

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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March 19,  
2025

## Local News

### Kindergarten Roundup to be Held

On Friday, March 21st, Laurens-Marathon CSD will be holding Kindergarten Roundup for the 2025-2026 school year. Any child who is, or will be, 5 years old on or before September 15, 2025 is eligible for kindergarten.

Students in the Laurens Early Childhood Program will have school on this day. Other potential kindergarten students for next year should report to the LOBBY of our school at 9:00 a.m. The children will be invited to spend some time in the kindergarten room. If your child is not in the Early Childhood Program, you may pick them up at 11:00 a.m.

If you have a child who will be in kindergarten next year, and they are not attending the

Laurens Early Childhood Program, please contact elementary secretary, Marilyn Ehlers, prior to March 21st to pick up a packet of pre-registration materials. You must have a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization records

### Women's History Month Celebrated by the Laurens Women's Club

For Women's History Month, the Laurens Women's Club celebrated 10 women for their talent and contribution to society. The information and photos were gathered by Grace Hertz and presented by President Evelyn Hakes on March 14, 2025, at the Laurens Public Library. Two of the women, Bessie Coleman and Florence Nightingale, are shown below.

Bessie (Elizabeth) Coleman (1892-1926) was the first African American and the first Native American to hold a pilot's license. Born to sharecroppers in Texas, she eventually took her flight training in France because there were no flight schools for women in the United States. She became a high profile pilot in the United States and was known as "Queen Bessie" and "Brave Bessie".

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) was an English social reformer, a statistician, and founder of modern nursing. During the Crimean War, she was the manager and trainer of nurses while organizing care for wounded soldiers. She reduced death rates by improving hygiene and living standards. In London, she established the first secular nursing school. In India, she advocated for better hunger relief and abolishing prostitution laws that adversely affected women. She was an innovator in statistics and a writer.



Bessie (Elizabeth) Coleman



Florence Nightingale

## Touch Of Broadway Performing at Fonda Arts Center

Once again, the Fonda Arts Center welcomes Touch Of Broadway to kick off the 2025 entertainment year!

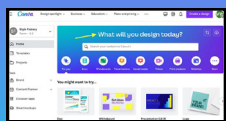
The date to remember is Sunday, March 30, and the music begins at 3 p.m. The theme for this year's show, "The Colors of My Life", promises an uplifting, family friendly listening experience.

All this is happening at the Fonda Arts Center, on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main Streets in Fonda, where admission and refreshments are free and everyone is welcome!



## CANVA 101

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## Havelock Am Vets Post 39

### STAG/STAGETTE NIGHT

Thursday

March 27, 2025—7:00 p.m.

Happy Hour—6:00 p.m.



Ladies are  
welcome!!!

# Patricia "Pat" Harms Passes

Patricia Ann Templeton Harms, June 22, 1933 – March 13, 2025, was born in Schleswig, Iowa, to Eunice Stammer Templeton and William Templeton. She grew up in multiple Iowa small towns as her parents pursued their teaching careers, graduating from Atlantic High School. Pat was a talented athlete and would have excelled had girls' sports been a more viable option in that era. She studied physical education at the University of Colorado in Boulder before reconsidering a more practical and economical course of study in nursing at the University of Iowa, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. There she met her husband of 67 years, Ronald Harms, at a church softball game where she caught his eye with her fielding ability. Thinking fast, he "accidentally" threw and hit her with a ball, apologized, and asked her out. There she also met classmates who became lifelong friends (along with their spouses), the "Crazy Eights" - wise women who valued their friendships and shared experiences over any differences in political outlooks over many decades. While Ron completed a 2-year tour of duty as a dentist aboard a US Navy ice breaker, Pat worked as a public health nurse in Seattle, WA and Stockton, CA.

After Ron's tour of duty, they settled in Laurens, Iowa. One reason they chose Laurens was based on an outdated Pocahontas County map that showed two large lakes – Swan Lake and Muskrat Lake - near town. Unfortunately, both lakes had long since been drained for agriculture. In Laurens, Pat worked as a dental assistant with Ron until they

started a family, with the arrival of Shelley in 1958 and Craig in 1960. Once the children were both in school, Pat started working part time at the school library. She eventually became the full time Head Librarian at the Laurens Public Library, where she had a fulfilling career for 19 years. Pat was active in the local community, serving on the library board during eventful years when the town built a beautiful new library building, and two terms on the school board, where she was the board member who presented Shelley's graduating class with their high school diplomas. Her sense of adventure led her family on many outdoor adventures, including multi-day backpacking trips in Colorado where she and Ron held up the tent in storms. Later, she and her dear friend Joyce Rigby spread their good cheer throughout Europe on their intrepid travels.

Ron and Pat spent much time driving back and forth between Iowa and Norfolk, Connecticut, to spend time with their grandchildren as they grew up, and then moved to Morehead City in 2009 following retirement. They found a dream house on Calico Creek with a beautiful back yard. Pat joined the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, which was a great community for her.

Pat had a lifelong love of reading and could interject serious or comical literary references at appropriate times. One of her favorite doggerels that she would recite whenever this was served, was, "Sauerkraut is bully, I tell you it is fine. We make it in a barrel and we eat it all the time." Her reading to her children from the time they were born set them on a similar trajectory. Pat enjoyed cartooning but was never satisfied with her artworks. She sent ideas to Bil Keane

– he liked them and incorporated many into his Family Circus comic strip.

She was loved by many for her genuine interest in listening, and her sweet nature that she retained to the last.

Her family thanks the many dedicated caregivers she had in her later years and weeks at Carteret Landing, Carteret Health, and especially her home health aides before she moved to assisted living – Diane Dicks, Avis Shelton, Mayra Guthrie.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship of Morehead City. Burial followed at Greenwood Cemetery in Morehead City.

Pat is survived by her two children, Craig and Shelley (David Torrey) and her two grandchildren, Meredith and Daniel Torrey (Teresa). She sadly was pre-deceased by her beloved husband in 2021. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Pat's memory to the Laurens Public Library Foundation, 273 N. Third St., Laurens, IA 50554, or the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, 2900 Bridges St., Morehead City, NC 28557.

Condolences and life tributes may be sent to the family at: <https://www.noebrooks.net/obituaries/patricia-harms>

Arrangements by Noe-Brooks Funeral Home, Morehead City, NC.



## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Wednesday: March 19, 2025**

11:30 AM ~ Lenten Lunch at Bethany  
5:30 PM ~ Lenten Soup Supper here  
6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service at Bethany

**Sunday: March 23, 2025**

Third Sunday in Lent  
9:15 AM ~ Adult SS  
9:15 AM ~ Youth SS  
9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship  
10:30 AM ~ Worship  
4:00 PM ~ 4-H Club Mtg.  
6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

**Monday: March 24, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

**Tuesday: March 25, 2025**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group  
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany  
7:00 PM ~ Confirmation

**Wednesday: March 26, 2025**

11:30 AM ~ Lenten Lunch at FCC  
5:30 PM ~ Lenten Soup Supper here  
6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service at Bethany

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



*Our Town Our Paper!*

## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Wednesday, March 19:**

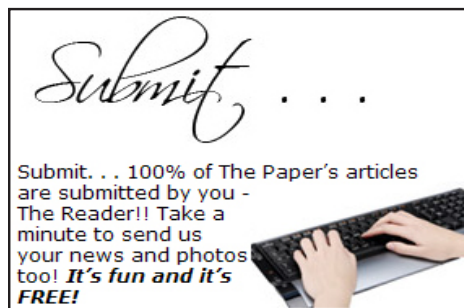
Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the Wesley Room

**Sunday, March 23:**

Sunday School from 9:15-10:05 AM  
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM

**Wednesday, March 26:**

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the Wesley Room



## *This Week at First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Sunday, March 23**

9:30 AM - Sunday School  
10:30 AM - Worship

**Wednesday, March 26**

11:30 AM - Lenten Luncheon at Bethany Lutheran Church

**Thursday, March 27**

2-5 PM - Clothes Closet Open

**Sunday, March 29**

9:30 AM - Sunday School  
10:30 AM - 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

## *Registration Open for Lambing Basics Workshop*

Registration is open for “Ewe Got This: Lambing Basics Workshop,” set for Saturday, April 12, in Ames. The in-person workshop is tailored for sheep producers seeking to enhance their expertise and understanding of the lambing process and the essential care required for ewes and lambs.

The workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm, 3640 520th Ave., Ames. The registration fee is \$30, and registration is open online until April 7.

“Participants will have the unique chance to observe, discuss and engage in practical activities with spring lambing ewes and their offspring. This workshop will be an immersive and educational experience,” said Carolyn Ihde, small ruminant outreach specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach and University of Wisconsin - Madison Extension.

For more information, contact Ihde at [cihde@wisc.edu](mailto:cihde@wisc.edu).



## *The Paper*

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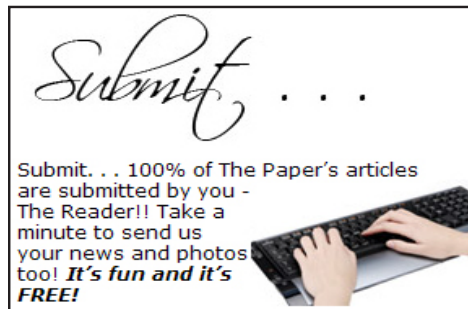
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## *Last Chance Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Course*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will offer Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (P-CIC), at the Extension office Wednesday, April 9, 2025. There will be a session that begins at 9 a.m. and a session that will begin at 1 p.m. Preregistration is required by calling the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or email [lzeman@iastate.edu](mailto:lzeman@iastate.edu). The registration fee is \$30. The course will fulfill 2024-2025 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators.



## *Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops Scheduled for March 25*

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is excited to announce a special educational opportunity on fruit tree pruning on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Join Dr. Suzanne Slack, Assistant Professor of Fruit Production at Iowa State University, for hands-on workshops designed to teach proper pruning techniques for fruit trees.

### **Workshop Schedule:**

#### **1. River Valley Orchards & Winery**

Location: 1645 220th St, Humboldt, IA 50548

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The session will begin with an informative presentation on fruit tree pruning, followed by an outdoor demonstration where participants will have the opportunity to practice pruning a fruit tree.

#### **2. Webster County Extension Office**

Location: 217 South 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

This session will include an engaging presentation, after which attendees will travel to the Men's Garden Club Apple Orchard (2242 Oakwood Road, Fort Dodge, IA 50501) from 5:30-6:30 to practice hands-on trimming of apple trees.

These workshops are a great opportunity for fruit tree owners, gardeners, citizen volunteers, community forestry and park staff, tree care professionals, utility company representatives, county conservation board, and enthusiasts to learn from an expert about the best practices for pruning to maintain healthy and productive trees.

There will be a \$10 fee for the Webster County class participants for non-garden members. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and bring their own pruning tools if possible.

For more information or to register for these workshops, please contact the Pocahontas County Extension Office at (712) 335-3103, the Humboldt County Extension Office at (515) 332-2201, the Webster County Extension Office at (515) 576-2119 or the Hamilton County Extension Office at (515) 832-9597.

Don't miss this chance to enhance your fruit tree care skills and prepare your trees for a bountiful season!

## *Tree Care, from Root to Canopy Workshop Scheduled Starting March 27*

Have you wondered about the health of your tree or maybe planning to replace some? After coming out of a drought, insect damage and wind damage we have had a high volume of trees questions in extension. Please join Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas, Hamilton, Humboldt, and Webster Counties have teamed up to host a live virtual learning opportunity starting Thursday evenings on March 27, April 3 and April 10 from 6-7 P.M. to learn about tree selection, placement and planting, post planning maintenance and pruning in the spring. Dr. Jeff Iles will discuss all of these topics along with an in-person session April 26, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. that will include a hands on overview of the topics.

These virtual and hands-on workshops are a great opportunity for homeowners, school grounds keepers, conservation professionals and city staff professionals to learn from an expert to be successful with selection, planting and caring

for trees from newly planted and established trees. There is a \$15 fee for three live virtual sessions and the hands-on in person session. The in-person session will be held at the Hamilton County Office located at 311 Bank St. Webster City, Iowa.

For more information, please contact the Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103 or register online at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/tree-care-root-canopy-hybrid>. Join us to learn from our experts to protect your investment of future tree purchases and maintaining the health of planted trees.

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## *4-H and FFA Market Sheep and Market Goat Weigh-Ins to be Held*

4-H and FFA Market Sheep and Market Goat Weigh-Ins will be on Saturday, April 5, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Pocahontas County Fairgrounds. All market lambs and market goats that will be exhibited at the 2025 Pocahontas County Fair need to be weighed in at this time.

State Fair identification will take place during the last 15 minutes of weigh-in, but you must let Ashlie know by April 1st if you need retinal imaging for the State Fair. Please contact Ashlie at [ashliej@iastate.edu](mailto:ashliej@iastate.edu) or call 712-335-3103.

Derby Swine Weigh-In will follow from 11:00-11:30 a.m., maximum weight of feeder pig is 90 pounds. Tags are \$4 per animal.

There will NOT be a special swine challenge this year.

## *Consider Dollars and What Makes Sense for Extending Days on Feed in the Feedlot*

Increasing days on feed for feedlot cattle isn't a new idea. However, several research studies in recent years have shown that as cattle get bigger a large percentage of their weight gain is in the form of carcass weight gain. Grant Crawford, associate director of cattle technical services at Merck Animal Health, said this concept, termed carcass transfer, allows cattle feeders the opportunity to extend days-on-feed and increase profitability on certain groups of cattle. This is particularly true if cattle are sold on a carcass-weight basis.

Crawford, who spoke at the 2025 Feedlot Forum in northwest Iowa, said the current situation with low grain prices, near record-high fed cattle prices, and near record-high feeder cattle prices offers a unique situation.

"Current feeder cattle prices make profit projections very narrow, and there may be an advantage to adding more pounds to the cattle that are already in the feedlot -- and already paid for," he said. "Especially compared with purchasing and placing a lighter weight feeder and

taking the risk that these new cattle may not produce a profit."

Crawford explained some recent research regarding increased carcass weight and live weight gain per day.

"A very rough estimate of carcass transfer is that 75% of live weight gain during the extended feeding period (extending past the normal finishing weight) is in the form of carcass weight," he said. "The research we have conducted shows steers gain approximately 2 lbs/day carcass weight, and 2.6 lbs/day live weight with extended days-on-feed. These estimates can be used to predict performance, incremental cost-of-gain, and added revenue from extending days-on-feed."

Extending days-on-feed typically makes more sense for cattle feeders who sell their cattle on a carcass weight basis rather than a live weight basis. This is because of the high percentage of weight gain in the form of carcass weight toward the end of the feeding period, Crawford said.

Also, extending days can be risky when selling cattle on a grid basis. Though extending days may be advantageous for increasing premium quality grades like Prime and Certified Angus Beef, it will likely also increase potential carcass discounts such as Yield Grades 4 and 5 and overweight carcasses.

Heifers versus steers also can make a difference. Heifers are earlier maturing and therefore may realize carcass discounts -- Yield Grades 4 and 5 especially -- earlier than steers. They're also less efficient than steers.

While current market dynamics allow producers this opportunity, changes in those dynamics of higher

feed prices and lower fed and/or feeder cattle prices, the opportunity to extend days-on-feed may diminish.

Producers interested in learning more about how more days on feed could work in their operation can compare past similar groups, Crawford said. Finished weights and carcass weights at typical days-on-feed, feed intakes at heavy weights, and carcass characteristics are important to know. It also is important to know how often the producer sees late-term deaths or morbidities, as this can vary greatly across feedlots.

Bottom line, Crawford said, is it's important to be pragmatic.

"One in the hand vs. two in the bush' is fitting here, because there definitely is risk in feeding cattle longer," he said. "For example, larger cattle can be hard on pens, fences and feeders. Any death loss in market-ready fed cattle is expensive. Weather can also play a major factor and any potential gains can easily be offset by mud, heat stress, cold stress, etc."

About the Iowa Beef Center. The Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University was established in 1996 with the goal of supporting the growth and vitality of the state's beef cattle industry. It comprises faculty and staff from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine, and works to develop and deliver the latest research-based information regarding the beef cattle industry.