

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 22

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January 22,
2025

Local News



Pocahontas County Clover Kids Meet

Pocahontas County Clover Kids had a fantastic time at our Share the Fun Pet Show last week! It was a wonderful opportunity for our members to learn about showing pets at the fair and enhancing their public speaking skills.

These skills are important for Clover Kids as they prepare to participate in various events at the fair and look forward to joining 4-H, where they will have the chance to participate in even more fair activities in the coming years.





Pocahontas County Foundation
20
The Power of Community

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE TWENTY YEARS
of Promoting and Enhancing
Community-based Philanthropy
in Pocahontas County
during our annual Grant Awards Night

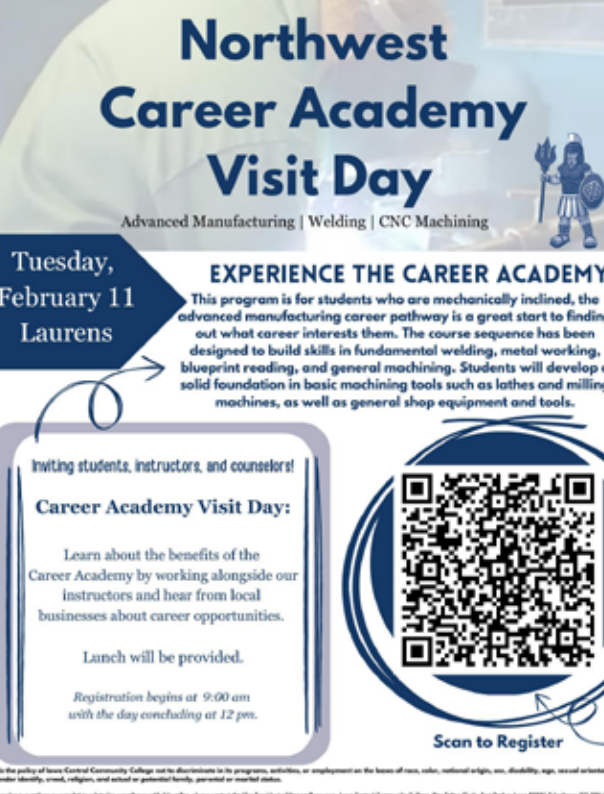
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025 • 6:30 PM
PRAIRIE LAKES AEA
500 NE 6th St, Pocahontas, IA 50574
Dessert Served at 6:30, Awards to Follow

POCAHONTAS COUNTY FOUNDATION
BUILDING WITHIN COMMUNITIES

WOW!

PAC YP
Pocahontas Area Coaches by Youth Philanthropy

www.pocofoundation.org



Northwest Career Academy Visit Day
Advanced Manufacturing | Welding | CNC Machining

Tuesday, February 11
Laurens

EXPERIENCE THE CAREER ACADEMY
This program is for students who are mechanically inclined, the advanced manufacturing career pathway is a great start to finding out what career interests them. The course sequence has been designed to build skills in fundamental welding, metal working, blueprint reading, and general machining. Students will develop a solid foundation in basic machining tools such as lathes and milling machines, as well as general shop equipment and tools.

Inviting students, instructors, and counselors!
Career Academy Visit Day:
Learn about the benefits of the Career Academy by working alongside our instructors and hear from local businesses about career opportunities.
Lunch will be provided.
Registration begins at 9:00 am with the day concluding at 12 pm.

Scan to Register

It is the policy of Iowa Central Community College not to discriminate in its programs, activities, or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and creed or parental family, parental or marital status.
If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy, please contact the Vice President of Human Resources, Iowa Central Community College, One Union Drive, Northridge, Iowa 50995. Telephone: 563-379-6326. Email: HumanResources@iccc.edu or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, John C. Whitehead Federal Building, 100 L. Stanton Street, 370 Post Office, Chicago, IL 60604-1394. Telephone: (312) 786-6100. TDD: 800-877-8018. Email: OED@doe.gov

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Fax:
(712) 841-4662

Website:
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E-mail:
publisher@mylaurens.com

Publisher:
Rodney Johnson

Editor:
Amanda Tendal

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***At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
January 22, 2025***

The Library Board had a tough decision this month. The Library is a longtime subscriber to the Des Moines Register, but when I got a bill for \$940 for our annual subscription, I about came unglued. You know how many books I can buy for that? Well, I took a week or two to calm down, then I gave them a call. When I finally got to speak to a live person, she was told me she would check a

few things, could I please hold. So, I held, trying not to grumble. She came back to tell be she could lower that rate to \$540 annually. Wow, that's a lot better, but still a lot of money! So at our Board meeting we discussed whether to pay that, or if it was time to discontinue our subscription. The Board decided to continue for a variety of reasons, primary being that the Register covers Iowa's political scene more than our other papers do, and that at this price many people can't afford a personal subscription. So, please come and sit in or cozy reading area and read our newspapers! We

also subscribe to The Laurens Sun, Pocahontas Record-Democrat, the Storm Lake Times Pilot, and the Fort Dodge Messenger.

New novels in the library this week include *The Oligarch's Daughter* by Joseph Finder, *We are Watching* by Alison Gaylin, and *Better than Friends* by Jill Shalvis.

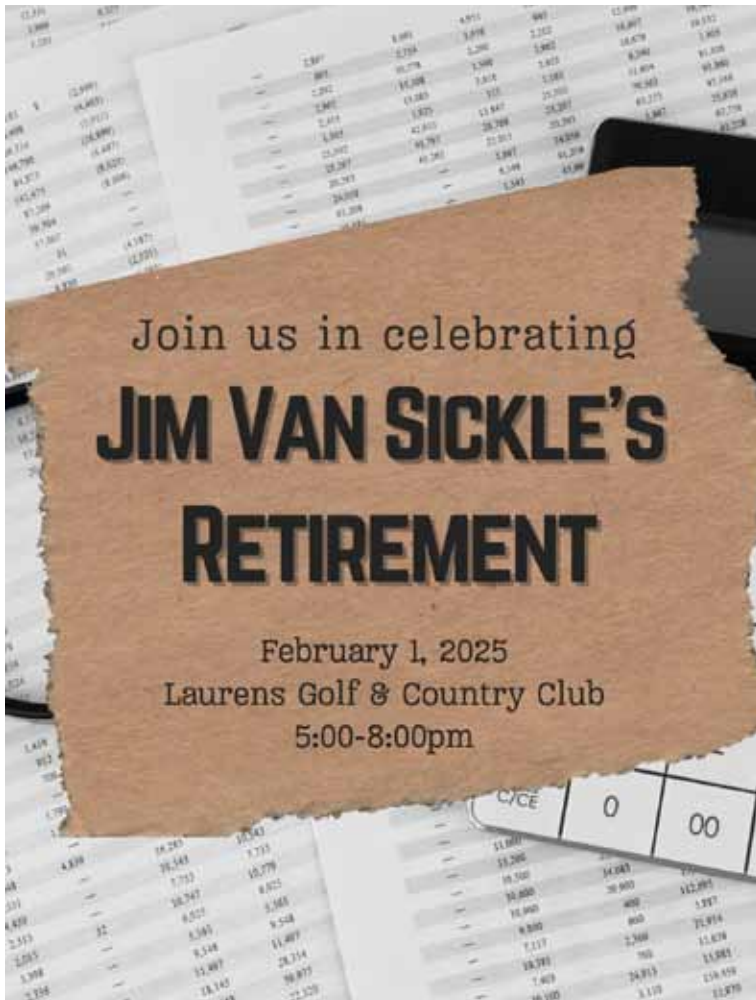
Mark Your Calendar

January 27 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club
The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

February 4 from 3:45-5:00 p.m.
- Kids Make & Take Puzzle Piece Heart

February 4 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it
Tuesday Valentine Tree/Puzzle Piece Heart

February 5 & 17 - Evening Tot Time
@ 5:30 p.m.



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Services Held for Donald A. Beneke

Donald A. Beneke, 80, of Pocahontas, died on January 11, 2025 at Accura HealthCare in Pomeroy, Iowa.

Don was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on March 23, 1944, the first child of Donald G. and Mardell Beneke. He grew up in Laurens, Iowa, graduating from Laurens High School. He attended the University of Iowa, where he received his bachelor's degree in history, then stayed to earn his law degree. He married Karoll Kyle and welcomed a daughter, Cameron.

Following graduation, Don spent three years as an attorney for the United States Department of Agriculture in St. Paul, Minnesota. He returned to Iowa and began practicing law in Pocahontas. He owned his own firm, practicing law for 51 years before retiring in 2022. For many years, he also owned



Pocahontas Title Company.

Don married Helen Halverson Falor in 1975, and became a father to her children, Allison and Michael. After their son Matthew was born, their family was complete.

Don was a very intelligent, curious, and compassionate person. A voracious reader, he had many interests. Don was very active in supporting his community and organizations that were special to him. He served on these boards for two decades: Pocahontas Community Hospital, Pocahontas Public Library, and Laurens State Bank. He also volunteered his time and expertise on the Pocahontas County Hometown Pride Committee and Pocahontas County Democrats.

Don proudly served as the lawyer coach for many Pocahontas High School Mock Trial Teams over the course of 24 years, with five teams winning state championships and advancing to the national competition. The 2001 team brought home the national championship. Don was very interested in nature and conservation and served on the board of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for over 20 years. He spent uncounted hours in leadership committees for Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever. Restoring old farmland to native prairies was a highly refined passion of his. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, including annual trips to Canada for fishing trips to his beloved Poplar Point. He cherished time with his family, who will miss his kindness,

intelligent offers of sage advice, and his quick, dry sense of humor.

Don was an avid world-wide traveler, having taken two trips to China. There he and Helen saw Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, and the Great Wall of China. He and Helen also traveled to Latvia, two trips to Poland, and a Rotary mission trip to Nicaragua. Their last trip was to Scandinavia in 2019, where they enjoyed exploring Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland. Don was a marvelous traveling companion. You could always count on him to be an adventuresome traveler, a social fella, and an explorer.

Don is survived by his wife of 49 years, Helen, and their four children: Allison (Steve) Larson of Chaska, Minnesota; Mike (Annette) Falor of Waukee, Iowa; Cameron (Walt) Jones of Cave Springs, Arkansas; and Matt (Christy) Beneke of Madison, Wisconsin; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Don's sisters Ann (Laurens) and Mary (Omaha, Nebraska) Beneke also survive him.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Donald G. and Mardell Beneke, his father-in-law Donald Halverson, his mother-in-law Alice Halverson, and his brothers-in-law Merlin and Donald Halverson.

Services were held at the Laurens Methodist Church on January 18.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Pocahontas Public Library, or the Pocahontas Community Healthcare Foundation.

***This Week at
Bethany Lutheran***

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: January 22, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

Sunday: January 26, 2025

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:15 AM ~ Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship

Annual Congregational Meeting
following worship

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Monday: January 27, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

Tuesday: January 28, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: January 29, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

Saturday: February 1, 2025

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

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



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

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wednesday, January 22

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the
Wesley Room

Sunday, January 26

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

Wednesday, January 29

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the
Wesley Room



***This Week at
First Christian***

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, Jan. 23

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet open

Saturday, Jan 25

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Clothes Closet
open

Sunday, Jan. 26

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship



***Resurrection
of Our Lord
Catholic Church***

**Pocahontas, IA -- Priest:
Father Paul Nguyen**

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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She Grows – Women in Ag Conference Is March 14

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Woodbury County, in partnership with Morningside University Applied Agricultural and Food Studies, has announced the She Grows – Women in Ag Conference, an event designed to support and celebrate women in agriculture. The conference will take place on Friday, March 14, at Eppley Auditorium, 3625 Garretson Ave, Sioux City.

This event aims to excite, reignite and connect women in agriculture, whether just beginning the journey or seasoned professionals. The conference will feature expert speakers on topics such as rural health and community involvement and entrepreneurship, as well as a facilitated networking lunch to foster meaningful connections. Additionally, a vendor fair will showcase local agricultural businesses, providing attendees with opportunities to engage with and support the community.

“We are thrilled to partner with Morningside University and bring this impactful event to the tri-state area, providing a unique opportunity for women in agriculture to connect, learn and grow together,” said Karrie King, county director for ISU

Extension and Outreach Woodbury County.

“We are excited to bring women in agriculture together for a day of learning, connection and empowerment,” said Melissa Nelson with Morningside University's Department of Applied Agricultural and Food Studies. “This event is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women in the agricultural industry and inspire future leaders.”

Registration for this event is now open. Adult tickets are \$40 and student tickets are \$15, with ag teachers admitted for free.

For more information about the She Grows – Women in Ag Conference, sponsorship opportunities or to register for the event, please contact King at karriek@iastate.edu, 712-276-2157 or visit the She Grows page on Facebook.



Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Course

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will be offering one opportunity to attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (P-CIC), led by Extension Field Agronomist, Gentry Sorenson. The session is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025, 9:30 a.m. at the Rialto Theatre, Pocahontas. Preregistration may be required. Walk-ins on the day of the program will only be admitted if room allows.

The course will run for approximately 2 ½ hours including check-in and breaks. The registration fee is \$30. To register or to obtain additional information about the P-CIC, contact ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas county office at 712-335-3103.

The course will fulfill 2024-2025 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators.

Ag Pest Control Course Set for February 12

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County will host an Ag Pest Control Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, February 12, 2025. The program, provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), is available at office locations across Iowa.

The local attendance site is ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office. Preregistration may be required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. The course runs from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$45 on or before February 5 and \$60 after February 5. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 1A, 1B, and 1C. Topics covered will include pesticide use and the environment; pesticide labels and comprehension; and pests, pest management, and pesticides.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered at this program. Interested participants should bring their CCA number. Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered by the PSEP program can be accessed at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP>.

Crop Production Estimates Available for 2025 Growing Season

Farmers can estimate the cost of producing various crops in 2025 by using data published in the January edition of Ag Decision Maker.

The article “Estimated Costs of Crop Production” includes average production costs for corn, corn silage, soybeans, alfalfa and pasture maintenance. Decision tools, as well as web-based calculators, are available that allow farmers to enter their own numbers, so they can estimate production costs on their own farm.

Production costs are always important to know in advance of the planting season, but even more so during a period of tighter profit margins in the crop market.

“The economic outlook for 2025 continues the pattern we ended 2024 with, where prices have fallen below production costs and any opportunities for profits will be limited this year, barring significant changes with either smaller production or greater usage,” said Chad Hart, professor in economics and economist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Hart said the report shows a 2% to 3% decline in the cost of corn production, driven mainly by lower fertilizer and chemical costs compared to 2024, whereas soybean costs are 1% higher. Total cost per bushel is impacted by higher trend yields used in the budgets, resulting in 1% to 6% declines overall. Land cost is projected to be stable, with increases in labor and machinery costs.

The report provides estimates for common crop rotations, including corn following corn, corn following soybeans and corn following silage. The report lists specific costs commonly associated with each crop, including seed, fertilizer, machinery use and labor. Budgets for various production methods are also included, such as low-till and strip-till budgets for corn and soybeans. Machinery costs reflect both new and used equipment and are up 3% to 4% in the 2025 projections.

Due to differences in soil condition, the quantity of inputs used and other factors, production costs will ultimately vary from farm to farm. Labor is treated as a fixed cost in the report, because most labor on Iowa farms is supplied by the operator, family or permanent hired labor.

Historical estimates of Iowa crop production costs are also available at Ag Decision Maker, dating back to 2000.

Farm bill decisions. Other important tools are also available in the January Ag Decision Maker update, including decision tools to help farmers select the appropriate farm bill program. Options include Price Loss Coverage and Agricultural Risk Coverage, with options for individual farm coverage or county-level coverage. The tools help farmers analyze and select the best option for their own operation.

The current farm bill has been extended through Sept. 30. Ann Johanns, extension program specialist in farm management, said with price changes in the projections for ARC-CO and PLC, it is a good time for producers to consider if their current enrollment best fits their operation’s risk management needs. USDA’s Farm Service Agency dates to make changes to program enrollment for ARC and PLC for the 2025 crop year are open from Jan. 21 to April 15, 2025.