension and Outreach county office. Course topics and speakers include:

- Got Shade? June 22, 2016, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, - ISU Extension and Outreach horticulturist Denny Schrock will teach participants how to use shade plants in the landscape while focusing on plants native to Iowa.

- Getting to the Bottom of Tree Problems – July 20, 2016, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, with Lina Rodriguez-

Salamanca, ISU Extension and Outreach plant pathologist and diagnostician with the ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic. Participants will become familiar with some of the common symptoms of tree problems, and what to look for when identifying symptoms.

- What’s all the Buzz About? – August 18, 2016, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, with Nathan Brockman, the curator of the butterfly wing of Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University. Attendees will learn about insects native to Iowa and what to do to increase the enjoyment of these six-legged garden visitors.

To register for any or all of the Growing Season webinars, contact ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County at 712-335-3103. Webinars are pre-recorded, so dates and times will vary with location. All master gardeners attending the webinar will earn two continuing education hours for each webinar. To learn how to become an Iowa Master Gardener, visit the program website at [www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/)

## *2016 Pocahontas County Fair Books*

Pocahontas County Fair Books are available at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County, 305 N Main in Pocahontas but will not be mailed, you must pick them up here. The fairbook is also available online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas).

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## Cash Rent Prices Decline for Third Consecutive Year

For the third consecutive year rental rates for Iowa farmland declined, according to results from the 2016 Cash Rental Rates for Iowa Survey conducted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

After 15 consecutive years of rental price increases (1998-2012), prices have now gone down for three straight years. Prices dropped by 6.5 percent in 2015 after a five percent decrease the year before.

“Cash rents are declining but not as fast as crop prices,” said Alejandro Plastina, assistant professor in economics and extension economist at Iowa State University. “Prices have dropped for cash crops by between 50 and 60 percent in the last three years and rent has gone down 15 percent. Profitability in cash rented acres will still remain tight despite lower cash rents in 2016.”

Rental rates are \$230 per acre statewide, with a dip in prices shown in all nine of the state’s districts. The state average rate was \$246 last year and was \$270 just three years ago. The largest drop in prices came from District 3, a

\$23 drop in the counties making up the northeast corner of the state. Regions 4, 5 and 7 all saw decreases of \$20 or more as well.

Despite its drop in rental price, District 3 also had the highest cost in the state for the second consecutive year, averaging \$273 per acre.

The district with the lowest cost per acre, also saw the smallest drop in rental price. Cost per acre in District 8 (south central Iowa) went down just \$4, falling from \$187 per acre to \$183.

“I don’t expect crop prices to improve a lot over the next year,” Plastina said. “With profitability of cash rented acres remaining tight over the course of 2016, I do not anticipate seeing an increase in cash rent prices either.”

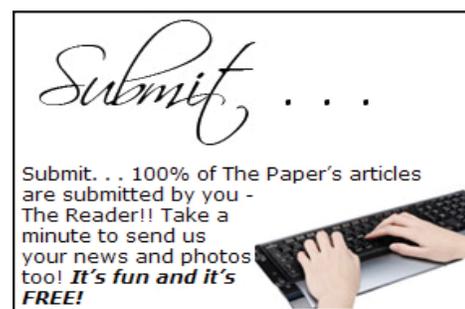
Rental values were estimated by asking people familiar with land rental markets what they thought were typical rates in their county. Of the 1,585 responses received, 47 percent came from farm operators, 25 percent from landowners, 14 percent from agricultural lenders, 12 percent from professional farm managers and realtors and 2 percent from other professionals. Respondents indicated being familiar with a total of 2.5 million cash rented acres across the state.

Cash rent survey results can be used as a reference point for

determining an appropriate cash rental rate for a particular farm, but a number of factors (such as small size or unusual shape of fields, terraces or creeks that affect the time it takes to plant and harvest crops, high or low fertility levels or pH index, or longevity of the lease) may justify a higher or lower than average rent.

The Cash Rental Rates for Iowa – 2016 Survey is available online from the Extension Store and Ag Decision Maker.

Other resources available for estimating a fair cash rental rate include the Ag Decision Maker information files Computing a Cropland Cash Rental Rate (C2-20), Computing a Pasture Rental Rate (C2-23) and Flexible Farm Lease Agreements (C2-21). All documents include decision file electronic worksheets to help analyze leasing questions.



## *Yard and Garden: When Spring Flowers Don't Bloom*

Planting flowers to improve a home landscape is an excellent first step. But what happens when they don't bloom properly – or at all? How can these problems be remedied?



Some flowers take special care, and ISU Extension and Outreach horticulturists can help decipher these issues. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.

**My peonies bloom poorly. What could be wrong?** There are several factors which may cause peonies to bloom poorly. Peonies perform best in areas that receive at least six hours of direct sun each day. Peonies that receive less than four hours of direct sun will not bloom well. Plants growing in a shady location should be transplanted to a sunny site in September. Peonies planted too deeply often fail to bloom well. When planting peonies, position the peony buds 1 to 2 inches below the soil surface. Peonies that are planted too deeply produce lush

foliage, but don't bloom well.

Recently planted or divided peonies may not bloom well for two or three years. The new plants need to grow stronger before they are capable of blooming well. Also, premature removal of peony foliage in July or August weakens plants, resulting in few flowers the following spring.

**My bearded irises are no longer blooming well. Why?** The bearded irises may need to be divided. Bearded irises should be divided every three to five years as the plants quickly become overcrowded and don't bloom well. July or August is the best time to dig, divide and transplant bearded irises.

Lack of sunlight could be another possibility. Bearded irises bloom best in full sun. (Plants need at least six hours of direct sun per day for best flowering.) Plants in partial shade may not bloom well and should be transplanted to a sunny site.

**My daffodils produce foliage in spring, but no longer bloom. Why?** If the daffodils aren't blooming, the plants weren't able to store enough food in their bulbs in the previous year. Daffodil foliage typically persists for four to six weeks after blooming. During this four to six week period, the daffodil foliage is manufacturing food. Much of the food is transported down to the bulbs. In order to bloom, daffodils must store adequate levels of food in their bulbs. Cutting off the foliage before it has died back naturally

may prevent the plants from storing adequate food in the bulbs.

Allow the daffodil foliage to die completely before removing it. Plants in partial shade in May and June may not be able to store enough food in their bulbs because of insufficient sunlight. Dig up daffodils growing in partial shade when the foliage has died back and plant the bulbs in a location that receives at least six hours of direct sun per day. If given good care and favorable growing conditions, weak (non-blooming) daffodils can be encouraged to flower again.

**My tulips are no longer blooming. Why?** Most modern tulip cultivars bloom well for three to five years. Tulip bulbs decline in vigor rather quickly. Weak bulbs produce large, floppy leaves, but no flowers.

To maximize the number of years tulips are in bloom, choose planting sites that receive at least six hours of direct sun per day and have well-drained soils. Promptly remove spent flowers after the tulips are done blooming. Seed pod formation deprives the bulbs of much of the food manufactured by the plant's foliage. Lastly, allow the tulip foliage to die back naturally before removing it.

Dig up tulips that are no longer blooming and discard the bulbs. (Small, weak tulip bulbs will likely never bloom again.) Plant new tulip bulbs in the fall.

## *Recommendations for a Snake-free House*

Warm spring temperatures bring to life many plants and animals that have been in hiding or far away from Iowa during the cold winter months. These warm temperatures raise the body temperature of Iowa's 28 species of cold-blooded snakes, allowing for an often conspicuous departure from their winter hibernations.

Although the sounds and sights of spring's return are always a welcome sight, for many homeowners finding a snake in their garage or slithering across the back deck is less desirable. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offers the following recommendations for making your home as unattractive to snakes as possible.

- Do not feed birds from April to October. Birds do not need supplemental food during the growing season and feeders draw in rodents and other small critters, which can draw in snakes. Snakes will hibernate from November until March, meaning homeowners don't have to worry about encountering any in the yard.

- Keep the lawn mown short. By keeping the lawn very short, snakes are at an increased risk of being eaten by a hawk. Snakes do not like to put themselves in such situations and will generally avoid such areas, thus

keeping them away from the house.

- Keep landscaping near the house simple. Avoid rock walls and similar features that draw small animals that snakes like to eat into the area. Also avoid "ponds" and similar features that attract frogs, or that hold small fish that garter snakes like to eat. Keep plantings to a minimum, particularly around buildings, as these provide shelter for both snakes and the prey items they eat.

- Keep areas around the house free of wood piles, debris, etc. Snakes can use these to avoid hawks and other predators and to control their body temperature.

- Install rubber seals on the bottom of any garage or shed doors. This will help keep snakes out of those buildings.

- Check the foundations of buildings and structures. Snakes will often use people's basements or old cisterns as places to hibernate, and snakes have a tendency to be faithful to those sites. Make repairs between May 1 and October 1 so snakes are out and active and not trapped underneath.

The best recourse when you find a snake in a dwelling is to direct it into a container with a broom and then release it on another area on your property away from your house. Then consider the recommendations above to reduce the attractiveness or accessibility of your home to snakes and other unwelcome critters.

The most common snake in Iowa, the garter snake, is easily identifiable

by its light, horizontal stripes and is harmless. In fact, only four of Iowa's 28 snake species are dangerous to pets or humans. These venomous snakes, which include two species of rattlesnakes, the eastern massasauga and the copperhead, are all large and rarely found outside of large tracts of their natural grassland, wetland or forested habitats. The prairie rattlesnake, copperhead, and massasauga are all listed as endangered species in Iowa and cannot be legally removed.

Snakes don't do any direct damage to buildings because they don't dig their own holes, instead using holes other animals have made. Although snakes elicit strong negative reactions among many, Iowa's native snakes play important roles in the state's ecosystem, often doing more good than harm for a homeowner through their appetite for more problematic rodents and insects. Managing property to reduce potential attractiveness for snakes is the best way to ensure they play this important role where they belong - outside the home.



Eastern garter snake, a harmless, common Iowa snake. Photo courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

# *Laurens - Marathon Class of 2016*

Commencement Exercises will be held on  
Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Class Motto: "The FUTURE belongs to those who believe  
in the beauty of their DREAMS - Eleanor Roosevelt"

Class Flower: White Rose

Class Colors: Royal Blue and Gold

Class Officers: President, Brandon Litwiller

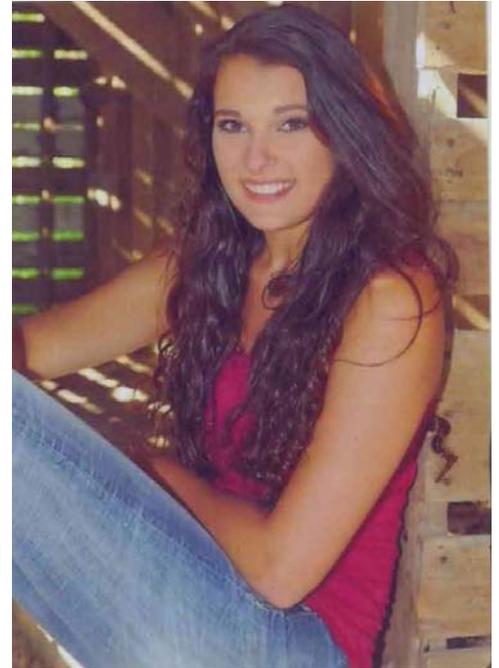
Vice President, Kurtis Conlin

Secretary/Treasurer, Nick Zurek

Student Council: Destini Oehlertz & Maili Todd



Keton Alexander  
Son of Bill & Pat Alexander



Rhianna Aschenbrenner  
Daughter of Jason & Keri  
Aschenbrenner



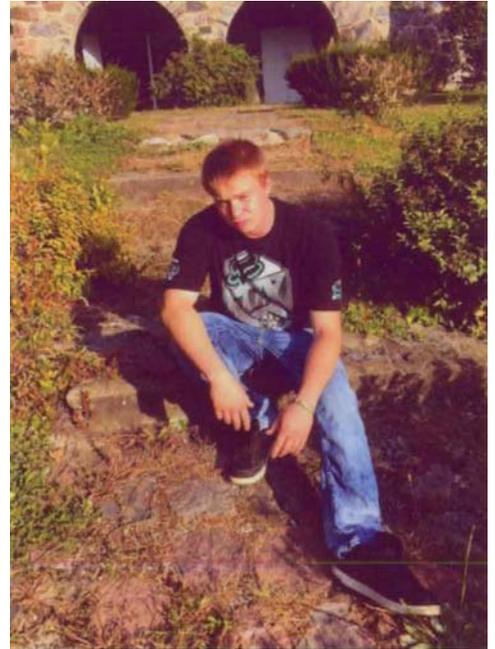
Maxwell Beck  
Son of Sara Minck



Kurtis Conlin  
Son of Ray & Mary Conlin



Hailey Fansega  
Daughter of Bill & Amy Cooper  
and John & Kristin Fansega



Devin Hughes  
Son of Melody Grow



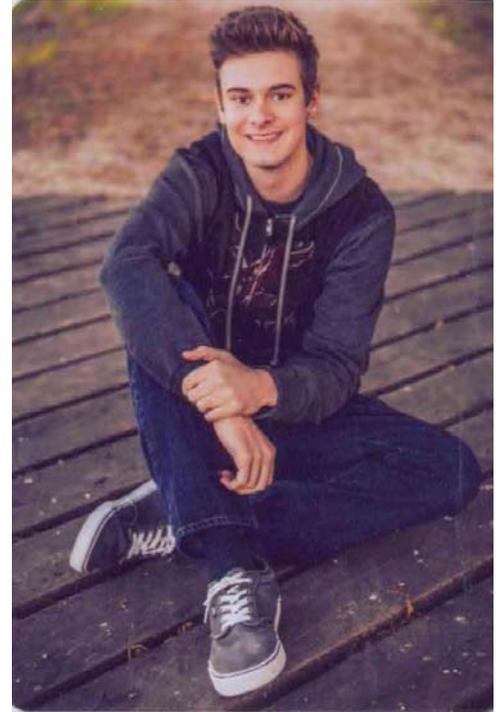
Kaitlyn Jones  
Daughter of Jennifer Jones



Kayla Klatt  
Daughter of Jamie & Alea Klatt



Wyatt Lawman  
Son of Laurie Lawman  
and Joe Lawman



Brandon Litwiller  
Son of James & Mary Jo Litwiller



Quentin Nissen  
Son of Lonnie & Amy Teepe



Destini Oehlertz  
Daughter of Troy & Susan Oehlertz



Caleb Pierce  
Son of Brian & Jennifer  
Runneberg



Johnathan Reese  
Son of Kent & Teresa Reese



Caitlin Rohrbaugh  
Daughter of Lorri Rohrbaugh  
and Rod Rohrbaugh



Austin Stethem  
Son of Cecil & Carrissa Stethem



Maili Todd  
Daughter of Laura Todd



Victorie Wilson  
Daughter of Bruce & Shirley  
Wilson



Rachel Wood  
Daughter of Diana DeButts



Kelly Zeman  
Daughter of Greg & Angie  
Zeman



Nicholas Zurek  
Son of Cynthia Seward

