Our Town, Our Paper!

Laurens, Iowa





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Local News

More Splashes Made!!

On February 25th a challenge was issued to donate \$42 to the Laurens New Pool Project in memory of Amy Hudson, who would have turned 42 years old on that date. Friends and family were up to the challenge, and as of March 31st, \$861 was donated in her memory!

Seeing this challenge planted a seed in the minds of Tyler and Erica (Teague) Schadegg. On February 28 they issued a challenge to their friends and family to donate \$8 to the Laurens New Pool Project, in memory of what would have been Thomas' 8th birthday. \$1,073 was generously donated to this memorial.



Thank you to all who donated to these memorials. If you would like to donate to these memorials, or any others, please make a note on your check and mail to: Laurens Pool Project, c/o City of Laurens, 272 North 3rd Street, Laurens, IA 50554.

USDA Encourages Producers to Enroll Grasslands into Special Conservation Reserve Program

Producers Must Apply by May 13

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages producers and landowners to enroll in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting next week through May 13, 2022. Grassland CRP provides a unique opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural landowners to keep land in agricultural production and supplement their income while improving their soils and permanent grass cover. The program had its highest enrollment in history in 2021 and is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's broader effort to equip producers with the tools they need to help address climate change and invest in the long-term health of our natural resources.

Grassland CRP is a federally funded voluntary working lands program. Through the program, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides annual rental payments to landowners to maintain and conserve grasslands while allowing producers to graze, hay, and produce seed on that land. Maintaining the existing permanent cover provides several benefits, including reducing erosion, providing wildlife habitat and migration corridors, and capturing and maintaining carbon in the soil and cover.

"Grassland CRP is an important working lands conservation tool that offers a win-win to both our country's producers and the environment by supporting and enabling grazing activities, while at the same time promoting plant and animal biodiversity and stemming rangeland conversion," Matt Russell, FSA State Executive Director in Iowa. "We had a successful signup last year, and we look forward to broadening our base and working with new producers, particularly our historically underserved producers, to ensure they can access the program and its many benefits."

FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. The annual rental rate varies by county with a national minimum rental rate of \$13 per acre for this signup. Contract duration is 10 or 15 years.

At the Library with Glenda Mulder April 6, 2022



Next Monday, April 11, we have an enjoyable musical evening planned. When Carter Nath was tuning the library's piano last month, I asked if he would be willing to do a program for us. I have heard that he is a very talented pianist, and based on what I heard at the end of the tuning session, I would have to agree! Carter agreed to do a program, and said he might bring other family members along, and it may be more than just piano. So join us for an evening of musical surprises!

April's Book Club choice is What I Carry by Jennifer Longo. It is a current "All Iowa Reads" choice about a teen who has spent her whole life in the foster care system and is about to age out of it. I enjoyed the audiobook version of this a while back before we laid the Book Club Plan. It was so good, I may have to see how the print version compares next month!

We signed up for a new Large Print book program, so we will be getting new titles on a monthly basis

now. This is a collection that seems to be of growing need in our library. Titles we have received include: The Unsinkable Greta James by Jennifer Smith, *The Recovery Agent* by Janet Evanovich, A Relative Murder by Jude Devereaux, To All the Dogs I've Loved Before by Lizzie Shane, In the Margins by Elena Ferrante, Love and Lavender by Josi Kilpack, Jane Darrowfield and the Madwoman Next Door by Barbara Ross, The Summer Getaway by Susan Mallery, Ocean Prey by John Sandford, Dark Roads by Chevy Stevens, One by One by Ruth Ware, Flowers of Darkness by Tatiana de Rosnay, *The Final Twist* by Jeffery Deaver, For Your Own Good by Samantha Downing, Triple Chocolate Cheesecake Murder by Joanne Fluke, Imperfect Women by Araminta Hall, The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth, Good Neighbors by Sarah Langan, Robert B. Parker's Payback by Mike Lupica, Irish Parade Murder by Leslie Meier and *The Therapist* by B.A. Paris.

In regular print fiction we received: *The Book of Cold Cases* by Simone St James, *Summer on the Island* by Brenda Novak, *Chorus* by Rebeccas Kaufman, *The Chase* by Candice Fox, *The Candy House* by Jennifer Egan and *Woman on Fire* by Lisa Barr.

Nonfiction additions include:
Atlas of the Heart: Mapping
Meaningful Connection and the
Language of Human Experience by
Brene` Brown and Ancestor Trouble:
A Reckoning and a Reconciliation by
Maud Newton.

Dates to Remember

April 11 @ 7 p.m. - Music with Carter Nath April 12 @ 5:30 p.m. - Cards with Deb & Laura April 20 @ 5:30 p.m. - Tot Time April 25 @7 p.m. - Book Club What I Carry by Jennifer Longo April 26 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cardmaking Class with Brenda & Milissa May 3 @ 3:45 p.m. - Kids Make-n-Take Patriotic craft @ 6:00 p.m. - Take it Tuesday Patriotic craft May 4 @ 2 p.m. - Carnegie Libraries in Iowa with Shana Stewart May 18 @ 7 p.m. - Orphan Train Program with Lori Vicker

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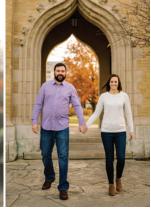
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JOIN US FOR A MEET & GREET CARD SHOWER HONORING

Lindsey Meyer + Matt Calderon





FRIDAY, APRIL 22 | 5 – 7 P.M. | LAURENS COUNTRY CLUB HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED.

While your presence is all we ask for, if you insist on giving a gift, you can contribute to our honeymoon/charity fund, with 50% going to our favorite charity, Miracle Travel Works.



Laurens Women's Club to Meet

The Laurens Women's Club will meet on Friday, April 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the West Iowa Bank in Laurens. The program "Entrepreneurship or Running a Business" will be presented by several local women who run their own businesses.

Members of the serving committee will be Elaine Harriman and Sue Wenell. Betty VanHorsen will give the Auditing Report.



SUNDAY, APIL 10 2:00 - 4:00 WEST IOWA BANK

SWIM TEAM IS OPEN TO SWIMMERS UP TO 18 YEARS OF AGE WITH BASIC SWIMMING SKILLS.

Early or late registration contact kelly tate @ 450-4396

> REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT: <u>HTTPS://GOO.GL/X8CHPR</u>

Be sure to "Like" Laurens swim team on Facebook!

This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wed., April 6:

Confirmation Class 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thurs., April 7:

UMW Executive Board mtg @ 5 p.m. UMW General Meeting @ 6 p.m.

Fri., April 8:

AA meeting 7-8 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 10:

Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m. Worship Service @ 10;30 a.m. Special Processional with Palms (children & choir) - Choir performs

Mon., April 11:

Bible Study with Pastor Deb @ 7 p.m. at Laurens UMC



This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: April 6, 2022 NO Lenten Lunch

5:30 PM ~ Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service

Sunday: April 10, 2022 Sunday of Passion / Palm Sunday

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS 9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 AM ~ Worship w/SS Procession of Palms, Communion, SS sing 11:30 AM ~ Potluck

Tuesday: April 12, 2022

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group 9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: April 13, 2022

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

Thursday: April 14, 2022

7:00 PM ~ Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion

Friday: April 15, 2022

1:00 PM ~ Community Good Friday Cross Walk (starting at FCC) 7:00 PM ~ Ecumenical Good Friday Service at FCC

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



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, April 6

11:30 a.m. - Ladies Lunch at Rusty Spoke 12:30 p.m. - C.W.F.

Sunday, April 13

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 9:30 a.m. - Elder's Meeting 10:30 a.m. - Worship



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 and Sunday at 10:30 AM

Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm at Resurrection

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Youth For the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

All 4-H and FFA members that exhibit any kind of meat animal at the fair must be YQCA certified. Horse, dog, and pet are the only species that do not require certification. The fee for the online training is \$12 but all Pocahontas County 4-H members fee will be paid through a coupon code you will receive through the Extension office. This must be completed no later than July 1, but it is open and ready to use now. The YQCA website has changed please use the following website and if you have any trouble entering your coupon code call! https://yqcaprogram. org 712-335-3103 or lzeman@ iastate.edu

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Sharp Shooters 4-H Club Meets

The Pocahontas County 4-H Sharp Shooters met March 26 electing their club officers: Braylon Beschorner, President; Gauge Johnson, Vice-President; Tovah Coon, Secretary; and Uriel Coon Treasurer. The club learned about conducting a club meeting by making a trail mix using parliamentary procedure. Pictured are Bentley Johnson, Gabriel Coon, Uriel Coon, and Braylon Beschorner constructing bird houses. The next club meeting will be held April 9, 2022.



Biggest Little Paper In Town!

2022 Pocahontas County Fair Book

The 2022 Pocahontas County Fair Book is available at: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas/files/documents/2022%20Fairbook.pdf . If you would like a paper copy, you may stop at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office during regular business hours and pick one up, books will not be mailed.

Please read the rules for whatever project areas you will bring to the 2022 fair, if you have questions, please contact lzeman@iastate.edu or 712-335-3103. The tentative schedule is posted in the front of the fairbook with the final schedule posted July 1.

4-H and FFA members must have all livestock identified by May 15 and all fair entries completed by June 24. 4-H Static exhibits must be entered no later than July 6. The 2022 Pocahontas County Fair will be held July 14-July 18.

Last Chance Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Course

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program will be offering a "Last Chance" Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for private pesticide applicators. Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach will be hosting two sessions on April 14, 2022, at 9:30am and 1:00pm. Preregistration is encouraged but not required by calling 712-335-3103.

The course will fulfill 2021 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators.

A list of the county offices offering this course can be found on the Pesticide Safety Education Program website (www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP/). The course will run for approximately two and a half hours. The registration fee is \$20. To register or to obtain additional information about the course, contact the Extension office where you would like to attend.

The course will fulfill 2021-2022 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators. Topics to be covered include:

- Review of pesticide labels, especially recent changes in pesticides
- Review of pesticide labels as restricted entry intervals and preharvest intervals impacted pesticide use decisions this year
 - Review of pesticide use and the environment
- Updates on pests and pest management in your area, including insects, weeds and diseases.

Read Across Iowa with 4-H and the Rolfe and Laurens Public Library

All students in Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome and encouraged to attend "Read Across Iowa" at the Laurens Public Library on Wednesday, April 6, 3:45 p.m or the Rolfe Public Library Thursday, April 7, 3:45 p.m.

The children will have a fun-filled hour of reading, activities, and snacks. This program is free of charge, sponsored by ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County.

If you have questions regarding this program, please contact ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County at (712) 335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu

2022 Pocahontas County Fair Livestock

All 4-H and FFA members must have their livestock identified no later than May 15. 4-H members need to enter livestock information in their v2.4honline.com account and FFA members must have paper copy to the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office no later than May 15. If you need help with this process please email lzeman@iastate.edu or phone 712-335-3103.

Our Town Our Paper! 335-3103.

Money Smart Week Offers 'Spend Smart. Eat Smart.' to Help Consumers with Their Food Budget

Iowans can learn how to "Spend Smart. Eat Smart." during the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's 20th annual Money Smart Week, April 9-16. "Spend Smart. Eat Smart." is a nutrition education resource from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and will be featured during a Facebook Live event on April 11.

Money Smart Week is a 100% virtual event, and each day features a 30-minute livestreaming presentation via Facebook Live with select resources on various financial topics. The week-long initiative aims to help people, especially those hardhit by the COVID-19 pandemic, better manage their personal finances through the coordinated efforts of experts and educators across the country. Diverse financial issues such as credit, buying or refinancing a home, and understanding Social Security benefits will be featured each day.

On Monday, April 11, 1-1:30 p.m. CDT, Money Smart Week

will host "Spend Smart. Eat Smart." featuring Suzanne Bartholomae and Christine Hradek with ISU Extension and Outreach. The presentation focuses on budgeting for food and highlights the tools and resources of the "Spend Smart. Eat Smart." website and app.

"With inflation at an all-time high, families and households are starting to feel the pinch. The presentation reviews some recommended guidelines for spending on groceries along with some strategies to start and stick with a food budget," said Bartholomae, an assistant professor and state extension specialist in financial health and wellbeing.

ISU Extension and Outreach encourages Iowans to check out the weeklong event that features free workshops, tools and resources to help them with their personal finances.

"We hope Iowans take advantage of these events that are free and open to the public. We're especially excited about bringing 'Spend Smart. Eat Smart.' user-friendly tools to consumers. The website, app and other tools will help viewers make informed decisions on grocery purchases and take charge of their food budget with planning strategies that make sense for their household," said Hradek, coordinator for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP.

Iowans who want help with food budgets or other financial concerns are invited to contact an extension financial educator by telephone or email. During confidential, individual conversations, educators can help walk through ideas and options to create or revise a budget, set priorities for bill payment, connect with community resources to stretch incomes and other personal financial issues — free of charge.

Human sciences specialists in financial health and wellbeing can share trusted web-based resources, tools and worksheets used or developed by ISU Extension and Outreach. For contact information, see the list of specialists. You also can leave a phone message at ISU Extension and Outreach's toll-free Iowa Concern hotline (800-447-1985) to have someone get back to you. For more information, visit the Managing Personal Finances in Tough Times webpage. Visit Spend Smart. Eat Smart. to access information and tools to make eating well on a budget easier to do.

Money Smart Week was created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 2002. It is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is among several partnering organizations that participate. For more information, please visit the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, https://www.moneysmartweek.org/.

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

City Council Minutes

March	28 th .	2022
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The Laurens City Council met in special session at the Municipal Building at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28th, 2022. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra by phone, Aaron Christenson, Loren Booth by phone, Jean Swanson, and City Manager Hilary Reed. Council Member John Jamison was absent.

Mayor Johnson opened the public budget hearing for the FY23 budget. There were no written or oral objections to the FY23 budget. The public hearing was closed for the FY23 budget at 12:01 p.m.

Booth motioned to approve Resolution 08-22 FY23 budget, seconded by Zylstra. Roll call vote: yes: Zylstra, Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: none. Absent: Jamison. Motion carried.

Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: none. Absent: Jamison. Motion carried.		
Swanson moved to adjourn at 12:02 p.m	n. Christenson seconded. All ayes. Motion carried	d.
Rod Johnson, Mayor	Hilary Reed, City Clerk	

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