

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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April 19, 2023

## Local News

### Inspire PoCo Leadership Project

*This story originally appeared in the 2023 Pocahontas County Alumni Magazine, as part of an alumni registry project that was funded by the Rural Return Grant. The grant is part of the governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative in partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors were a recipient of the grant in January 2022 and will provide a \$10,000 half match to facilitate the project.*

Pocahontas County Foundation and Pocahontas County Economic Development teamed up to sponsor a new leadership program, Inspire Poco, which was created to inspire future leaders in the county.

The four-part series began in November 2022 and concluded in March 2023. The sessions focused on the county's vision goals in the areas of Civic Engagement, Quality of Life, Housing and Workforce. MaryJo Litwiller began as the new County Economic Development Director in

November 2022 and was a participant of the program.

"Attending the Inspire PoCo Leadership series was very beneficial for me in so many ways," Litwiller said. "It was a time to engage and network with other leaders within the communities, learn more about the needs of the area, and a chance to hear from professionals in their field. We were able to gain knowledge of what other counties are doing to assist with their workforce and housing difficulties."

During those four sessions, the group was tasked to come up with a Legacy Project that they could facilitate once the series was done. The group decided

to go with a unifying county project that would see large kaleidoscopes installed in each of the communities across the county. The idea was inspired by the Kaleidoscope Factory on Main Street in Pocahontas, a one of a kind business that was started by Leonard Olson, and has been continued on by his family and friends since he passed away in late 2019.

"I am really looking forward to seeing the Legacy Project finished," Litwiller noted. "I like having the idea of a kaleidoscope in each town as it is something unique and fun for

*...continued to page 2...*



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families to visit. Pocahontas has the Kaleidoscope Factory and it is a great way to promote one of our unique businesses.”

The first prototype is intended to be finished and on display by Summer 2023 in Rolfe. The participants will continue working together to apply for funding opportunities and hope to have the rest of the kaleidoscopes installed as quickly as possible. Members from the Kaleidoscope Factory, as well as other local businesses such as the Machine Shop, are helping guide the project along to its completion.

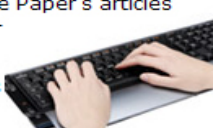
If any individuals are interested in making a donation to the kaleidoscope project, you can write a check payable to “Pocahontas County Leadership Fund” and mail it to the Pocahontas County Foundation, PO Box 86, Pocahontas, IA 50574. This is a specific fund of the Pocahontas County Foundation, which is a 501c3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

To keep in touch with stories and opportunities like this from Pocahontas County, you can register with the Pocahontas County Alumni Registry by going to [www.tinyurl.com/pocoalumni](http://www.tinyurl.com/pocoalumni).



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**Scan the QR Code or visit [tinyurl.com/pocoalumni](https://tinyurl.com/pocoalumni) to get registered with the Pocahontas County Alumni Registry!**



### **Why register?**

- Discover business opportunities
- Learn about community projects
- Find out about new businesses
- Keep up on community events
- Hear about philanthropic possibilities

For all alumni of past and present consolidated school districts of Pocahontas County, Iowa, as well as affiliates with an affinity to the county.



**POCAHONTAS COUNTY  
ALUMNI REGISTRY**



***At the Library***  
***with Glenda Mulder***  
***April 19, 2023***

What an interestingly diverse assortment of events on our calendar today! It starts out at noon with a Brown Bag Lunch with our friends from Laurens-Marathon 5th grade. In the afternoon, we have book delivery to the local child care providers. At 5:30 p.m. we have Evening Tot Time, and at 7 p.m. Ed Epperly provides insight into the Villisca Axe Murders of 1912. What a fun day! But honestly, I'm glad all days aren't quite that busy - I would never get any of my desk work done because I would be too busy chatting with patrons!

Did I tell you that I booked Lake City Author/Speaker Darcy Maulsby for June 5th? She will be speaking about the topic of her latest book *The Lincoln Highway in Iowa*. Darcy is so engaging – I'm sure she will sweep us up in her enthusiasm. More details as we get closer, but mark your calendar!

I'm about to dive into our April Book Club Choice. We will be reading the 2023 All Iowa Reads choice, *How High We Go in the Dark*. I'm so curious to judge this book for myself and to try to discern why this futuristic book, written about the aftermath of a climate plague, was chosen as the book of the year by the All Iowa Reads committee. Stay tuned, I'll share my opinion! Or better yet, join us at Book Club Monday the 24th at 7 p.m. – you are welcome, even if you haven't read the book!

**Dates to Remember**

April 19 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time

April 19 @ 7 p.m. - Villisca Axe Murders Program by Ed Epperly

April 24 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *How High We Go in the Dark* by Sequoia Nagamatsu

May 2 Take it Tuesday caterpillars for the kids & lighthouses for the adults!

May 23 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cardmaking

June 5 @ 7 p.m. - Lincoln Highway by Darcy Maulsby

July 8 11-1 Local Authors Fair at Laurens Summer Celebration

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## ***Spring Lawn Maintenance Keys for Success***

*Extension turfgrass specialist  
discusses spring lawn  
maintenance considerations*

As soil temperatures increase and lawns across the state begin to green up, many Iowans will begin performing routine lawn maintenance. This spring, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach turfgrass specialist Adam Thoms provides tips for growing a lush lawn that will be the envy of the neighborhood.

In order to properly maintain a lawn, it is essential to have the right tools. As Thoms explains, spring is the perfect time to perform routine lawnmower maintenance, including an oil change. It is also important to clean out or change the mower's air filter at this time, since this improves the efficiency of the mower and saves money on gas.

As for sharpening mower blades, it's better to wait until after the first mow of the season.

"Coming out of winter, there will be a lot of debris in the yard," explained Thoms. "Things like sticks or rocks can dull the blades, so it's best to sharpen mower blades immediately after your first mow of the season."

When mowing, 3 to 3½ inches is an ideal height to cut for most lawns. Since Thoms recommends never removing more than one-third of the leaf blade, the ideal mowing frequency will vary between lawns depending on desired overall lawn height, as well as season and growing conditions.

"It equals out to be roughly weekly in the spring, then a little less in the

summer," said Thoms.

To ensure a verdant and crabgrass-free lawn this summer, it is also key to apply a spring weed and feed formulation that will provide necessary nutrients to the lawn while preventing crabgrass and other weed seeds from germinating. Check the bag to ensure that the product prevents crabgrass from emerging, as some weed and feed formulations provide only post emergence protection, and preemergence herbicides are ideal.

"You want to apply your spring weed and feed in mid-April, into the first week of May, or when soil temperatures have reached 55 degrees for three days in a row," said Thoms. "I typically recommend using most other fertilizers in the fall."

While not ideal, it is also possible to overseed a lawn in the spring. Overseeding can help repair or rejuvenate patchy lawns but is most effective when done in the fall. When overseeding in the spring, spring weed and feed formulations should not be applied since they will prevent both desirable grass species and undesirable crabgrass from germinating.

One common misconception is that aerating a lawn impacts the effectiveness of preemergent herbicides. According to Thoms, aeration has no impact on herbicide effectiveness, and can provide a boost to newer lawns.

"If you have a yard that is five years old or less, I recommend aerating in both the spring and the fall to help sod or grass seed establish," he said.

For more resources regarding spring lawn care, visit the Iowa State University Horticulture and Home Pest News Website.

## ***Celebration of Life for Karoll Jean Kyle***

Karoll was a member of Laurens class of 1964. Daughter of Mark and Jean Kyle, survived by sister Paula Grothe, brother David Kyle, daughter Cami (Beneke) Jones and Erik Kyle.

On May 6, 2023 we will be gathering from 4-6 p.m. at the Arvada Community Room, 7601 Grandview Ave, Arvada, CO.

Please join us to laugh and remember a wonderful person who will be greatly missed.

Send any photos you would like to include in our video to: Cami Jones by email to [c91jones@yahoo.com](mailto:c91jones@yahoo.com) or text to 479-279-2706.

## ***2023 Pocahontas County Fair Book***

The 2023 Pocahontas County Fair Book is available at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas/files/documents/2023%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 2023 fair, if you have questions, please contact [lzeman@iastate.edu](mailto: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.

## *Women's Club Meets in April*

On Friday, April 14, 2023, Glenda Mulder presented a program to the Laurens Women's Club at the Laurens Public Library. Glenda showed scanned slides of historic places in Pocahontas County using a projector. Dorothy Lamberti showed the location of each historic site on a plat book map of Pocahontas County. The slides of historic places are available at the Laurens Public Library for all to see.

The many wonderful slides include the marker of the former location of the Pocahontas County Courthouse built in 1945 in Des Moines Township by Father Dobberstein; the sturdy Keystone Bridge, which was built by amateurs and later moved to Coopers Cove to give it a firm foundation; and the Kalsow Prairie in Belleville Township, an unplowed virgin soil. Further, there is an interesting slide of the house on the Thornton, Greene & Co. farm in Section 18 of Marshall Township that was built in 1870. It had a small third story in which a lamp was kept burning at night. People often stopped at the location when on the road from Fort Dodge. In the early days, the land had few trees or other markers. Also shown was a slide of the old County Home in Grant Township, Section 4, along Highway 3 and on a farm of 262 acres. There is also a slide of the first house built in Laurens, Swan Lake Township, in 1882 and located on 4th Street.

Yet another set of slides of Laurens from the 1950s and 60s that was given to the Laurens Public Library by Dr. Linda (Olson) Bieri were enjoyed by club members. Glenda also brought the group up to date on events going on now at the Laurens Public Library.



**LAURENS CLEAN UP** *days*  
FRIDAY, MAY 5TH - SATURDAY, MAY 13TH  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH  
8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
**Residential ONLY!**  
Dumpsters located at Laurens Police Station  
If items can be bagged, they **MUST** be bagged!

Absolutely **NO**:  
Cardboard, Trees, Grass, Dirt,  
Leaves, Furnaces, Water Heaters,  
Paints, Oil, Tires, Batteries,  
Chemicals, Construction Debris,  
Bricks, Concrete, Glass, or  
Hazardous Waste

Carpet **MUST** be rolled and taped!  
Appliances, TVS, & Electronics will  
be picked up at a **LATER DATE**.  
Stickers **MUST** be purchased in  
**ADVANCE** at City Hall.

***This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran***

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Thursday: April 20, 2023**  
2:00 PM - Circle Group

**Saturday: April 22, 2023**  
9:00 AM - IA Mission District  
Council Mtg. at Mason City

**Sunday: April 23, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
9:15 AM - Adult SS  
9:30 AM - Youth SS & Coffee  
Fellowship  
10:30 AM - Worship w/SS skit/songs  
4:00 PM - Youth Board Mtg. at BLC

**Tuesday: April 25, 2023**  
8:30 AM - Prayer Group  
9:30 AM - Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Thursday: April 27, 2023**  
6:30 PM - CPR/Defibrillator Class at  
Bethany

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



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

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Wed., April 19:**  
Administrative Council meeting @  
7 p.m.

**Fri., April 21:**  
**NO longer any AA meetings here at  
Laurens UMC**

**Sun., April 23:**  
Sunday School @ 9:10 a.m.  
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.  
Native American Ministries special  
Sunday offering  
Youth Group Board meeting @ 4 p.m.  
at Bethany Lutheran Church.



***This Week at First  
Christian***

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Sunday, April 23**  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
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

## *Clausen Benefit to be Held*

The Evangelical Covenant Church in Albert City will be holding a benefit for Deb and Kent Clausen on Saturday, April 22 from 11:00-1:00 to help defray some of the enormous medical expenses incurred with Deb's hospitalizations in Sioux City and Des Moines.

Deb was rushed to Storm Lake ER on December 2 and life- flighted to Sioux City. After a month in ICU, she was stable enough to be transferred to Des Moines. Deb and Kent were finally able to return home on March 22, where she continues to recover and work with rehab.

We want to bless the Clausens with a benefit that includes a free will lunch and an auction. We would appreciate any donated items for this benefit. We would want to have donated items by April 18. To donate items or if you have questions, please call 712-887-0134 or 712-299-0123. Monetary donations may be sent to the Covenant Church at 501 S Second Street, Albert City, Iowa 50510.

## *Celebrate ISU Extension and Outreach Week April 17-22*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week is April 17-22. Iowa's 100 county extension offices will host activities throughout the week to thank Iowans for their support of extension education efforts throughout the state.

"This will be my first ISU Extension and Outreach Week and I am looking forward to it," said Jason Henderson, Iowa State's new vice president for extension and outreach. He began the position April 3.

Henderson comes to ISU Extension and Outreach from Purdue University, where he served as director of extension and senior associate dean for faculty development in the College of Agriculture. Prior to his 10 years of extension experience at Purdue, he served as vice president and Omaha branch executive at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. He was raised on a family dairy farm in northeast Iowa.

"My wife, Angie, and I are simply thrilled to be back home to serve Iowa, the state that gave me such a strong foundation for my life's journey," he said.

Henderson is an agricultural economist, an academic leader and a nationally recognized expert in agricultural and rural issues.

"During my career I've learned that vibrant communities, strong families and profitable businesses at the farm gate and on Main Street are characterized by smart, capable leaders with access to resources, information and insights to make better decisions. That is the role of extension and the land-grant university system -- connecting people to the information and education they need," he said.

"ISU Extension and Outreach is about engaging with people and building community and making life better," Henderson continued. "We appreciate everyone who participates in our educational programs, as well as the many volunteers, community leaders, organizations, agencies and other partners who support our work throughout the state. That's why we celebrate ISU Extension and Outreach Week."

Extension education through Agriculture and Natural Resources programs grow the economic base of Iowa agriculture. Community and Economic Development programs empower communities to shape their own futures. 4-H Youth Development programs empower Iowa youth to reach their full potential, and Human Sciences programs empower Iowans to live their best lives every day.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of the federal Cooperative Extension Service — a network of more than 100 land-grant institutions, including Iowa State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture serving communities and counties across the United States. Every county in Iowa has an elected extension council that decides how to support ISU Extension and Outreach educational programs at the county level.

For more information about ISU Extension and Outreach, visit [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu) or contact your ISU Extension and Outreach county office.





# *Cybersecurity Webinar Series to Focus on Reducing Cyberattacks in Agriculture*

Cyberattacks in agriculture, food supply and farming industries are a growing concern, as attackers become more creative and target sectors critical to human infrastructure. With 50 billion devices connected to the internet, everyone is vulnerable. An important part of cybersecurity is cyber defense, and the best way to prepare for a cyberattack is with preventative mitigation.

With these concerns in mind, a series of webinars dedicated to strengthening the digital protections in place for farm businesses and families are being offered during this year's Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week.

The three-part series, offered through a partnership between ISU Extension and Outreach and ISU Center for Cybersecurity Innovation and Outreach, will begin at noon each day April 17 to April 19. The series is free and open to everyone. Each session will include a 30-minute presentation as well as time for questions from the participants. Webinars will be recorded for later viewing. "Farm

families and business owners are asking: What can happen? How can I reduce my risk? And what do I do when it happens? Webinar attendees will learn the answers to these questions and create a plan to reduce their cybersecurity risk," said Alexis Stephens, ISU Extension and Outreach farm management specialist.

Monday's webinar, "Keeping Your Farm Family Secure" will provide an understanding of what an adversary is, what they are looking for, examples of concerns faced and advice for mitigating these concerns. Tuesday's webinar, "Conducting Your Farm Business Safely," focuses on malware, vulnerable systems and protection of sensitive information. The series will conclude on Wednesday, with "Building Your Farm Cyber Toolbox." Presenters will guide attendees through the how-to of multi factor authentication, wireless systems, password keepers, secure documents and choosing a technology service provider.

"The Farm Management Team is so grateful to be working with Doug Jacobson and his team at the Center for Cybersecurity," said Madeline Schultz, ISU Extension and Outreach program manager. "We've learned a lot ourselves and are excited to share our knowledge with others. Jacobson literally 'wrote the book' on cybersecurity. Bring your questions to the webinars and get answers from an expert."

Although many believe cyberattacks are a computer issue, this is actually a human issue.

Attackers use social engineering to target specific industries and people through phone calls, text messages, websites, email and more.

One mitigation strategy is separation of users and technology. For example, your 8-year-old grandchild should not have access to the same device used to maintain sensitive farm data. You never know what accidents users – no matter how old – may get themselves into. Instead, use different devices for work and personal uses.

Educating oneself about cybersecurity is the most important mitigation strategy. It is essential to get ahead of the inevitable curve and prepare, as less can be done once a cybersecurity attack has occurred.

Register for the Cybersecurity on the Farm webinar series at <https://go.iastate.edu/FH25MU>. This series utilizes the Webex Webinar platform. Attendees can join Webex Webinars on a computer, mobile device (with Webex mobile app), or browser.

This cybersecurity webinar series was developed through the North Central Risk Management Education grant project, "Cybersecurity for Iowa Farmers and Rural Businesses," and supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2021-70027-34694. Project partners include the ISU Extension and Outreach farm management team and the ISU Center for Cybersecurity and Innovation Outreach.