

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 12 No. 24

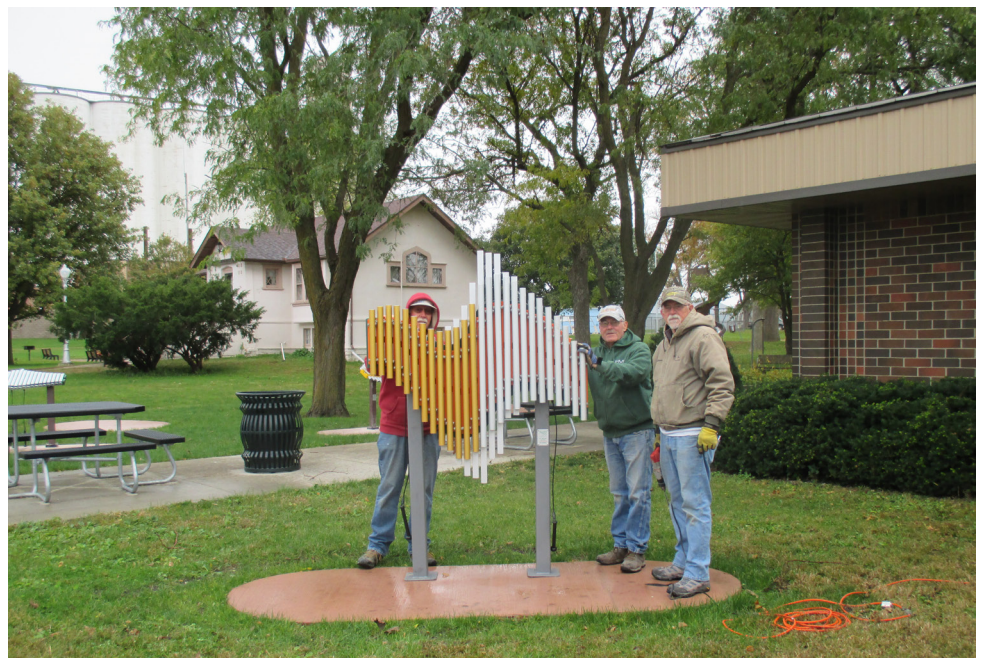
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October 17,
2018

Local News

Music Garden Almost Complete!

Doc Van Genderen, John Pohlman and Keith Hoffman volunteered their time and talents to install three instruments in the Laurens Public Library Music Garden on a drizzly Friday. They are shown in front of the Library with The Swirl. This instrument was sponsored by the Oleson family in memory of Dwight, Leota and Dean Oleson. As they finished installation, school got out and the students descended on the instruments that had already been installed. They serenaded the workers as they finished their work!



Yard and Garden: Autumn Care of Evergreen Trees

We expect oaks, maples and sycamores to change colors and shed leaves each autumn, but many are surprised and concerned when evergreens begin to shed needles. Most conifers stay green all year, but they do drop needles in the fall – just not all of them. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists answer questions about evergreens, shedding light on what's natural and what needs attention. To have additional questions answered, contact Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.

In recent days, some of the needles on my white pines have turned yellow and begun dropping to the ground. Is this a problem?

The yellowing and needle loss is probably due to seasonal needle drop. Deciduous trees, such as maple and ash, drop all of their leaves in fall. Though it largely goes unnoticed, evergreens also lose a portion of their foliage (needles) on a yearly basis. Seasonal needle drop on most evergreens occurs in fall.

Needle loss is most noticeable

on white pines. As much as one-half of the needles on white pines may drop in early fall. Seasonal needle loss is less noticeable on spruces, firs and other pines as they retain a higher percentage of their needles. Seasonal needle drop is uniformly distributed throughout the inner part of the evergreen. It is the oldest needles which are shed. The needles turn uniformly yellow or brown and drop to the ground.

There are several bands of holes around the trunk of my pine tree. Is the tree infested with borers?

The holes were likely created by sapsuckers. Sapsuckers, members of the woodpecker family, damage trees by drilling holes in the trunk or large branches. Sapsucker damage is very distinctive. They drill uniform, quarter-inch holes in distinct rows. (In contrast, the holes created by insects are random.) Sap that flows from these wounds is eaten by the sapsuckers. They also feed on insects, such as ants, beetles and wasps, which are attracted to the sap. The damage caused by sapsuckers is usually not serious.

Sapsuckers can destroy trees if they drill several rows of holes around the trunk within a small area. The bands of holes effectively girdle the tree trunk. To discourage additional damage to trees, home gardeners can wrap a piece of burlap around the damaged area. Another option

would be to spread a sticky substance, such as Tanglefoot, around the affected area. Trees most commonly attacked by sapsuckers include apple, crabapple, sugar maple, mountain ash, birch and pine.

My Scotch pine suddenly turned brown and died this past summer. Why?

Pine wilt is likely responsible for the death of the Scotch pine. Infected trees turn brown and die within a few months. Pine wilt mainly attacks Scotch pines. However, it may also infect Austrian, red and other non-native pines.

Pine wilt is caused by the pinewood nematode, a microscopic worm. The nematodes clog the water-conducting vessels of the pine tree, causing the tree to wilt and die. It is spread from tree to tree by pine sawyer beetles. Infected, dying trees are often attacked by secondary bark beetles, which leave small holes in the trunk and carry a fungus that causes blue staining of the wood, often visible as blue radial wedges when the trunk is cut in cross-section.

Pine wilt cannot be controlled with chemical treatments. Dead trees should be removed during the winter months when pine sawyer beetles are inactive. The dead trees should be promptly chipped, burned, or buried to reduce the risk of the beetles spreading the disease to healthy trees.

School Board Minutes

Laurens-Marathon School Board Minutes

Regular Meeting - October 8, 2018

The Laurens Marathon School Board of Directors met October 8, 2018 in the Laurens Marathon media center. President Chuck Harrold called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Roll call to establish quorum of present board members included President Chuck Harrold, Vice President Dorothy Lamberti, Pete Runneberg, Laura Todd, and Deb Kenobbie was absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Scott Williamson, Principal Troy Oehlertz, Board Secretary Amy Hubbell, as well as a guest.

Approve Agenda-Moved by Runneberg, seconded by Lamberti. 4-0 Motion approved.

Reports-Superintendent-Scott Williamson-Discussed enrollment of students. There are 127 students attending Laurens-Marathon, 4 non-resident students open enrolled in, 88 resident students open enrolled out, 41 residents students tuitioned out to PAC and 16 students enrolled in preschool. Projected account balances at the end of fiscal year 2018 and what future account balances could be.

Principal-Troy Oehlertz-Middle School had a field trip to PAC for homecoming coronation; Elementary participated in National Walk Day on October 4; In service was Sept 17-reviewed data for math and reading; Iowa Assessments will be electronic this year; Elementary teachers have participated in Math Talks Seminars; Laurens-Marathon will host a volleyball tournament Oct 11; Map testing is Oct 15-19

Board Secretary-Discussed the FY 2018 transportation report

Consent Items-Lamberti moved, Todd seconded to approve the consent agenda items. Motion passes. 4-0; Sept 10, 2018 regular meeting notes and organizational board meeting notes; Financial Reports-Account balances and bills; 2nd readings of 100's, 200's, and 300's board policies

Personnel Items-Resignations-Kelsey Ruthart

Action Items-Requested SBRC Allowable Growth per Special Education Deficit (\$146,584.54)

Runneberg moved, Todd seconded, passed 4-0; First Reading of Board Policy 414.1 Classified Employee Vacation Pay Runneberg moved, Lamberti second, passed 4-0; Declare 2011 Blue Bird Bus for sale. Will open the bid to all area schools and AEA. Bids due Dec 6, 2018; Todd moved, Runneberg second, passed 4-0; Wage for classified substitutes to \$9.00 per hour Lamberti moved, Todd second, passed 4-0; Snow removal bid-make it a multi-year contract. Bids due back by November 9, 2018 Runneberg moved, Todd second, passed 4-0; Transportation for Junior High after competition-PAC will transport students all the way back to Laurens for \$38.83 per trip Todd moved, Runneberg second, passed 4-0; First reading of Employee Hand Classified Todd moved, Lamberti second, passed 4-0

Discussion Items-Board Comments and Future Agenda Planning- Board members will not be able to attend the IASB meeting on October 10th in Spencer; Laure Todd, Chuck Harrold, Pete Runneberg will be attending the meeting on November 15 in Des Moines; Kid's Korner-there were 21 families using Kid's Korner services in 2017 and now there are 35 families. Children involved in the program has grown from 21 to 51. In August 2017 there was 218 children in attendance and now there is 501 children. There is a discussion on how there can be meals offered on non-student days, example would be professional development days for staff and vacation days during winter break; Discussed section 13 of the roof-will be replaced from the bids received from Elevate Roofing. Need to look at sections 14, 9, 6 because they will need replaced in the next year. Also look at sections 11 and 12 because they are aging and will need to be replaced in the next couple years. Stucco will be replaced on the south/west side of the wrestling room. Roof caps on the side of the gymnasium have been blown up from the wind and will be repaired. Need to have discussion on if we need to keep the Crow's nest at the ball fields.

Thank you to Laurens United Methodist, Bethany Lutheran Church, Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors and First Christian Church for donating school supplies. Thank you to Heart 'n Home and Laurens Chamber and Boosters for donating refreshments for the teachers. Thank you to Blackstone Exteriors for the donation to the Elementary Reading Program.

With no further business to discuss, Todd moved, Lamberti seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed 4-0. The next regular board meeting will be November 12, 2018.