

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 17 No. 35

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

December 21,  
2022

## Local News

### Community State Bank Toys for Tots Drive a Success!

Every year, Community State Bank collects toys for the Christmas holiday for UDMO. This year was another huge success with 250 gifts collected!

Community State Bank staff delivered the gifts to Upper Des Moines Opportunity in Pocahontas on Monday, December 12.

A big *"Thank You"* to the community from Community State Bank for supporting this annual tradition.



# Havelock Am Vets Post 39

## STAG NIGHT

THURSDAY

December 29, 2022 - 7 p.m.

Happy Hour—6:00 p.m.



## Make a Splash Before the New Year



The Laurens Pool Project wants to help you keep more of your hard-earned money! It's the time of the year to tie up your annual income and expenses and talk to your financial advisor. Here are two ways your donation to the Laurens Pool Project can be advantageous to all of us!

Our "Waves of Grain" program enables you to donate grain directly to the Pool Project. Just inform your grain handler that you wish to make your donation. This can add up to 44% total savings off your Federal, State, and self-employment taxes!

If you have an IRA or 401(k) and are 72 years of age or older, you can give all or any portion of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) by December 31, 2022 to a qualified charity, such as Laurens Swimming Pool Project. There may be an advantage to donate more than your RMD.

As always, consult your tax advisor for more details. Let's continue to "Make a Splash Together"!

Donations should be made out to: Laurens Pool Project, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa 50554.



Please join us on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m. at the Laurens United Methodist Church.

We will enjoy our Christmas morning worship service in Fellowship Hall along with pastries, little smokies, goodies & hot cocoa!

Bring your kids in their pajamas! All are welcome to join us.

**WHO: LOCAL FARMERS**  
**WHAT: GIFT OF GRAIN**  
**DONATIONS GO TO: THE LAURENS SWIMMING POOL PROJECT**  
**WHY:**  
 1. Tax savings of up to 44% on federal, state and self-employment taxes  
 2. To be a part of a worthwhile community campaign.

**We are currently at 70% of our goal funding— please help us fill our pool!**

**Please let your local grain handler know that you are interested in the "gift of grain" project.**

## *FSA to Implement Pilot Hiring Program in Iowa*

Iowa Farm Service Agency (FSA) is offering a new approach to recruiting agricultural leaders who want to become County Executive Directors (CED). Iowa FSA, with support from the Biden-Harris Administration, will open job announcements later this month to the County Office Executive Director Training (CEDT) Pilot Program. The goal of the pilot is to incentivize more candidates to compete for positions in the training program by reducing the relocation distance someone might have to accept compared to if they graduated from the traditional CEDT program.

Under the CEDT Program that is currently used nationwide, candidates are expected to relocate within their state when the training program is complete. In Iowa that could mean needing to relocate up to six hours away from an applicant's current location. The new Iowa CEDT Pilot Program breaks Iowa into four quadrants, allowing candidates to apply for positions that are closer to home and not requiring potential relocation across the entire state.

"There are a lot of talented people out there that are interested in entering our CEDT program, but have never applied due to the risk of being relocated anywhere across the entire state of Iowa," said State Executive Director Matt Russell.

"For decades we've hired internal FSA staff and external candidates into our training program. But as part of the program, candidates agree to take a job anywhere in the state of Iowa. We know we've left really great potential leaders behind because the risk of having to move across the entire state is too great. While we aren't eliminating the risk of needing to relocate, we are dramatically reducing the geographic area of that risk."

Russell says he's excited that USDA, under the leadership of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, is encouraging state leaders like himself to work with local leadership to try new approaches to recruit and hire employees into the local field offices. He also sees the approval of this pilot project as a commitment by the Biden-Harris administration to invest in leadership opportunities for our current employees.

Under this pilot program, Iowa USDA Farm Service Agency is seeking to fill multiple positions with individuals who will train to become FSA CEDs. A CED is responsible for directing and managing program and administrative operations for the counties served by the Service Center. The CED supervises and works with staff to carry out permanent and ad hoc programs and policies established by USDA to help farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners in the local agricultural community. The CED is responsible for promotion of programs through outreach efforts with groups, businesses, educational institutions, and other area organizations and leads communication functions for the office.

"We're excited about this pilot program and the opportunities it will create for people interested in public service, agricultural leadership, and living in rural Iowa," says Karen Rawson, Chief Administrative Officer at Iowa FSA.

Successful applicants to the CEDT Pilot Program will complete a yearlong training program. Once the applicant has completed their training course, they will be expected to apply for County Executive Director (CED) positions that are announced throughout the quadrant(s) in which they applied.

The application process is an online process through [usajobs.gov](https://usajobs.gov). To learn more about the Iowa CEDT Pilot Program, to see a map of the quadrants and to get more information about how to apply, please visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Iowa/programs/iowa-cedt-pilot-program>. Questions may be directed to Administrative Specialist, Tammy Zanoni, at 515-331-8422.



**Christmas Eve  
Services at  
Laurens UMC**

**December 24, 2022  
4:00 pm  
11:00 pm**

*Colors Of Christmas*

*At the Library  
with Glenda Mulder  
December 21, 2022*



Drop everything and get to the Library this evening! Did you know that our Laurens Library Board President, Pat Boughey, is featured as Granny Elf in a children's book written by her daughter Rachel Poncelot? The book is *Bowzer's Holiday Mischief; Let's*

*go on a holiday adventure!* Patty will read the book, dressed as Granny Elf of course, for our Tot Time at 5:30 p.m. this Wednesday, December 21. Pat will have copies of the book available for purchase.

While you are at the Library, check out a few extra books, movies, puzzles, etc for the upcoming Holidays! The Library will be closed Saturday through Monday the next two weekends, but open our regular hours the other days.

Deb has fun plans for snowman crafts for the kids' & adults' January Take it Tuesday crafts! Stop in and take a look at what we will be up to, join us for a fun evening, and get in touch with your creative side.

**Dates to Remember**

December 21 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time with Granny Elf!

***December 24-26 - Library Closed Merry Christmas!***

December 27 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cardmaking

***December 30 - January 2 - Library Closed Happy New Year!***

January 3 @ 3:45 p.m. - Kids' Take & Make Craft

6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday

January 22 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Light Between the Oceans* by M.L. Stedman



**The Paper**

Published weekly by  
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Laurens, IA 50554

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## Services Held for Dale Frantz

Dale Ivar Frantz, age 86, was welcomed into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Saturday, December 10, from the Laurens Care Center in Laurens, Iowa.

Dale was born on May 1, 1936, in Des Moines, Iowa. He was the son of Ivar and Vandla (Wallin) Frantz. He graduated from Laurens High School in 1953 and from Iowa State Agricultural School in 1955. He farmed with his father until he went to work for John Deere Implement in Laurens and farmed also.

In the early 60's, he married Carolyn Larson. To this union were born two daughters, Vicki Sue and Teresa Renee.

Dale married Patricia Jane Greig on July 7, 1984, at the United Methodist Church in Laurens. She was a Laurens – Marathon Elementary teacher. They built a new home in southeast Laurens and resided there for 38 years.

Denny Hansen, Harold Schaffer and Dale went on their own and opened General Repair



Shop in Ware, Iowa. Dale retired and enjoyed tractor rides for many years with his friends. Patricia

drove the Jeep sag wagon behind him and enjoyed the scenery going by so slowly. So relaxing. His John Deeres didn't go fast enough (people would go by him and yell, "Need a rope?") Later he drove his little

Jubilee Ford Tractor because it went faster! He also enjoyed doing word puzzle books in later years. Patricia and he went on many trips and cruises; two trips to Hawaii and cruised to Alaska and through the Panama Canal, along with two Caribbean cruises and visited many states in the United States visiting relatives and friends.

Dale was a member of the United Methodist Church in Laurens and the Methodist Men. He was also a member of the Laurens Kiwanis, Albert City Threshermen and Collectors Association and Spencer Classic Tractors. Collecting toy tractors, belt buckles, watching Westerns on TV were some of Dale's hobbies. Dale and Patricia sponsored an orphan girl named Ketlove through GoServ Global out of Eagle Grove for 13

years. Ketlove was an orphan at Consolation Cottage in Haiti.

Dale is survived by his wife, Patricia, of Laurens; daughters, Vicki (Donnie) Plagman of Arlington, SD and Teresa (Brett) Hetland of Spirit Lake; grandchildren, Holli (Zach) Williams, Jamie (Taylor) Ormand, Kevin Plagman, Drake Hetland and Pierce Hetland; great-grandchildren, Lucas Williams and Owen Ormand; step-sons, Lance Greig (Lori Reed Thompson) of Arnolds Park and Steve (Mary) Greig of Urbandale; step-grandchildren, Ashley Greig, Alex (Laura) Greig, Brittany (Billy) Schiltz, Dani Greig (Coleton Hamilton) and Samantha Greig, and step-great-grandchildren, Ellie Schiltz and Luka Greig.

He was preceded in death by his parents; parents-in-law, Harold and Thelma Wass; step-granddaughter, Jasmine Greig, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He loved to Live, Laugh, and Love. FAITH, FAMILY & FRIENDS (and Miss Kitty) were so important to Dale. May he rest in peace!

Memorials may be given to the Laurens Methodist Church or a charity of your choice in Dale's name.

## Services Held for Don Kruse

Don D. Kruse – age 87, of Laurens, passed on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at the Mary-Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa.

Donald Dean Kruse was born on May 10, 1935, in Palmer, Iowa. He was the son of Albert and Emma (Siebels) Kruse. He was educated in Palmer schools, graduating from Palmer High School in 1953.

During his school years, Don worked for his Dad in his grocery store. After high school, Don began working for a local construction contractor in Palmer. As the weather changed and was getting colder, this was not the job for Don. He applied at Fareway but unfortunately was not hired. So back to the construction he went. Low and behold he received a call from Fareway the following day and was offered a position as a meat cutter. Don began his new career at Fareway in Fort Dodge, this is where he met and fell in love with Shirley.

On July 5, 1959, Don was united in marriage to Shirley Bass



at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Palmer. Don and Shirley moved to Laurens in March of 1960.

On April 1, 1960, they opened Don's Clover Farm in town. Over the years, the store was relocated and then with the expansion it became Don's Foodland. Don's love for the grocery business was like no other. He

loved being there for the town and able to provide that service. After 25 years, on April 1, 1985. Don retired from the grocery business at the age of 49.

After retirement, Don got to spend his time outside, which was another love of his. From mowing his yard to be perfect, planting flowers in the flowerbed and planting the garden, this was his way of enjoyment. Don loved the sport of golf, so what better to do in retirement than become the greens keeper at the Laurens Country Club. His goal was to make sure that they were in perfect shape for everyone who enjoyed the game.

Don was a member of the Bethany Lutheran Church and the Laurens Chamber of Commerce. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, trap

shooting, hunting and Iowa Hawkeye sports.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley of Laurens, son, Randy (Jacky) Kruse of Polk City; daughter, Debra (Ben) Riedel of Mitchellville; brothers, Duane (Anita) Kruse of Henderson, NV and Dennis (Arlene) Kruse of Palmer; 6 grandchildren, Mike (Christine) Riedel, Jason (Carey) Riedel, Ashley (Ryan) Penning, Jeff (Kendra) Kruse, Lindsey (Brad) Rubino and Amber (Mitch) Jahns; 11 great-grandchildren, Chelsea Paul, Sherrie Bowden, Preston Riedel, Emmett Penning, Monroe Penning, Brighton Kruse, Lawson Penning, Giavanna Rubino, Robert Jahns, Lilianna Rubino and Sawyer Kruse; and many nieces and nephews. Don was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Daryl Kruse.

In Lieu of flowers, Don's family requests memorials be made to the Bethany Lutheran Church in Laurens, Iowa in Don's name.

*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!*

A graphic with the word 'Submit' in a cursive font followed by three dots. Below it is a short paragraph of text and an illustration of hands typing on a keyboard.

## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Saturday: December 24, 2022**

5:30 PM - Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service w/Communion

**Sunday: December 25, 2022**

Christmas Day / Nativity of Our

Lord

10:30 AM - Worship w/Communion

2:00 PM - Pocahontas Manor Service

4:00 PM - Laurens Care Center

Service

**Tuesday: December 27, 2022**

8:30 AM - Prayer Group

9:30 AM - Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



*Submit . . .*

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## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Fri., Dec. 23:**

AA meeting 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 24:**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

@ 4 p.m. & 11 p.m. w/ Holy

Communion

**Sun., Dec. 25:**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**NO Sunday School**

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship @ 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship

Hall

**Mon., Dec. 26:**

**Church offices CLOSED**

Tear down Festival of Trees 1-7 p.m.



## *This Week at First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Thursday, Dec. 22**

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

**Saturday, Dec. 24**

7 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candle Light

Service

**Sunday, Dec. 25**

**No Worship Service**



## *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

## *Pocahontas County Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Course*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will be offering the Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (P-CIC), led by Extension Field Agronomist, Gentry Sorenson.

The course will be offered on February 2, 2023 at 9:30 am at the Rialto Theatre in Pocahontas.

Pre-registration with payment is recommended. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. The course will run for approximately 2 ½ hours including check-in and breaks. The registration fee is \$30. To obtain additional information about the P-CIC, contact Pocahontas County Extension Office at 712-335-3103.

The course will fulfill 2022-2023 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators. Topics to be covered include:

- Personal protective equipment
- Safe handling
- Storage of pesticides
- Pests, pest management and pesticides

## *Agronomy in the Field Program to Be Offered This Winter*

Women landowners, farmers and ag retailers will have the opportunity to meet again this winter to learn more about agronomy and related agricultural topics through distance-learning sessions of Agronomy in the Field.

The goals of Agronomy in the Field are to strengthen agronomic skills for women that allow for better decision-making, provide a better understanding of inputs for crop production, see and understand different conservation practices and increase confidence in communication with a spouse, farming partner, ag retailer or tenant.

These programs are hosted by extension field agronomists Angie Rieck-Hinz, Meaghan Anderson, Rebecca Vittetoe, Leah Ten Napel and Clarabell Probasco.

Five free distance-learning classroom sessions of Agronomy in the Field will be offered from January through early April. Sessions will be over the noon hour, starting at 12 p.m., and will typically last until 1 p.m. These sessions will be provided through a web-conferencing program, so women can join online from the comfort of their own home or office.

“It can be hard to travel in the winter months with weather challenges and family priorities, so hopefully the web-conferencing technology will allow women across the state to still be a part of the program, even if they are unable to physically be in the same location,” said extension field agronomist Angie Rieck-Hinz.

All sessions will be recorded so women can access them at a time convenient for them if they can't join in for the live sessions.

The sessions that will be offered this fall and winter are as follows:

- January 9: Lean and Mean Crop Production.
- February 20: Interpreting Soil Test Results and Fertilizer Recommendations.
- March 6: Developing Successful Herbicide Plans.
- March 20: Managing Your Forages to Maximize Productivity.
- April 3: Iowa Soils and Understanding CSR2.

Any interested women landowners, farmers and service providers who would like to participate in upcoming sessions can register for the sessions at <https://go.iastate.edu/PGFFCZ>. Once registered, participants will receive an email confirmation with a link to join and can participate in one or more sessions at no cost. For more information, visit the Iowa Women's Agronomy in the Field Facebook page.



## *Extension Horticulture Specialist Provides Tips for Christmas Tree Selection, Care and Disposal*

For many Iowans, decorating their homes with a live Christmas tree serves as an important holiday tradition. While artificial trees can be a time saving alternative, the charm of a cut tree cannot be replicated for some. However, as Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach explains, it is important to follow a few simple guidelines for Christmas tree selection, care and disposal to ensure an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

As Steil explains in an article for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Horticulture and Home Pest News, Christmas trees are available from both cut-your-own tree farms and commercial lots. Pre-cut trees purchased from commercial lots may be local or may be shipped from out of state. For those looking to purchase a local tree, the Iowa Christmas Tree Association website provides a list of Christmas tree farms across the state.

Many species of Christmas tree are available in both local farms

and in commercial lots. "Tree species commonly available at tree farms and commercial lots in Iowa include Scotch pine, white pine, red pine, Fraser fir, balsam fir, Canaan fir, Douglas fir, white spruce and Colorado spruce," adds Steil. "The species you select will depend on attributes like color, shape, needle retention, aroma and branch stiffness (to hold up heavy ornaments)." Visit Horticultural and Home Pest News for more information on the attributes of these species.

Before selecting a tree, it is important to consider where the tree will be placed within the home. "Be sure to choose a location away from heat sources, such as a fireplace or radiator. Also, decide on the size (height and width) of the tree you want," explains Steil. "Remember, a tree in a field or outdoor lot will not look as tall or wide as it will in your home. Bring a tape measure with you to ensure it will fit."

While trees from cut-your-own farms are obviously fresh, trees from commercial lots may be cut, shipped and then stored for weeks before arriving in the lot, so it is important to check these trees for freshness. Needles on a fresh tree should be pliable, while those on a dry tree will be brittle. While it is normal for a tree to drop a few needles, heavy needle drop also can be an indication of a dry tree.

After purchasing a tree, it is important to get the tree into water as quickly as possible. Before bringing the tree into the house, remove an inch or more from the

bottom of the trunk to facilitate water uptake. "Avoid shaving the sides of the trunk down to fit in the stand as the outer layer of the trunk just under the bark is where most of the water is taken up," adds Steil.

The most important factor in caring for a cut tree is providing enough water. To ensure a cut tree lives for as long as possible, use a tree stand with a large water reservoir and check water levels frequently, at least once or twice a day. As Steil explains, it is best to use clear, plain water, as additives such as sugar or molasses provide no benefit to the tree.

After the holidays, Christmas trees can be disposed of or recycled in many ways. It is important not to burn Christmas trees. "Dry, evergreen branches literally explode when burned and could cause a house fire. Also, burning the tree may contribute to the buildup of creosote and lead to a flue fire," warns Steil.

One creative way to recycle a Christmas tree is to place it in the yard or garden for use by birds and other wildlife. Trees also can be chipped for mulch and pruned boughs can be placed over perennials for winter protection.

Otherwise, local government offices typically offer Christmas tree disposal programs either at central collection points or curbside. In Ames, Christmas trees can be dropped off following the holidays for free and will be recycled into chips for city parks.