

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 29

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

April 9, 2025

## Local News

### *Pocahontas County Foundation Grant Funds Put to Use*

Pictured from left to right are Wyatt Rahn, Deputy Sheriff, Jim Malecek, Reserve Deputy Sheriff and Neil Christians, Deputy Sheriff from the Pocahontas County Sheriff's Office with the tasers and accessories that were purchased from a grant received from the Pocahontas County Foundation.

The Pocahontas County Sheriff's Office Reserves were awarded a grant for \$8,000. The total cost of three new Taser 7 tasers, charging dock station, holsters, batteries and cartridges was close to \$9,000.

The Pocahontas County Sheriff's Office and the Pocahontas County Sheriff's Office Reserves would like to thank the Pocahontas County Foundation for remembering our organization with the grant to help keep Pocahontas County safe.



## *Celebrate ISU Extension & Outreach Week in Pocahontas County*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week is April 7-12. Iowa's 100 county extension offices will host "I Spy Cy" activities and educational events throughout the week to thank Iowans for their support of ISU Extension and Outreach throughout the state.

"This celebration is one way we show our appreciation for the people who participate in our educational programs, as well as the many volunteers, community leaders, organizations, agencies and other partners who support our work in Pocahontas County," said Erica Svuba, Marketing and Program Coordinator.

We will be having an open house on Thursday, April 10th from 11am-1pm with refreshments on us. Come learn how Iowa State University Extension and Outreach builds a strong Iowa by engaging all Iowans in research, education, and extension experiences to address current and emerging real-life challenges.

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.

The Pocahontas County Extension Council members are Bill Meyer, Cody Peterson, Tiffany Clark, Lola DeWall, Mary Roberts, Andrew Frerk, Pat McNeive, Matt Aden, and Grant Theesfeld.

"ISU Extension and Outreach delivers education, facilitates collaboration and sparks action. We're making a difference for the people of Pocahontas County – whether measured in improved farm profits, stronger families, healthier communities or youth who are ready for their future," Erica Svuba said.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/legal](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/legal).

**HAPPY ISU EXTENSION  
AND OUTREACH WEEK**

**APRIL 7-12, 2025**

**!! CARD SHOWER !!**

**IN HONOR  
OF OUR  
MOM'S  
85TH  
BIRTHDAY  
ON**

**APRIL 12TH**

Please send  
greetings to:

**PAT BOUGHEY**

**314 NORTH FIRST STREET  
LAURENS, IOWA 50554**

*Thank You!*



## At the Library with Glenda Mulder April 9, 2025

This week we received *Uncomplicate Your Plate: A Busy Family's Guide to Meal Planning* by Laurens native April (Van Sickle) Graff! In this book April, "draws from her 17 years of experience as a supermarket dietitian and her personal journey as a mother and wife to simplify the complexities of nutrition and meal planning. This comprehensive guide provides a fresh perspective on nutrition, teaching you how to create balanced meals that support your family's health, even with a hectic schedule." This seems like a great plan for all of us! We are working on our schedules to find a time when April can come to our library and tell us all more about her book and her journey as an author. I'll let you know when we get it on the calendar!

One other nonfiction selection looks interesting to me: *Four Red Sweaters: Powerful True Stories of Women and the Holocaust* by Lucy Adlington who also wrote *The Dressmakers of Auschwitz*.

New novels recently include: *The Story She Left Behind* by Patti Callahan Henry, *Strangers in Time* by David Baldacci, *Say You'll Remember Me* by Abby Jimenez, *Story of My Life* by Lucy Score, *Page Turner* by Viola Shipman, and *Fun for the Whole Family* by Jennifer Smith.

April Book Club choice is *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova. I really enjoy how this author takes

a neurological disorders and weaves the story around it. Our catalog's description of this book reads, "A once-celebrated concert pianist who is gradually succumbing to ALS is forced to accept help from the estranged wife he pushed away, a situation that forces the couple to reconcile their past before time runs out." Grab a copy and join the discussion Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

## Mark Your Calendar

- April 21 - Evening Tot Time @ 5:30 p.m.
- April 18 @ 2 p.m. - Survival Skills with Poky County Naturalist
- April 28 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova
- April 30 @ 7 p.m. - Brad Wilkening's Lessons of the Holocaust
- May 6 @ 3:30-5 p.m. - Kids Make & Take
- May 6 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday for adults

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 **4/24/25**  
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## *One-Woman Play at the Rialto*

Writer and actress Diana Star Helmer will perform a one-woman play about the former First Lady, Betty Ford. "My Name is Betty Ford" will take place on Saturday, April 12 at 2 PM at the Rialto Theater in Pocahontas. Refreshments will follow and the admission is free. The event is sponsored by the Pocahontas County Historical Society with the help of a bequest from Mary Jo Vainreb.

## *Laurens Women's Club to Meet*

The Laurens Women's Club will meet Friday, April 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Homestead Cooperative of Laurens. Pat Sullivan will present the program about "Laurens Community Center".

Elaine Harriman will give the book report.

Members of the serving committee will be Ann Beneke and Evelyn Hakes.

## *Happy Birthday Jeanette!!*

Our amazing Mom is turning 95 on Friday, April 18!!

Help this special lady celebrate by sending her a card or note!

**Jeanette Korreect**  
**Laurens Care Center**  
**Room 108**  
**304 East Veterans Road**  
**Laurens, Iowa 50554**

*Thank You!*

*Steve, Jerry, David and Susan*

## **The Paper**

Published weekly by  
My Laurens, Inc.  
112 Walnut St.  
Laurens, IA 50554

Phone:  
(712) 841-2684

Fax:  
(712) 841-4662

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

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Publisher:  
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*This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Wednesday: April 9, 2025**

6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service at Bethany  
Council meeting to follow

**Sunday: April 13, 2025**

**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS  
9:15 AM ~ Youth SS  
9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship  
10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion  
4:00 PM ~ 4-H Club Mtg.  
6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

**Monday: April 14, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

**Tuesday: April 15, 2025**

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

**Thursday: April 17, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Maundy Thursday  
Worship Service w/Communion

**Friday: April 18, 2025**

6:30 PM ~ Laurens Ecumenical Good  
Friday Worship Service at FCC

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



*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

*This Week at  
Laurens United  
Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Wednesday, April 9:**

Caring Cards Meeting from 6-8 PM in Fellowship Hall  
Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the Wesley Room

**Sunday, April 13:**

Palm Sunday: Procession of the Palms  
Sunday School from 9:15-10:05 AM  
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Administrative Council Meeting @ 11:30 AM in the Wesley Room following worship

**Thursday, April 17:**

Maundy Thursday Joint Worship  
Service with Varina UMC @ 7:00 PM at the Laurens UMC



*This Week at  
First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Wednesday, April 9**

11:30 a.m. - Lenten Luncheon at First Christian Church  
(Body of Christ Church - host)

**Thursday, April 10**

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

**Sunday, April 13**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship  
4 p.m. - Service at Laurens Care Center



*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

## *National Financial Literacy Month Is Good Time to Review Finances*

April brings a sense of renewal with blooming flowers and warmer days, but it also serves as a reminder of financial duties, especially with federal and state income tax filing deadlines on the horizon. In addition, April is National Financial Literacy Month, a dedicated time to enhance our understanding of personal finance and make wiser money choices.

According to the National Financial Educators Council (NFEC), financial illiteracy cost the average American approximately \$1,015 in 2024. When applied to the entire U.S. adult population of approximately 240 million, this amounts to more than \$243 billion lost in 2024 due to financial illiteracy. This figure highlights the significant impact that a lack of financial knowledge can have on individuals' finances.

The FINRA Foundation's National Financial Capability Study (NFCS) provides valuable

insights into financial literacy trends in the U.S. Notably, the study observed a slight improvement in certain financial behaviors among U.S. adults compared to previous years. For instance, 53% of respondents reported having three months of emergency savings in 2021, up from 49% in 2018 and 35% in 2009. Additionally, 54% of individuals indicated they did not find it difficult to cover expenses and pay bills, an improvement from 50% in 2018 and 36% in 2009.

“Financial literacy isn't just about numbers — it's about confidence. We often see that individuals face challenges with managing debt, understanding credit and planning for long-term goals. But with the right tools and resources, anyone can improve their financial literacy and feel more empowered about their financial future.”

“Fortunately, National Financial Literacy Month isn't just a spotlight — it's a springboard. Spring often aligns with tax season, making it an ideal time to review your finances. Did you get a refund? Consider stashing it in an emergency fund or retirement account. Employers may also roll out financial wellness programs

this time of year, offering free resources to boost your know-how.”

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) offers practical tools and resources to help individuals take small steps toward financial security, like creating a budget or understanding interest rates.

“Small steps — like setting a budget or learning about interest rates — can lead to big wins.”

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## *New Course Helps Cattle Women Develop Market Strategies and Analyze Profitability*

The farm management team with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering three Women Marketing Cattle courses this spring.

Evening courses are offered in Decorah beginning April 8 and in Mt. Ayr beginning April 29. An all-day Saturday course is offered in Guthrie Center on May 31. The registration fee is \$25.

Cattle and calves are Iowa's fourth largest agricultural commodity, contributing more than \$5 billion in agricultural sales to the economy annually. Women and beginning farmers are finding economic opportunities through beef production. This women-centered program offers an opportunity to meet area cattle producers and learn with others in a comfortable setting. A team of instructors will provide different perspectives.

"Cattle producers have more marketing options today than ever before. They don't have to wait and see what they get. Producers now have tools to reduce price risk in the market," stated Tim Christensen, ISU Extension and Outreach farm management specialist.

This course is about capturing more value from beef production by understanding the true costs of production and developing an overall marketing strategy. Instructors will compare and contrast different market channels and pricing strategies. Sales at weaning, backgrounding and finishing will be discussed. A refresher on carcass value and its relationship to price will be included.

Producers will learn how they can utilize futures prices to help them manage price risk and develop a marketing plan. They will learn more about livestock risk insurance plans, diversification and other risk management tools. Producers will gain new insights and access tools to help them analyze and understand profitability.

The course includes an interactive market simulation activity. Class members will work together in small groups to practice news skills and try out a marketing strategy.

"We will take producers through a marketing year simulation where they will make key decisions and discover how those impact their profitability," stated Joseph Lensing, farm management specialist.

### Courses:

- April 8-22, Decorah: Women Marketing Cattle begins at 5 p.m. with a light meal at the ISU Extension and Outreach Winneshiek County office. The course starts at 5:30 p.m. and concludes by 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday night for three weeks. The lead instructor is Joseph Lensing.
- April 29 - May 13, Mt. Ayr: Women Marketing Cattle begins at 5:30 p.m. with a light meal at the ISU Extension and Outreach Ringgold County office. The course starts at 6 p.m. and concludes by 9 p.m. each Tuesday for three weeks. The lead instructor is Tim Christensen.
- May 31, Guthrie Center: Women Marketing Cattle begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. A light lunch is provided during this all-day Saturday program. The lead instructor is Tim Christensen.

Registration for the courses includes meals and course materials. Registration scholarships are available by writing to Madeline Schultz at [schultz@iastate.edu](mailto:schultz@iastate.edu).

Funding for this project was provided by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under Award Number 2023-70027-40444.

More information about this and other programs for women can be found at the ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Team Women in Ag Program website.