

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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July 13, 2022

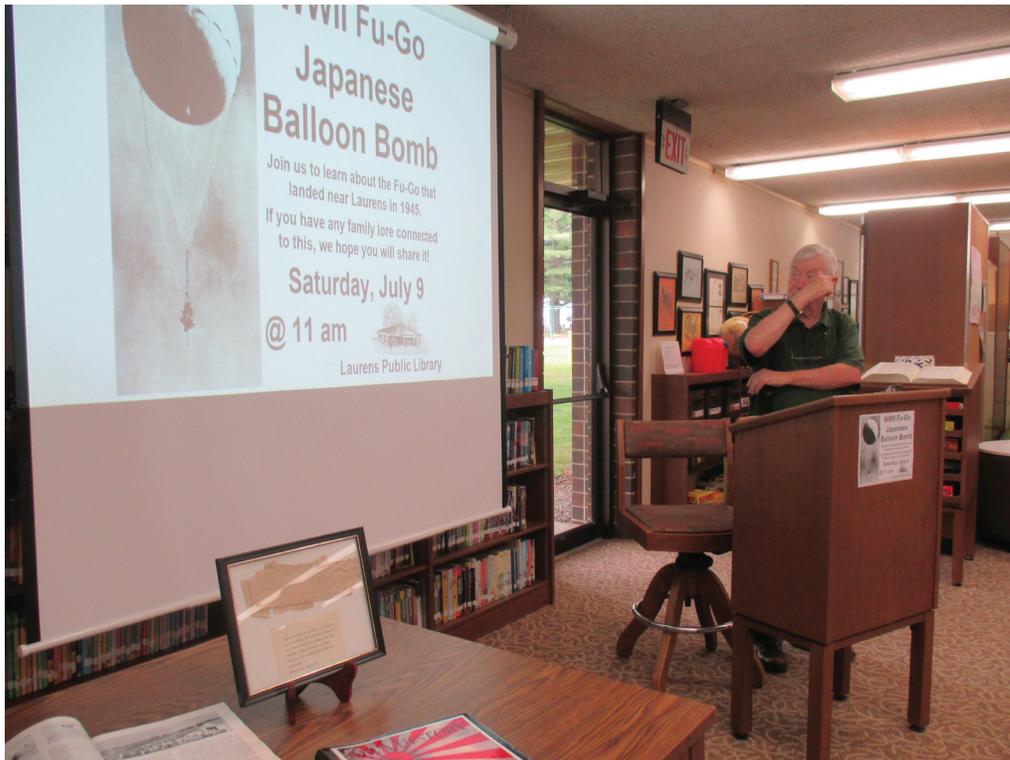
## Local News

### Mike Ford Visits the Library

On Saturday, July 9 at 11 a.m., Laurens native, Mike Ford, shared his recollections of the Japanese Fu Go Balloon Bomb landing in the neighbor's pasture when he was three years old. Laurens residents were sworn to secrecy and nothing appeared in the news about this until the war was over.

There was also a display with information from the County Museum at the Library for guests to view.

Other attendees also shared their memories of this occurrence! A good time was had by all.



***At the Library  
with Glenda Mulder  
July 13, 2022***

Oh, what fun we had at the Laurens Summer Celebration! Hope you were able to take part in it, too.

Quite a few new novels to tell you about: *The 6:20 Man* by David Baldacci, *Upgrade* by Blake Crouch, *Flying Solo* by Linda Holmes, *By Her Own Design* by Piper Huguley, *The Best is Yet to Come* by Debbie Macomber, *It Girl* by Ruth Ware, *Wedding Dress Sewing Circle* by Jennifer Ryan, *Acts of Violet* by Margarita Montimore, *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliot Dark, *Any Other*

*Family* by Eleanor Brown, *Chrysalis* by Lincoln Child, *Lies I Tell* by Julie Clark and *Shattered* by James Patterson.

Wednesdays at 1 p.m. for the rest of the month, we will “Read Beyond the Beaten Path” at story time. We sing songs, read books, and do a craft or activity. Grab your favorite kid and join the fun!

Our July Book of choice is *The Push* by Ashley Audrain. Our catalog describes it as “A tense, page-turning psychological drama about the making and breaking of a family, about a woman whose experience of motherhood is nothing at all what she hoped for--and everything she feared.” It goes on to say it is,

“an utterly immersive page turner that will challenge everything you think you know about motherhood, about our children, and about what happens behind the doors of even the most perfect-looking families” Oh, this sounds like a book that will make a great discussion! We have lots of copies, so grab one and join our discussion Monday, July 25 at 7 p.m.

**Dates to Remember**

Wednesdays @ 1 p.m. until July 27  
“Read Beyond the Beaten Path”

July 25 @ 7 p.m. Book Club *The Push* by Ashley Audrain



**NIGHT SWIM**

**Friday, July 29**

**8:30 - Midnight**

**ADMISSION: \$2 PER PERSON\***



**ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE LAURENS POOL PROJECT**

**CHILDREN 10 & UNDER ONLY ADMITTED WITH AN ADULT**

\*no season pass/previous daily admission



**Floats & Floats**

**Tuesday, July 19**

**6:30 - 9:00**

**LAURENS POOL PROJECT FUNDRAISER!**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE POOL FLOAT**



**ROOT BEER FLOAT \$2**

**REGULAR ADMISSION**

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

Pocahontas County Fair  
4-H and FFA Livestock Auction

8:30 a.m. Monday, July 18, 2022

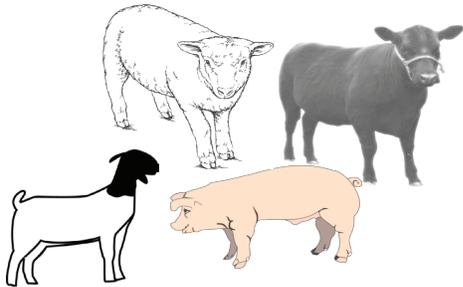
Livestock Arena - Fairgrounds, Pocahontas, IA

Located at: 310 NE 1st Street or 1 block East of the Courthouse

For more information, call ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County at 712-335-3103

8:30 a.m. - Auction will begin with:

- Individual beef
- Sheep
- Goats
- Swine



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Join Us To Support



Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment

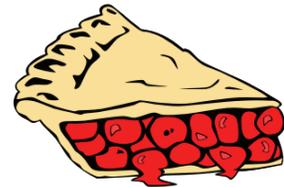
PIE AUCTION

When: Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Where: On the stage at the Fairgrounds

Pies made by 4-H Volunteers

Financial donations to the 4-H Endowment are also welcome during the Pork Tenderloin Supper from 5 p.m.— 7 p.m.



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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

Bridal Shower for  
Kaili Streeter and  
Reuben Wenell

A Come and Go Bridal Shower will be held Saturday, July 16, from 1:30 - 3:30 pm at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Albert City, Iowa.

Reuben is the son of Lynn and Jeri Wenell of Albert City.

The couple is registered at the Straw Horse in Albert City.



Please join us for "Christmas in July" at the Laurens United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 17th @ 10:30 a.m.

The service will be led by the gospel quartet Sweet Harmony!



This will be a joint service with Varina UMC joining us! Please join us for a potluck following the worship service in honor of a Welcome Back for Pastor Deb. Please bring either a main dish or a salad to share. Dessert and drink will be provided. Please plan to attend to celebrate another year with Pastor Deb! We will also be holding a baked goods/pie auction during the potluck! Funds raised will go to the Laurens UMC's budget.



***This Week at  
Laurens United  
Methodist Church***

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Fri., July 15:**

AA meeting 7 p.m.-8 p.m. in Wesley Room

**Sun., July 17:**

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. led by gospel quartet Sweet Harmony  
"Christmas in July"

Welcome Back Potluck in honor of Pastor Deb  
Baked goods/Pie Auction

**Wed., July 20:**

Administrative Council meeting @ 7 p.m.



***This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran***

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Sunday: July 17, 2022**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion  
10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship & Adult SS

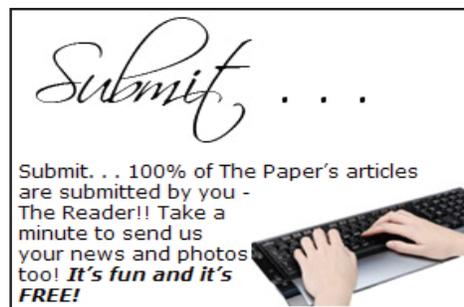
**Tuesday: July 19, 2022**

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

**Thursday: July 21, 2022**

2:00 PM ~ Circle Group at Bethany

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



***This Week at  
First Christian***

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Wednesday, July 13**

7:00 p.m. - Movie at church

**Thursday, July 14**

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

**Sunday, July 17**

9:30 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship



***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

## *Drought “Detours” Pasture Grazing*

Continuing drought in Northwest Iowa is forcing producers to alter their grazing plans. Fortunately, they have “detours.”

“Top of the list is reduce stocking rate,” said Beth Doran, beef specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. “Early weaning calves is a proven method to reduce the energy requirement of the cow by 25-30 percent and lighten the grazing pressure on the pasture. Early weaning is more effective than supplemental creep feeding when forage production is short.”

But Doran adds this is only part of the equation. If pasture is very short, producers may still be forced to remove a portion of the cows from the pasture or provide supplemental feed such as green-chopped corn or distillers grains.

“Assuming drought continues, consider placing all of the cows in a ‘sacrifice’ pasture,” Doran said. “It’s cheaper to renovate one pasture next year than all of the pastures.”

Rotational grazing can help sustain pasture production, but increased recovery time between rotations is key during drought. This helps maintain the leaf which is the plant’s solar factory and increases root development, allowing for increased uptake of nutrients and moisture.

Doran reminds producers that cool season grasses - brome grass, orchard grass and timothy - should never be grazed shorter than four inches to allow plant regrowth, and during drought, recovery may take 30-40 days. For warm season grasses, recovery time approximates 35-45 days.

Producers are also cautioned to monitor the growth of blue-green algae in streams and ponds. Blue-green algae produces toxins that affect the nervous system and liver of the animal and can be deadly if consumed. Consequently, producers will need to provide clean water from another source. The algae may appear as a pale green scum on top of the water and cobalt-blue around the edges.

Producers needing supplemental feed are reminded to check with their crop insurance agent before harvesting corn for green-chop or silage.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) also has assistance programs that may be available in the county such as emergency loans, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, and grazing or haying of CRP acres. Drought affected producers are advised to check with FSA to determine eligibility and complete an application.

## *Wine and Grape Field Day to Be Held July 27*

The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University will host the 2022 Wine Grape Field Day on Wednesday, July 27. This field day is offered to grape growers and winemakers, extension personnel and nonprofit organizations. The field day will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature two separate sessions.

The morning session will be hosted in the vineyard at Iowa State University’s Horticulture Research Station, while the afternoon session will take place in the Food Sciences Building on the Iowa State University campus. The event is free; however, admission will be capped at 20 participants and registration is required. Lunch will be provided.

The field day will feature Iowa State University faculty as well as ISU Extension and Outreach specialists from the horticulture and food science and human nutrition departments. Additional partners include the Horticulture Research Station and the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute.

The morning session, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will feature various demonstrations on grapevine management including a discussion of trellis systems, canopy management, pest and disease control and basic, hands-on chemistry analysis of grape maturity.

Following lunch, the afternoon will feature a discussion of winery equipment and the first steps of winemaking after harvest, including a demonstration of destemming and crushing, followed by a presentation of must adjustments. The afternoon session will be from 2-4 p.m. and will conclude with a tasting of a current wine research project.

Iowa State University’s Horticulture Research Station is located at 55519 170th St., Ames, and the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition is located at 536 Farm House Lane, Ames. Participants are invited to register for the full day, or for only the morning or afternoon sessions, with or without lunch.

Register for free online. For more information, contact Aude Watrelot, assistant professor of enology in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State, at 515-294-0343 or [watrelot@iastate.edu](mailto:watrelot@iastate.edu)

## *Children Benefit from Outdoor Activity*

Summer has arrived and that signals the time for more outdoor adventures as a family. Taking your children outdoors provides opportunities for exercise and learning and time to play and imagine, according to Barbara Dunn Swanson, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 60 minutes of unstructured free play each day as an essential part of children's physical and mental health and social development.

"Play protects children's emotional development as well," said Dunn Swanson, who specializes in family wellbeing. "When children lack free time to play, when they're always kept busy or being hurried to stay on schedule, they can become stressed and anxious. The stress and anxiety may even contribute to depression for some children."

Engaging in more outdoor play increases children's physical

activity and reduces aggressiveness. Outdoor activities for the family could include biking, hiking, fishing or swimming. Going to a park and riding the swings or climbing the outdoor structures are other ways to build strength and healthy bones, Dunn Swanson said.

Although school is out for the summer, outdoor play can include learning. In particular, nature play can increase critical thinking skills.

"Discovering nature can help increase children's attention spans, improve their test scores and ultimately advance their learning," Dunn Swanson said.

"Spending time outdoors helps us appreciate our natural resources. We become aware of the responsibility to take care of the environment," Dunn Swanson said. "We can teach our children to respect living things and we can set an example for responsible wildlife viewing and nature collecting. As we see litter, we can do our part and pick it up and leave the places we visit better than we found them."

Dunn Swanson offered a few more hints for enjoying the outdoors. Practice safety and carry a first aid kit, a water bottle and insect repellent. Use sunscreen

and wear a hat and sunglasses to protect your face and eyes from sun damage, along with appropriate clothing for hikes in rain or shine.

For more research and resources about reconnecting children with nature, visit the Children & Nature Network. Learn more about the benefits of play from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

For educational programs and resources on parenting, visit the Human Sciences Extension and Outreach website or contact your ISU Extension and Outreach county office.

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## *Yard and Garden: Growing Hydrangeas in Iowa*

Hydrangeas are one of the most popular summer-blooming shrubs in the home landscape. Their large flower clusters not only look great in the garden, but also make excellent cut and dried flowers. In this article, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists answer common questions about growing hydrangeas in your landscape.

**What types of hydrangeas grow in Iowa?** Several species of hydrangea are commonly grown in Iowa. One of the most durable and reliable hydrangeas is smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea aborescens*). This 3- to 5-foot shrub flowers freely from June to September. The flower clusters are rounded and change from apple green to creamy white during the summer before eventually fading to a tan color. There are several cultivars, with “Annabelle” being one of the most common and popular.

Panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*) has become one of the most popular landscape shrubs available at the garden centers. Showy pyramidal-shaped flower clusters in a creamy white appear in July. As they fade, blooms turn to a pink or blush, then finally a tan/brown color. Plants range from 3-10 plus feet tall depending on the cultivar. Plants are very cold hardy, doing well in all parts of Iowa.

Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) is a 3- to 5-foot tall shrub with dark green, coarse, lobed leaves resembling oak leaves that turn a wonderful burgundy-red color in the fall. White cone-shaped clusters of flowers appear in June and fade to pink as they age. Hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 5, this shrub does best in southern Iowa.

The mophead or bigleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) has colorful ball-shaped clusters of flowers that open in summer. Flowers are typically pink due to Iowa's alkaline soils. The blue color that is more familiar to gardeners only occurs in soils with a more acidic pH. These small-statured shrubs typically get no more than 3 feet tall in Iowa and they don't reliably bloom due to limited winter hardiness.

Not all hydrangeas are shrubs. Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*) is a vine that clings to tree bark or other structures and over time will climb to over 50 feet in height. The white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters in early July. Winter hardy in all of Iowa, plants are often slow to establish, taking several years before vigorous growth begins.

**What conditions do hydrangeas best grow in?** Most hydrangeas grow best in fertile, moist, well-drained soils. Shrubs grow best in partial sun but will tolerate full sun. Smooth, bigleaf and oakleaf hydrangea benefit from protection from the late-day sun. Bigleaf and oakleaf hydrangea need some protection from harsh winter conditions but smooth and panicle hydrangea are noted for their exceptional winter hardiness. While hydrangeas will not do well in overly wet locations, they are not drought tolerant and require supplemental water during dry periods.

**How do I prune hydrangeas?** Hydrangeas are divided into two groups, those that bloom in new or current season's growth and those that bloom on old or last year's growth. Smooth and panicle hydrangea bloom on new growth and can be pruned in early spring. On smooth hydrangea, remove all stems down to the ground. On panicle hydrangea, the size can be reduced by selectively removing a few branches in early spring, or large, old shrubs can be pruned by removing several of the largest stems at their base.

Oakleaf and climbing hydrangea bloom on old growth and perform best with minimal pruning. If stems must be trimmed back, do so just after the flowers fade. In Iowa, bigleaf hydrangea often sees a lot of winter dieback. Wait until the shrubs begin to leaf out before pruning. When growth appears, prune out all dead wood.

**Why doesn't my hydrangea bloom?** Smooth, oakleaf, bigleaf and climbing hydrangea all flower well in partial shade, but when in too much shade may not bloom well. Panicle hydrangea requires at least partial shade to set flowers and often blooms best in full sun. Most hydrangeas need to be established before flowering and may not produce blooms for the first two to three years, especially climbing hydrangea. Bigleaf, climbing and oakleaf hydrangeas that are pruned heavily in the spring will likely not set flowers. Heavily pruned panicle hydrangeas usually set flowers later in the growing season than expected.

Many older varieties of bigleaf hydrangea, such as 'Forever Pink' and 'Nikko Blue,' usually do not bloom in Iowa. The bigleaf hydrangea blooms on the previous season's growth. Unfortunately, in Iowa, the plants often die back to the ground in winter. The plants grow back vigorously in spring but don't bloom since the previous season's growth has been destroyed. Newer bigleaf hydrangea cultivars, such as Endless Summer, Twist-n-Shout, 'Blushing Bride' and BloomStruck, bloom much more reliably in Iowa gardens as they set flowers on both old and new growth.

**How do I get my hydrangea to produce blue flowers instead of pink?** Of all the hydrangeas that grow in Iowa, only the bigleaf hydrangea can potentially bloom with blue flowers. The flower color of this species depends on soil pH – blue in acidic soils and pink in alkaline soils. In Iowa, most bigleaf hydrangeas are purplish-pink due to our slightly alkaline soils. Soil pH must be at 5.5 or lower to reliably get blue flowers and in Iowa, soil pH tends to be between 6.5 and 7.5.

Changing soil pH is necessary to get blue blooms in bigleaf hydrangea. Planting shrubs with Canadian sphagnum peat moss can help to lower the soil pH in the root zone. Watering plants with an acidifying fertilizer can also help. Elemental sulfur or aluminum sulfate can be applied to the soil to lower soil pH. Conduct a soil test to determine the current pH and apply these amendments at a rate that will lower the pH to 5.5 to 6. Over time, soils will return to their natural state so regular applications of soil amendments will be necessary to maintain the desired pH.

**I purchased a potted hydrangea from the florist shop this winter, can I plant it in my garden?** The hydrangeas found in flower shops are bigleaf hydrangeas forced into bloom out of season. These plants are intended to be enjoyed as a temporary potted plant indoors, much like poinsettia, and are not intended for planting in the landscape. They are typically cultivars that are not reliably winter hardy in Iowa. Even if they survive the winter, they will not reliably flower since they only set flowers on stems from last year and all the stems die to the ground over winter.