

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 13 No. 32

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January 22,
2020

Local News

Pocahontas County 4-H'er Attends National Youth Summit on Agri-Science

Gabby Lane, Laurens, member of the Pocahontas County 4-H Garden Club, represented Iowa at the National Youth Summit on Agri-Science in Washington D.C January 9-12.

High school students from across the nation developed the skills and knowledge needed for the challenges facing agriculture, food security, and sustainability that was held at the National 4-H Conference Center. The summit emphasized hands-on educational experiences led by experts in the agricultural community.



Front L-R: Samuel Sindt, Matthias Kuhn, Riley Peterson, Willow Nielsen, Josephine Mumford, Demi Wells, Vanessa Klocke.
Back L-R: Dakota Mumford, Caroline Peterson, Paxton Cundiff, Cara Kerns, Hayden Denton.

Pocahontas County Clover Kids

Children in K-3rd grade attended the January Clover Kids meeting that was held at the Extension office in Pocahontas on January 11.

Children learned all about snow and how it is formed. They made their own water molecule made out of marshmallows and pretzel sticks and made a stuffed snowman.

New Pocahontas County 4-H Leaders

Six new adult 4-H leaders attended new leaders training at the Extension Office on January 9. Lisa Berkland, ISU Extension and Outreach Youth Program Specialist, introduced them to 4-H and taught them how to get started in their club leadership roles.

Thank-you to Allison Price, Kelly Tate, Heather Cundiff, Karisa Stuchlik, Karen Halder and Jeff Halder for sharing their time and talents with the youth of Pocahontas County.



Pictured L-R: Kelly Tate, Jeff Halder and Karen Halder.



Pictured L-R: Heather Cundiff, Karisa Stuchlik and Allison Price.



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

Pocahontas County 4-H Scholarships

Applications for the 2020 Pocahontas County 4-H Scholarships are available at the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office or online at <https://extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas4h>. All seniors enrolled in Pocahontas County 4-H are eligible for a \$750 scholarship. Up to ten scholarships will be awarded. Scholarship applications are due by February 3, 2020, late applications will not be accepted.

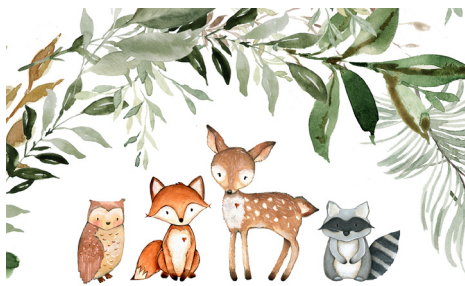
If you have questions regarding the scholarship, contact Lisa at 712-335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu

Baby Shower

Please help honor Mike & Jessica Hertz at a baby shower on Sunday, January 26 from 1-3 p.m. at the Laurens United Methodist Church.

Please bring a package of diapers to be entered into a diaper raffle.

Also, instead of a card, please bring a book to help Baby Hertz start his/her own library!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER HONORING

Baby Hertz

Biggest Little Paper In Town!



HAVELOCK Amvets Post 39

STAG NIGHT

THURSDAY

January 30, 2020

@ 7 p.m.

Happy Hour

6 p.m.

***LADIES
WELCOME!***



PARA-EDUCATOR(S) VACANCY LAURENS-MARATHON CSD 2020

Interested applicants need to send a resume/application to:
Troy Oehlertz, Principal
Laurens-Marathon CSD
300 W Garfield St
Laurens, Iowa 50554
Position will be opened until filled
E.O.E/AA

At the Library

with Glenda Mulder

January 22, 2020

February “Take it Tuesday” will be a real corker – pun intended. We have been saving our wine corks (I know, it’s a tough job, but we do it all for you!) and will be making a cork dog and a gnome. At least those are our plans, our patrons may come up with more ideas! Please contact the library and get signed up so we know how many to plan for.

I’ve been busy booking a few adult programs for 2020. Linda McCann will return in June, and Kathy Wilson will be here in September. If you have a program idea, please let me know, I’d love to check it out! Or even if you just have a topic you’d like us to explore, let me know.

I’ve also booked Pockets Full of Fun puppets and the Blank Park Zoo to visit the kids’ Summer Reading. The theme this summer is “Imagine Your Story” and the focus will be on fairy tales. We are starting to make plans and get excited for this!

I’ve been preparing the County Librarians’ report to the County Supervisors and have some tidbits to share. First is the obvious – Do you know how many Public Libraries there are in Pocahontas County? The answer is 9 – can you name all the towns? To me, the most interesting statistic is that last year we checked out almost 85,000 library materials! That’s pretty darn good for a County with a population of 6,846. This means the average County resident checked out 12 books – are you above or below average? Another fun fact, the County budgeted almost \$97,000 (prorated to the library size) to support the County Libraries this year. I’m hoping to dazzle them and twist their arms to push that figure up a bit for the next year!

New novels include: *House on Fire* by Joseph Finder, *The Wives* by Tarryn Fisher, *Country Strong* by Linda Lael Miller and *No Fixed Line* by Dana Stabenow.

January Book Club Choice is *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. This Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick should make for a spirited discussion! We will meet January 27 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

The Paper

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This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Ed Frank

Thurs., Jan. 23:

Poky County Economic Development
Commission meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 24:

Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

Sun., Jan. 26:

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.

Confirmation Class @ NOON

Youth Group (Jr. & Sr. High) 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

at the Laurens Care Center

Choir practice @ 8 p.m.



This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: January 26, 2020

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Healing service

11:30 AM ~ Annual Congregational Mtg.

6:00 PM ~ Youth Group (JH & HS) at LCC

Monday: January 27, 2020

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: January 28, 2020

7:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

712-845-6164

Friday, Jan 24

7:00 p.m. - A.A.

Sunday, Jan. 26

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

4:00 p.m. - Service at Laurens Care Center

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Jr. and Sr. High Youth

Group at Laurens Care Center



New Hope Baptist Church

202 Byron St, Laurens

New Hope Baptist Church invites you to join us for Sunday School at 10 a.m. and our Worship Service at 11 a.m. Additionally all are welcome to attend our weekly Bible Study held each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

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

E-mail: colly@ncn.net

Residence Phone: 712-335-8065

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

Pocahontas Master Gardeners to hold Winter Webcast Series *Expand your gardening knowledge before spring arrives.*

The Pocahontas County office of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host the Master Gardener winter webcast series February 11, March 10, and April 14 at 5:00 PM at 305 N Main, Pocahontas.

Speakers for this year's series were chosen based on current issues and Master Gardener volunteer interest, according to Susan DeBlieck, Master Gardener state coordinator with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Participants will learn about climate change, native plants, and get tips for designing gardens that encourage children to spend more time outdoors.

"The webcast series gives Master Gardener volunteers a chance to continue their learning, which they can apply to their volunteer projects within the community," DeBlieck said.

Contact the Pocahontas County office of ISU Extension

and Outreach for specific details about how you can participate.

All webcasts count toward Master Gardener continuing education hours and last an hour.

Topics and speakers:

- ***Iowa Weather:*** With a changing climate, Iowa will be warmer and wetter. State Climatologist Justin Glisan, PhD, from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, will share what people can do to adapt to changing growing conditions.

- ***Bring Kids in the Garden:*** State Master Gardener Coordinator Susan DeBlieck wants adults to help get youth outdoors every day. She'll share ideas for Master Gardener volunteer project sites and youth landscape design tips.

- ***Explore the Ada Hayden Herbarium:*** Love native plants? Deborah Lewis is the curator of the Ada Hayden Herbarium. Learn about early Iowa botanists, explore the herbarium and Deb's favorite native plants. What would we find if we had full-access to the Ada Hayden Herbarium for an hour-long scavenger hunt without worrying about "museum rules" and damaging the specimens (or getting squished between the moveable rows of cabinets)? First, we might find out what the Herbarium is, how its samples

(specimens) are stored, and why the Herbarium is important in teaching and research. Next, participants would track down some favorite specimens – old, rare, lovely, recent, odd... Then, from these specimens, we could perhaps find clues to the stories of a few of the many collectors of Iowa's native plants who are represented in the Herbarium – and how their specimens and research results are still being used! The scavenger hunt list includes: Indian-grass, packet, Louis Pammel, morel, plant press, orchid... and, of course, Ada Hayden.

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Yard and Garden: Caring for Short Term Houseplants

The blooms of short term, or gift, houseplants are a welcome touch of color in the late winter and early spring. Bought when in full flower, they are kept for only a few weeks while their display is at its best. Horticulture specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offer directions for caring for several of these flowering houseplants. To have additional questions answered, contact ISU Extension and Outreach Hortline at hortline@iastate.edu or 515-294-3180.

How do I care for a cineraria?

Cinerarias should be placed in bright, indirect light with a temperature near 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep the potting soil evenly moist, but not saturated. Plants wilt quickly when the potting soil becomes dry and may die if not promptly watered. Over-watering (watering too frequently) may result in the death of plants due to root rots. Check plants frequently. Water cinerarias when the soil surface becomes dry to the touch.

Cinerarias should remain attractive for two to four weeks when given good care. Discard plants when the flowers shrivel and die.

How do I care for a cyclamen?

Place the cyclamen in a brightly lit

location. Temperatures between 55 and 65 F are ideal. Keep the potting soil moist, but avoid getting water in the crown of the plant as it may promote rotting. Fertilize the plant with a dilute fertilizer solution every two weeks while in bloom.

When given good care, plants may bloom for six to eight weeks. The cyclamen is normally discarded after flowering.

How do I care for a primrose?

In the home, place plants in a cool (55 to 65 F), brightly lit location. Keep the potting soil evenly moist. Primroses decline rapidly in dry and saturated soils. Fertilize plants on a regular basis with a dilute fertilizer solution while in bloom.

Primroses often bloom for several weeks when given a favorable

environment and good care. Discard plants when they are done blooming.

How do I care for a calceolaria?

Place calceolarias (pocketbook plants) in a brightly lit, cool location. The location should receive bright light, but not direct sunlight. Ideal temperatures are 60 to 65 F. Check the potting soil daily. Promptly water plants when the surface of the potting soil becomes dry. Plants wilt quickly if the potting soil dries out. If plants are kept too wet, they may suddenly wilt and die due to root rot.

Calceolarias often bloom for two to four weeks when given a favorable environment and good care. Plants should be discarded when flowering is completed.

Laurens Country Club
Super Bowl Par-"tee"
Sunday, February 2nd
Pre-Game at 3 pm
Touchdown Drink Specials
50/50 Raffle
Unlimited Hot Dog/Chili/Nacho Bar \$8
Wear Your Team Jersey for more specials

December 30, 2019

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 11:30 a.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Dick Main, Jerry Runneberg and Ben Storms. Also present were General Manager Chad Cleveland and Blair Metzger of DGR Engineering.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the agenda for the December 30, 2019 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2019 Regular Board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Blair Metzger of DGR Engineering went over the findings of the Electric Rate Study he performed for us. After a lengthy discussion, the Board asked Mr. Metzger to update our cash flow for the next 3 to 5 years to see how the rate study findings will affect the projections. No specific action was taken.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the summary of receipts for November 2019 in the amount of \$357,151.67 and the list of expenses for November 2019 in the amount of \$838,274.43. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Summary of Receipts

A/R Electric	\$ 242,181.08
A/R Communications	\$ 51,389.82
Merchandise/Services – Electric	\$ 535.00
Merchandise/Services – Communications	\$ 108.00
Carrier Access Fees	\$ 3,749.60
Marathon Loan – Principal Payment	\$ 1,280.61
Marathon Loan – Interest Payment	\$ 302.91
Prepaid Insurance Refund – Electric	\$ 143.00
Prepaid Insurance Refund – Communications	\$ 149.00
Investments Interest Earned – Electric	\$ 6,137.81
Deposits – Electric	\$ 2,440.00
Deposits – Internet	\$ 136.00
Deposits – Cable TV	\$ 96.00
Marathon – Energy Sales	\$ 17,878.84
E911 Circuits	\$ 1,286.52
Tower Lease	\$ 900.00
Attachment H Revenues	\$ 27,917.92
Miscellaneous – Electric	\$ 340.80
Miscellaneous – Telephone	\$ 56.00
Miscellaneous – Cable TV	\$ 92.72
Bank Fees – Electric	\$ (22.47)
Bank Fees – Internet	\$ (7.49)
Office Supplies – Electric	\$ 60.00
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 357,151.67

Electric Receipts	\$ 299,195.50
<u>Communications Receipts</u>	<u>\$ 57,956.17</u>
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 357,151.67

List of Expenses

A & M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$	127.92
Advanced Media Technologies	TiVo Boxes	\$	7,659.28
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$	245.80
Alliant Energy	Natural Gas	\$	353.38
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Switching/Transport	\$	538.35
Avesis	Group Vision Insurance	\$	116.53
Big 10 Network	Programming Fees	\$	529.92
Border States Electric	Metering/Lighting Supplies	\$	934.76
Century Link Access	Access & Transport Fees	\$	559.82
Century Link Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$	25.84
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expenses	\$	266.26
Consortia Consulting	Consulting Contract	\$	900.00
Counsel	Lanier Copier Support	\$	59.14
Customers	Deposit/Credit Refunds	\$	933.29
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$	25,467.59
DGR Engineering	Electric Rate Study	\$	1,260.00
Echo Group	RG11 Cable/Heater Parts	\$	572.47
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding – Administration	\$	120.00
Farm & Home Publishers	Plat Books	\$	182.13
First Cooperative	Supplies	\$	26.34
Fox Sports Net North	Programming Fees	\$	1,410.56
Gray Television Group	Programming Fees	\$	627.00
GWorks	Annual License/Support Fees	\$	3,324.75
Hearst Television	Programming Fees	\$	1,559.25
ICMA RC	Employee Contributions	\$	800.00
Iconnectiv	Local Number Portability	\$	19.52
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$	6,883.46
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$	7,031.00
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	1,269.00
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$	30.50
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$	4,697.16
Iowa Utilities Board	Direct Assessment	\$	21.00
KTIV-TV	Programming Fees	\$	775.50
Laurens, City of	Utility Billing	\$	87,326.22
Laurens Food Pride	Supplies	\$	26.91
Laurens House of Print	Paper	\$	48.15
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Communications Bill	\$	149.49
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Utility Bill	\$	210.85
Laurens Plumbing	Supplies	\$	586.96
Laurens State Bank	Service Charges	\$	29.82
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$	224.41
Long Lines	Communication Services/Equipment	\$	12,751.19
Merchant Bankcard	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	772.89
MidAmerican Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$	39,000.00
MidAmerican Energy	Capacity Assignment	\$	18,136.55
National Cable Television Cooperative	Programming Fees	\$	11,844.88
National Cable Television Cooperative	TiVo Fees/Cable Modems	\$	7,265.11
NIMECA	Power Bill	\$	81,126.99
Norsolv	Norsolv Service	\$	179.71
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$	164.55
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	20,604.71
Petty Cash	Postage	\$	23.90
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$	497.84
Pop Media	Programming Fees	\$	48.45

Postmaster		Postage	\$ 493.00
Power Product Services		DC Power Plant	\$ 32,391.90
Pro Cooperative		Fuel/Diesel	\$ 319.65
R & D Industries		Network Support	\$ 495.75
RB Lumber Company		Supplies	\$ 33.81
Secure Shred Solutions		Paper Shredding	\$ 24.00
Siepkner Auto Repairs		Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 174.78
Spencer Municipal Utilities		Transport Fees	\$ 1,590.37
Tegna		Programming Fees	\$ 1,311.00
Tower Distribution Company		Programming Fees	\$ 1,065.90
TP Anderson & Company		Audit Consulting	\$ 192.20
UMB		Revenue Bonds—Principal Payment	\$ 440,522.50
VECTOR		Commercial Liability Insurance	\$ 211.00
Verizon		Wireless Phone Service	\$ 259.63
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield		Group Health Insurance	\$ 8,048.09
Zcorum		Cable Modem Provisioning	\$ 793.75
		Total Expenses	\$ 838,274.43
Electric Expenses	\$ 743,293.49		
Communications Expenses	\$ 94,980.94		
Total Expenses	\$ 838,274.43		

The Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Balance Sheet and Income Statement for November 2019. No specific action was taken.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the Engagement Letter from T.P. Anderson & Company to perform an audit on our calendar year 2019 financials. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

General Manager Chad Cleveland reported that the monthly premiums for our group Life, AD&D, Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability insurance plan with Principal through Woodley Insurance will not change for calendar year 2020.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to set the General Manager's salary for calendar year 2020 at Grade 5, Step 35 of the General Manager's wage scale. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to accept the low competitive quote from Ramirez Roofing to do the storm damage repairs and some other minor improvements to our facilities. Cost of repairs and improvements will be approximately \$92,000. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The General Manager informed the Board that the list of bad debt accounts to be written off will be less than what was approved at last month's meeting due to payments received. The write-off amount for the Electric Utility is now \$4,177.70. The write-off amount for the Communications Utility is now \$2,217.27. The Communications Utility also has \$347.75 in carrier access fees to be written off.

There being no further business, on motion and vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Richard Main
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees