

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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Local News

4-H Members at Coopers Cove

Pocahontas County 4-H members participated in a fun and educational afternoon at Cooper's Cove last week.

During this experience, 4-H members had the opportunity to explore Iowa's ecosystems through a guided hike with Pocahontas County Conservation's Naturalist Adam Mann, where they learned to identify both native and invasive plant species. Additionally, members pitched in to clean up the park, preserving the natural beauty of the area for others to enjoy.

A big thank you to Adam for sharing his knowledge about our beautiful state's ecosystems and showing us how we can help take care of it!



Fonda Arts Center - “Songs of Faith and Inspiration”

As the promise of Spring becomes more of a reality, “Songs of Faith and Inspiration” is the theme for an afternoon of music at the Fonda Arts Center, performed by Daniel Keen and Larry Heschke.

Both Dan and Larry have been the backbone at the Arts Center over the years, always delighting audiences with their heartfelt talent and versatility.

This event takes place on Sunday, April 27, at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main, beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is always welcome; admission and refreshments are free

2025 Pocahontas County 4-H Scholarship Winner

The Pocahontas County 4-H Youth Committee is proud to announce the winner of the 2025 Pocahontas County 4-H Scholarship, Joshua Hoffman, son of Cynthia and Brian Hoffman of Laurens, Iowa.

Joshua has been awarded a \$1000 scholarship from the Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment to the college of his choice. Congratulations, Joshua, on your outstanding achievements throughout your 4-H career.



“My Name is Betty Ford” Program



On April 12, 2025, Diana Star Helmer portrayed First Lady Betty Ford at the Rialto Theatre in Pocahontas. In a stage setting for year 1981, Betty Ford describes to a crowd an intervention by her doctors, family, and close friends after the White House years. This event was followed by treatment at the Long Beach Naval Hospital for her addiction to pills and alcohol. Later, she helped to establish the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, CA, for both men and women. Betty Ford and her husband were in the nation’s capitol for a total of 28 years, including Jerry Ford’s service as a Michigan Congressman and Minority Leader. As First Lady of the United States from August of 1974 to January of 1977, Betty Ford was often a public speaker. Further, she brought awareness to breast cancer, and she was outspoken in promoting equality for women. In 1976, she gave her husband’s concession speech to Jimmy Carter after President Jerry Ford lost his voice.

The Pocahontas County, IA, Historical Society sponsored this event.

Iowa 4-H Launches New Statewide Fishing Club

Iowa 4-H is launching a new statewide fishing club, designed for Iowa youth in grades 4-12. This immersive program aims to deepen participants' understanding of aquatic life found in Iowa, focusing on topics like identifying common fish species, mastering safe catch-and-release techniques and learning the intricate art of lure tying.

"This program focuses on educating members about Iowa's aquatic ecosystems, improving fishing techniques and promoting environmental stewardship," said Angie Dougherty, 4-H youth program specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The program is structured into three parts: kick-off webinars, tournaments and fishing skills webinars. Each is designed to enhance members' fishing skills and deepen their connection to Iowa's waterways.

Enrollment for the club is now open, and club opportunities will start April 28. To join, participants must first enroll as a 4-H member in 4-H Online in their county's Statewide Fishing Club.

"After you've become a 4-H member in your county, you will be notified to enroll in the Iowa 4-H Fishing Club event," Dougherty explained.

Tournament Kick-off webinars.

Club activities begin with Tournament Kick-off webinars, which will be held a few days before each of three tournaments opens. These informational sessions will feature expert guest speakers

who will share valuable insights about various fish species, their environments, and the best tackle and techniques for successful fishing. This introduction aims to prepare and excite members for the upcoming months of competition.

Three months of tournaments.

Following the webinars, the program transitions into three months of tournaments. Each month focuses on a different species, presenting youth with the challenge of catching the longest fish. The competition is strictly based on catches made within Iowa's state lines during the designated month, and prizes for the longest catch will be awarded. This year's inaugural tournaments will feature trout, bluegill and catfish species.

To be eligible for prizes, register before the start of the tournament dates. The first tournament, trout, begins May 1. The final tournament is catfish and opens July 1. More information on webinar and tournament dates is available online.

Fishing Skills webinar series. The final part of the program is the Fishing Skills webinar series. This online series will feature a variety of essential fishing techniques, with expert-led demonstrations on crafting slip bobbers (with all materials provided), filleting fish, preparing them for delicious meals, and much more.

Guest speakers this summer will include a wildlife officer who navigates and patrols the Mississippi River and will discuss Iowa's water systems in addition to safety practices; a wildlife biologist with the Iowa DNR; and a retired conservation officer and current commercial fisherman who will show tricks of the trade for cleaning and cooking fish.

"By fostering youth-to-adult partnerships through virtual education, we will connect young enthusiasts with experts and community partners from

across the state, creating a dynamic learning environment that encourages long-term engagement and excitement in their special interest," said Katie Peterson, 4-H youth program specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Through hands-on activities, webinars and self-led tournaments, members will gain skills in fishing, fish identification, lure tying, water safety and more. Most important, this experience will foster a connection with the great outdoors, encouraging participants to appreciate and engage with Iowa's natural beauty while developing valuable life skills such as responsibility, perseverance and critical thinking as 4-H members.

"Whether you're looking to become a skilled angler or just want to try a new outdoor hobby, this program will enhance your connection to nature and foster a lifelong passion for fishing," said Dougherty. "By bridging the gap between recreational fishing and 4-H's broader educational goals, the statewide fishing club serves as a valuable tool for expanding community involvement and fostering a sense of unity and purpose."

Staff are looking to collaborate with local fishing experts and community organizations to enhance fishing involvement at the county level. Those interested in partnering with Iowa 4-H to share their expertise and engage youth in fishing opportunities are encouraged to connect with Peterson and Dougherty.

"We are eager to collaborate and bring more youth to Iowa 4-H through fishing," Peterson said.

The Iowa 4-H Foundation is providing funding for the Statewide Fishing Club.

For more information on the Iowa 4-H Statewide Fishing Club, please contact Angie Dougherty at aksperf@iastate.edu or Katie Peterson at katiejp@iastate.edu.

Free Movie Night at Rialto Theatre to Raise Awareness for Child Abuse Prevention

In recognition of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Pocahontas County Interagency Coalition and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children are hosting a Free Movie Night on April 29 at 7:00 PM at the Pocahontas Rialto Theatre.

Families are invited to enjoy a special showing of "Trolls", a fun and uplifting movie for all ages. Complimentary popcorn packs will be available while supplies last, thanks to sponsorship from Community Partnerships for Protecting Children.

This event aims to bring the community together to support child abuse prevention efforts and highlight the importance of safe, nurturing environments for children. Through education and awareness, we can work together to protect and support our youngest community members.

"We want to create a space where families can come together, enjoy a movie, and also learn about the vital role they play in keeping children safe," said Erica Svuba. "Prevention starts with community involvement, and events like this help us spread that message."

All are welcome to attend this free community event. For more information, contact Erica Svuba at the Iowa State Extension and Outreach at 712-335-3103 or Morgan Stuckey at the Pocahontas Community Hospital at 712-335-5208.

About the Sponsors: The Pocahontas County Interagency Coalition is dedicated to supporting community well-being through collaborative programs and resources. Our mission is to connect individuals and families in need with the resources, guidance, and support necessary to improve their lives.

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children work to prevent child abuse, neglect, re-abuse, safely decrease the number of out-of-home placements, and promote timely reunification when children are placed in foster care. The long-term focus of the Community Partnerships is to protect children by changing the culture to improve child welfare processes, practices, and policies.

Join us for an evening of fun, family, and awareness as we work together to create a safer future for our children!



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*This Week at
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Saturday: April 26, 2025

9:00 AM ~ IMD Council Mtg. at
Mason City

Sunday: April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS & Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship

4:00 PM ~ Laurens Care Center Service

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Monday: April 28, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: April 29, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: April 30, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation

Saturday: May 3, 2025

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

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



Biggest Little Paper In Town!

*This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church*

Pastor Deb Parkison

Sunday, April 27:

Sunday School from 9:15-10:05 AM

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

Wednesday, April 30:

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the
Wesley Room



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*This Week at
First Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, April 24

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Saturday, April 26

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

Sunday, April 27

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

following worship - Kristen's Care
and Support Team



*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

Agronomy Workshop Series for Women to Be Held in Franklin County

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host Agronomy in the Field, a multi-session, hands-on workshop being offered to women landowners, farmers, conservationists, and other women who are interested in learning more about agronomy. The workshop series will be held during the 2025 growing season.

Sessions are designed to be hands-on and conducted in the field to see real-time conditions.

“Agronomy in the Field aims to strengthen agronomic skills for women that allow for better decision-making, provide a better understanding of inputs for crop production, showcase various conservation practices and increase confidence in communication with farming partners,” said Angela Rieck-Hinz, north central field agronomist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The workshops will be held on April 29, May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26 and Sept. 9 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at a farm located east of Hampton. Specific session and location details will be emailed to registrants.

The fee to register is \$50, with a discounted rate of \$30 for high school or college students. This fee includes all educational materials and resources. To register for Agronomy in the Field, please contact Shonda Tranel, ISU Extension and Outreach Hardin County at 641-648-4850, ext 2., or stranel@iastate.edu.

This workshop is made possible by the financial support of Hardin, Franklin, Butler and Grundy County extension offices and supported locally by Hillcrest Grain Company and farm hosts, Shonda and Keith Tranel.

Our Town Our Paper!

Iowa Master Conservationist Program to begin in Hamilton, Webster, Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer the Iowa Master Conservationist Program starting May 6. The program will take place at different locations within Hamilton, Humboldt, Webster and Pocahontas Counties, providing participants with hands-on interaction showing the diversity of the state’s natural resources. The program teaches about Iowa’s natural ecosystems and the diversity of conservation challenges and opportunities within the region. Graduates of the course learn to make informed choices for leading and educating others to improve conservation in Iowa.

The program consists of approximately 12 hours of online curriculum and seven weekly three-hour face-to-face meetings. The online modules will include lessons and resources by Iowa State University subject-matter experts to be reviewed at the participants’ own pace at home or at the ISU Extension and Outreach County office. Module topics include conservation history and science, understanding Iowa ecosystems, implementing conservation practices in human dominated landscapes and developing skills to help educate others about conservation practices.

The face-to-face meetings held on Tuesday evenings will build on the online lessons. The program schedule is as follows:

- May 6 Introduction - Matt Cosgrove River's Edge Discovery Center, Fort Dodge
- May 13 Putting it together in the Watershed - Webster City
- May 20 Understanding Iowa’s Ecosystems: Prairies - Brushy Creek
- May 27 Understanding Iowa’s Ecosystems: Forests - Gotch Park, Humboldt
- June 3 Understanding Iowa’s Ecosystems: Aquatic Environments, Smeltzer Farm, Webster
- June 10 Setting the Stage: Land, Water and Conservation in Iowa, Humboldt/Pocahontas Co
- June 17 Planting the seeds of Conservation: Graduation, Coopers Cove, Pocahontas County

All programs are from 6-9 p.m. Each face-to-face meeting will be led by local subject-matter experts to demonstrate how the principles covered in the online curriculum play out locally.

Registration for the course is \$125 and includes all materials and refreshments and is due at the time of registration. Please register online by May 1 at: <https://go.iastate.edu/UTOH9Y>.

Questions? Please contact Webster County Extension 515-576-2119; Hamilton County Extension 515-832-9597; Pocahontas County Extension 712-335-3103 or Humboldt County Extension 515-332-2201.

Master Conservationist Program participants are now able to earn AEA license renewal credits for participation in the program! Licensed teachers that need renewal credits can earn 2 credits for going through the MCP. Registration through AEA and an additional \$100 fee to AEA are required. A short reflection on your experience in MCP and what you learned will be used to grade your participation. #52844 Region 8 Master Conservationist Program Offering May 6, 2025.

Workshops Offered by The Science of Parenting

Research conducted by Zero to Three (2016), found that parents need and want information and support. 80% of parents work to be better parents, and 69% of parents say if they knew more parenting strategies, they would use them. Despite this motivation, however, almost half of parents say they aren't getting the support they need during times of stress.

The Science of Parenting team from Iowa State University has scheduled virtual workshops to help caregivers learn about various parenting strategies. These workshops all focus on sharing research-based information that fits each family's own reality.

Understanding Research and Reality – June 4th 12:00pm How do parents use research to help inform their unique parenting reality? Learn about how parenting realities are different and discover helpful parenting tools and techniques. This workshop is approved for foster parent credit hours.

Understanding Temperament – June 11th 12:00pm Every child is unique, and individual temperament is one of the biggest reasons why! This workshop will introduce the individual temperament traits and explore how your child's temperament can impact their feelings and behaviors.

Children's Ages and Parenting Stages – June 18th 12:00pm As kids grow through different ages, parents also go through stages! Learn about those stages, development, and tips for adapting your parenting to your child's age and abilities.

Positive Discipline – June 25th 12:00pm Parents often cite guidance and discipline as their number one concern. Learn to see positive discipline as an opportunity to build positive parent-child relationships. This workshop is approved for foster parent credit hours.

These workshops are funded by Health and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach for ALL participants, but you are asked to register ahead of time at [scienceofparenting.org](https://www.scienceofparenting.org) for each workshop you plan to attend to receive the class link and materials.

Contact Morgan Newell with any questions at mnewell@iastate.edu or 515-991-5892. For more information about The Science of Parenting, visit: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/scienceofparenting>

Register for the 2025 Crop Scouting Competition by July 1

Youth teams can now register for the 2025 Youth Crop Scouting Competition, hosted by Iowa 4-H and the Iowa State University Integrated Pest Management program. The event will be held July 24 at Wyffels Hybrids in Ames.

Middle and high school students in grades 7-12 are invited to put their crop scouting skills to the test, competing against other youth teams across the state. The event aims to bring awareness of IPM in Iowa and allow youth to learn IPM basics through hands-on learning and teamwork.

"Teams prepare in advance of the competition, working together to learn about pest identification, crop management and crop scouting," said Maya Hayslett, crop science youth education specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and program coordinator for the Iowa Youth Crop Scouting Competition. "The competition is then a chance for them to use their critical thinking and teamwork skills to assess field conditions and consider management options."

At the event, teams rotate between different crop plots where they are evaluated on their knowledge and skills in crop scouting by answering questions and demonstrating field skills as asked by station judges. Stations are run by ISU faculty and staff and agriculture industry professionals, allowing students to work next to and learn from experts.

"The competition is a chance for them to see several different career paths related to agronomy," Hayslett said.

One of the youth participants said, "I enjoyed getting to work and interact with industry professionals and gain insight into how they identify and solve problems."

Potential topics include crop diseases, insects, disorders, weed identification, crop growth stages, cover crops, sprayer calibration and pesticide use.

In addition to the competition, youth have a lunch from Hickory Park and participate in fun activities with youth from around the state. After the competition, participants can visit the Iowa State University agronomy and agricultural and biosystems engineering departments to learn about their program offerings.

Based on points accrued from the field station evaluations, the top four teams are eligible to win cash prizes. The top two teams will advance to the regional competition to compete against teams from seven states this September.

ISU Extension and Outreach has resources, including a coach's guide, study guide, field guides, publications and presentations to help each team prepare for the event. For more information and resources, and to register, visit the Iowa Youth Crop Scouting Competition webpage. A video recap from last year's event is available online.

The event is sponsored by the following: Corteva Agriscience, Wyffels Hybrids, Iowa 4-H Foundation, Bayer, Syngenta, United Soybean Board, Iowa Independent Crop Consultants Association, Iowa Certified Crop Advisors, ISU Integrated Pest Management Program, Iowa Soybean Research Center and Environmental Tillage Systems.

For more information, please contact Maya Hayslett at hayslett@iastate.edu.

At the Library with Glenda Mulder April 24, 2025

We have busy evenings next week! Monday is our Book Club Discussion of *Every Note Played* (such a good book!) by Lisa Genova, and Wednesday brings a return visit of Brad Wilkening's *Lessons of the Holocaust*.

Many of you will remember Brad Wilkening as a dedicated educator at Laurens-Marathon. He is also a member of the Iowa Holocaust Council. His mission is to educate people of all ages about the Holocaust, emphasizing the importance of making informed decisions and recognizing the consequences of inaction. This presentation serves as a crucial reminder that the Holocaust's lessons are not confined to the past. We hope you will be inspired to become more compassionate, empathetic, and understanding members of society. Join us Wednesday, April 30th at 7 p.m. for this program.

New novels recently include: *The Bright Years* by Sarah Damoff, *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry, *Dream State* by Eric Puchner, *Summer Light on Nantucket* by Nancy Thayer, *The Lilac People* by Milo Todd, *2 Sisters Murder Investigations* and *25 Alive; a Women's Murder Club Thriller*, both by James Patterson.

Mark Your Calendar

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

May 7 & 19 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time

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