

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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August 25,
2021

Local News

2021 Pocahontas County Fair Beef Carcass Awards

Michelle Anderson received the Grand Champion Carcass for the individual beef. Peyton Lenz was reserve champion and Ashlyn Duitscher was Pocahontas County Champion.

The pen of three heifer award went to Natalie Burke and the pen of three steer award went to Andrew Burke. William Burke received reserve champion with his pen of three steers.



Back Row L-R: Peyton Lenz, Michele Anderson, William Burke, Hallee Hauswirth, Justin Metzger and Joel Metzger.

Front Row L-R: Ashlyn Duitscher, Ryan Hauswirth, Nathan Burke, Grace Sobotka and Emma Sobotka.



Join 4-H!

The new 4-H year begins September 1st. All youth in 4th-12th grade are welcome to join Pocahontas County 4-H.

Please call the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Office at 712-335-3103 or email lzeman@iastate.edu to enroll your child. Current members are encouraged to sign into your v2.4online account and re-enroll after September 1.

Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show Blows Past Previous Donation Record

The Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show reached new heights, raising \$375,265.92 at the 39th annual show. All proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa, with houses in Des Moines, Iowa City and Sioux City. The local charities provide a "home away from home" for families of sick children.



Since 1983, the Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show has raised over \$4.5 million for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa. Gov. Kim Reynolds, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association and Iowa Beef Industry Council would like to thank past and present donors for their support. This event demonstrates the "Cattlemen Care" and "Iowa Nice" mantras, which are synonymous with Iowa.

This year's show, held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, showcased 24 Iowa steer exhibitors. Ben Kelly, of Dallas Center, picked the Grand Champion Steer and Mike Sorensen, of Greenfield, selected the Grand Champion Showman. The Grand Champion Steer was shown by Jeff Angelo and exhibited by Lane Elmquist. The Grand Champion Steer was sponsored by the Iowa Bankers Association and purchased by Friends & Family of Lane Elmquist and the Audubon Community. Grand Champion Showman honors went to Celebrity Showman Teagan Schaefer, of TaterTough. Schaefer led steer Hero, who was raised by Carlee Cremeens and sponsored by the Iowa Hereford Breeders Association.

This year's People's Choice Award went to celebrity Eric Hanson and exhibitor Molly Chapman. The Community Hero award was a new honor in 2021 and encouraged youth exhibitors to promote a sense of community through donated non-perishable goods and pop tabs, and social media engagement to raise awareness of the event. Youth exhibitor Kami Schrunk received the first Community Hero Award for exemplary leadership and promotion of the cause. Social media played an important role in exposing the Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show to more than 266,000 people nationwide.

Thank you to all who participated in the collective efforts of this year's event and made it a huge success! Cattle producers and local donors continue to pay it forward by donating and supporting local exhibitors. None of this would be possible without the leadership of Gov. Kim Reynolds and her support of the agricultural community and Ronald McDonald House Charities in Iowa. We look forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary at the Iowa State Fair in August of 2022.

Pocahontas County, IA, Historical Society News

The Pocahontas County, IA, Historical Society's float "101 Years-Women's Suffrage" will be in the Fun Days parade in Gilmore City on August 28 and in the Labor Day parade in Fonda on September 4.

The parade entry also appeared in the Heritage Days parade in Pocahontas on July 17 (shown here), and in the Summer Celebration parade in Laurens on July 10.



From left to right in the back row are Connie Dallenbach and Dorothy Lamberti, and in the front row are Ann Beneke and Jane Kirchner.

Fairfield Township Cemetery Tour

Albert City, Iowa

August 29, 2021

2:00-4:30

"History Brought To Life"



Tickets can be purchased at Straw Horse, Community State Bank, or Ag Partners in Albert City for \$5.00. You can purchase tickets at the cemetery 1 mile west of Albert City on August 29th. Park east of the cemetery and load onto the trolley. There will be a golf cart to pick you up and take you to the trolley.

Sponsored by Sesquicentennial Committee of Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Writing Your Retirement Paycheck

How can I be sure my retirement funds will last my lifetime? This important question will be addressed in an Iowa State University Extension and Outreach workshop on Tuesdays, September 28 and October 5, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Expo Center in Pocahontas. Face coverings are encouraged.

"Writing Your Retirement Paycheck" is designed to provide information and resources needed by those approaching retirement within the next ten years. The workshop outlines key factors to consider prior to retirement and describes strategies for planning one's income in retirement.

"For most of us," says Barb Wollan, Human Sciences Specialist, "our paychecks have been determined by someone else all our lives. But in retirement, many of us are responsible for writing our own paychecks. How will we know how big it should be?"

According to Wollan, who will lead the workshop, topics include inflation, health costs, Social Security, required minimum distributions, income tax, and more. "Individuals need to make their own decisions about retirement," says Wollan, "but clear and non-commercial information is a necessary ingredient for decision-making."

Wollan points out that even those who work with a trusted financial professional must ultimately make the decisions themselves. A financial professional can suggest or recommend products and strategies, but it is the consumer who decides and then lives with the results of the decisions.

A fee of \$25 per person or per couple for the Writing Your Retirement Paycheck workshop will help to off-set direct expenses and to support the Human Sciences County Extension Program. Register by September 24 online at <https://bit.ly/wywp18271>. Contact Janae Blomquist at Pocahontas County Extension, 712-335-3103 with any questions.

At the Library *with Glenda Mulder* *August 25, 2021*

Cards with Laura & Deb: Do you enjoy making cards and would like joining us? Starting the 2nd Tuesday of September (September 14th) we will have a card making session from 5:30 to 8 p.m. For adults only. We will continue the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Each month we will have a theme but you can be creative and do what you want. We will pull out our fun equipment such as embosser, die-cuts, stamps, paper punches. No charge but you will need to bring your own cards & envelopes, other papers and embellishments. September's Theme is fall & Thanksgiving. Sign up today as session size is limited. We will periodically have a child card making class. Any questions ask Laura Todd or Deb Hertz.

Just a few new fiction selections this week: *Verity* by Colleen Hoover, *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy, *Black Ice* by Brad Thor and *Lightning Strike* by William Kent Krueger. New non-fiction: *Agent Sonya* by Ben Macintyre and *All The Frequent Troubles Of Our Days* by Rebecca Donner.

Coming Events

LegoMania all day each Wednesday in August!

September 7 @ 6 p.m. - Wooden Pumpkins at Take it Tuesday

September 14 @ 5:30-8 p.m. - Open Cardmaking with Deb & Laura

September 28 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cardmaking Class with Brenda & Milissa

Clover Kids to Meet

All youth in Kindergarten through 3rd grade are welcome and encouraged to join the Pocahontas County Clover Kids group. There will be a family meeting Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 5:30 p.m. at Elbert Park in Pocahontas.

Please call or email to register your family so we have adequate supplies.
712-335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu

Bridal Shower

A come and go Bridal Shower will be held Saturday, August 28th in honor of Kacie Cox at the Marathon Public Library from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

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This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

**Pastor Deb out of the office August
23 through August 27**

Fri., Aug. 27:

AA meeting from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. in the
Wesley Room

Sun., Aug. 29:

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Baptism of Hadly Mary Gustafson

Thurs., Sept. 2:

UMW Welcome Back Luncheon @
NOON



This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM ~ Worship

10:00 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday: August 31, 2021

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, August 26

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet

Sunday, August 29

9:30 a.m. - Worship

10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship



New Hope Baptist Church

202 Byron St, Laurens

New Hope Baptist Church invites
you to join us for Sunday School at
10 a.m. and our Worship Service at
11 a.m. Additionally all are welcome
to attend our weekly Bible Study held
each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

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

USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification

Organic producers and handlers can now apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification. Applications for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) are due Nov. 1, 2021.

“USDA is here to help all producers, including those who grow our nation’s organic food and fiber. Many farmers have told us that cost was a barrier to their ability to get an organic certification,” said Bob Wegand, Acting State Executive Director for the Iowa Farm Service Agency (FSA). “By assisting with the costs, this program can help organic farmers get their certification along with the benefits that come with it.”

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA’s National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year. Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

For 2021, OCCSP will reimburse 50% of a certified operation’s allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 for each of the following categories (or “scopes”):

- crops
- wild crops
- livestock
- processing/handling
- State organic program fees.

Organic farmers and ranchers may apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency.

This funding will be complemented by an additional \$20 million for organic and transitioning producers through the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. More information on that funding will be available in the coming weeks.

Manufacturing Expo for 5-12th Graders to be held at Clay County Fair

Clay County Fairgoers have a new event to check out at this year’s Clay County Fair. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Northwest Iowa Manufacturing Sector have teamed up to host a Manufacturing Expo for 5th through 12th graders. The free event will be held Friday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 4-H Auditorium on the Clay County Fairgrounds.

The come-and-go Manufacturing Expo will feature hands-on simulators and technology for youth to try out, and Career Connect will be onsite to help connect students with ways to further explore the variety of careers in manufacturing.

“We invite local families to bring their 5th through 12th graders to check out the Manufacturing Expo,” said Jo Engel, 4-H human sciences county youth coordinator with ISU Extension and Outreach Clay County. “The manufacturing sector offers a variety of sought-after jobs and many local Northwest Iowa companies will be attending the expo to show youth the great careers they have to offer right in our backyard.”

Engel shared that the following local manufacturers have committed to attend: Rosenboom, Coilcraft, SEKISUI Aerospace, Diversified Technologies, Demco, Maintainer, and Pure Fishing, and Engel is hoping to have a few more onboard before the expo.

She said that youth can expect hands-on fun, including a welding simulator, industrial paint simulator, Cobot (collaborative robot), microelectronic maze board, advanced plastics and composite materials. Career Connect will also be connecting interested youth with job shadowing, tour and internship opportunities.

Local families are invited to stop in at the 4-H Auditorium any time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sept. 17 to participate in the Expo activities. Schools are also welcome to schedule a set time to bring classes as a field trip. To preschedule a school field trip, visit <https://bit.ly/3yLNdGs>.

For more information, contact Jo Engel at 712-262-2264 or joengel@iastate.edu or Northwest Iowa Manufacturing Sector Facilitator and Career Coach Kristi Heisinger at 712-324-5061 or kheisinger@nwicc.edu.

Yard and Garden: Growing Herbs in the Home Garden

Herbs are annuals, biennials and perennials that die back to the ground each year and are used for their flavor, fragrance and medicinal properties. These easy-to-grow plants not only provide new and different flavors and aromas to food but can be beautiful additions to the landscape. Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, answers some frequently asked questions on growing herbs at home.

What herbs are best to grow in Iowa?

There are dozens of different species and varieties of herbs that can be grown, but a few are particularly easy to grow in Iowa. Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) is an annual started easily from seed each spring. Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*) is grown as an annual. The fresh leaves are known as cilantro and the seed is called coriander. Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) is an annual famously used for pickles, but plants also serve as a food source for the caterpillars of swallowtail butterflies. Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) is a biennial often grown as an annual that comes in both curly and flat-leaved varieties. Mint (*Mentha spicata*; *M. x piperita*) is a spreading perennial that needs to be planted in a place where its spreading nature can be contained. Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) are a clump-forming perennial with beautiful flowers and tasty leaves. Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) is a low-growing spreading perennial perfect for the small spaces in the front of the garden. Oregano (*Origanum vulgare* subsp. *hirtum*) is a perennial that is both a beautiful addition to the garden and a wonderful flavoring in a Mexican or Italian dish.

What growing conditions do herbs need?

Herbs grow best in the same conditions as most vegetables. Plant in full sun with at least six hours of sunlight a day. While not ideal, some species will grow in part-sun, receiving two to four hours of direct sunlight each day. Herbs will grow well under a wide range of soil conditions, with the exception of extremely wet, poorly drained soils. Provide well-drained conditions where soils are allowed to dry out slightly between waterings. In general, herbs do better in soils with low to medium fertility, so additional fertilizer applications are not

typically needed. Too much fertilizer produces lots of foliage that is low in flavor.

Perennial herbs should be grown in an area where they will not be disturbed year to year. They overwinter best when soils are well-drained and do not stay wet over the winter months. Some marginally hardy species in Iowa, like sage and lavender, sometimes benefit from an extra mulch layer applied just after the soil freezes in November and removed by mid-March. Annual herbs can be grown in a vegetable garden or any full-sun, well-drained location that allows for easy harvest and use.

How do I harvest herbs? Most herbs can be cut and used fresh throughout the growing season. They can also be harvested, dried and stored for use during the winter months.

Many herbs, such as sage, rosemary and basil, are grown for their leaves. These herbs should be harvested when their flower buds are just beginning to open. The oils in the leaves, which give each herb its distinctive flavor and aroma, are at their maximum levels at this stage of growth. Remove approximately one-third of the current year's growth on perennial herbs. Annual herbs can be cut back more severely. Make the cuts on annuals approximately 4 to 6 inches above the soil surface. The annuals can be cut at ground level when harvesting in the fall before the first frost. Most annual and perennial herbs can be harvested in mid-summer and again in the fall.

Herbs should be harvested in the early morning, after the dew has evaporated but before the sun becomes hot. After harvesting, rinse the herbs in cool water. Shake off excess water and place them on paper towels to dry for a few minutes.

How do I dry herbs for later use? Air drying is the most popular method to dry herbs. To dry whole branches or stems, gather eight to 12 stems in a bunch. Tie the ends of the stems together and hang each bunch upside down in a warm (70 to 80 F), dark, well-ventilated location. The herbs should be dry in two to four weeks. When thoroughly dry, strip the leaves from the plants. Crush or crumble the leaves and store in airtight jars in a cool, dry place.

Another way to dry herbs is to place them on a drying tray. A simple drying tray consists of fine mesh screen or cheesecloth attached to a wooden frame. A small window screen also works well. Place wooden blocks under the corners of the drying tray to insure good air circulation. Place a single layer of leaves or stems on the drying surface and keep the herbs

in a warm, dry area until they are thoroughly dry.

A gas or electric oven can also be used to dry herbs. To oven dry, spread a layer of leaves or stems on a cookie sheet or shallow baking pan. Place the herbs in a warm (up to 180 F) oven for three to four hours. Leave the oven door open and stir the herbs periodically until they are thoroughly dry.

Some herbs, such as dill, caraway, and coriander, are valued for their seeds. Harvest the seedheads just before they turn brown. Cut off the entire seedhead and place it in a paper bag. Then place the bags in a warm, dry location. After drying, shake the seeds loose in the bag. Remove any chaff by pouring the seeds from one container to another outdoors in a light wind.

Can I grow herbs indoors over the winter?

Many herbs can be successfully grown indoors during the winter months. The best herbs to grow indoors include basil, cilantro, parsley, chervil, rosemary, bay laurel, mint, chives, oregano, thyme, sage and lemongrass. Light is often the most limiting factor when growing herbs indoors. Ideally, plants receive four to six hours of direct sunlight a day. Some species, like parsley, mint and chives, will tolerate a little less light and others, like rosemary, thyme and bay laurel may need supplemental light from a full-spectrum LED or florescent grow light. Put the grow light on a timer for 12 to 16 hours a day. If long, lanky growth is noticed, more light may be needed. Plant herbs in containers with a well-drained potting soil. Clay or terracotta containers work particularly well for herbs because they are more porous, allowing the potting mix to dry well between waterings. Plastic and ceramic containers, as well as hanging baskets and window boxes, are all good options as well. Be sure the container has sufficient drainage holes in the bottom.

The water requirements vary depending on the species of herb being grown, but all should be watered when the potting soil is dry to the touch and before the plant begins to wilt. Although herbs do not require as much fertilizer as other plants, they will benefit from periodic light fertilization with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer at half or quarter strength.

Annual herbs can be grown by seed throughout the winter months. Stagger seedings to always have new plants ready to harvest. Perennial herbs can be overwintered indoors but should be moved outdoors in late spring when temperatures warm up.

City Council Minutes

August 2nd, 2021

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 2nd, 2021. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Mayor Rod Johnson, Council members Jean Swanson, Aaron Christenson, Loren Booth, John Jamison, Julie Potter, City Administrator Hilary Reed, City Clerk Joan Hoben, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, Chief of Police Dan Wegg, and City Attorney Ann Beneke.

Jamison moved to approve the consent agenda, minutes from the July 19th, 2021, meeting, the list of claims, and a Class LC Liquor License for Laurens Lounge and Lanes. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

CLAIMS 08/02/2021

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| ACCO | CHEMICALS | 2,220.10 |
| ALLIANT ENERGY | MONTHLY GAS BILL | 1,909.61 |
| BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS | PAINT | 296.28 |
| BEN ASCHENBRENNER | MILEAGE FOR TRIP | 42.32 |
| BOLTON & MENK | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | 460.00 |
| BOMGAARS | SHOP SUPPLIES | 570.96 |
| CORE & MAIN LP | BENZ ADDITION | 22.53 |
| HILARY REED | MEALS AT CLERK SCHOOL | 68.79 |
| IACMA | RETRIEMENT 457 | 500.00 |
| IRS | FED/FICA TAX | 6,052.16 |
| IOWA ONE CALL | LOCATES | 130.60 |
| IPERS | IPERS | 6,131.86 |
| IPERS/PD | PROTECTED IPERS | 1,985.21 |
| JACK'S UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT | CLOTHING ALLOWANCE | 1,146.37 |
| JCL SOLUTIONS | CLEANING SUPPLIES | 120.92 |
| JOHN RUNNEBERG | BELL INSTALLATION | 1,960.13 |
| LMPC | MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET | 430.00 |
| LMU | MONTHLY UTILITIES | 5,725.52 |
| PAINT THE TOWN | PAINTING THE PERGOLA | 4,936.93 |
| PCC AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE | AMBULANCE BILLING | 272.99 |
| PRIME BENEFITS | MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE | 87.50 |
| SANTANDER LEASING | PAYMENT FOR PUMPER | 1,461.34 |
| SNYDER & ASSOCIATES, INC. | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | 7,101.00 |
| STAPLES | OFFICE SUPPLIES | 256.80 |
| TREASURER STATE OF IA | JULY SALES TAX | 5,346.00 |
| US BANK | OFFICE EXPENSE | 1,431.02 |
| VERIZON WIRELESS | CELL PHONE | 156.80 |
| WAYNE PEASLEE | NUISANCE MOWING | 350.00 |
| | TOTAL | <u>51,173.74</u> |

PAYROLL

7/26/2021

| | | |
|-----|---------------|------------------|
| 001 | GENERAL | 11,319.73 |
| 210 | ROAD USE TAX | 1,585.74 |
| 600 | WATER | 2,452.25 |
| 610 | SEWER | 2,101.60 |
| 670 | GARBAGE | 2,451.49 |
| | TOTAL | <u>19,910.81</u> |
| | PAYROLL TOTAL | <u>19,910.81</u> |
| | PAID TOTAL | <u>71,084.55</u> |

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 001 | GENERAL | 29,226.14 |
| 110 | ROAD USE TAX | 4,959.34 |
| 200 | DEBT SERVICE | 48.11 |
| 175 | POCKET PARK | 4,936.93 |
| 176 | HOMETOWN PRIDE COMMITTEE | 1,960.13 |
| 316 | WEST MAIN AND BISSELL ST. | 7,561.00 |
| 318 | BENZ ADDITION | 22.53 |
| 600 | WATER | 11,850.36 |
| 610 | SEWER | 5,545.16 |
| 670 | GARBAGE | 4,974.85 |
| TOTAL BY FUND | | <u>71,084.55</u> |

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|-------------------|
| REVENUES | GENERAL | 20,075.15 |
| | POLICE SPECIAL | 250.00 |
| | ROAD USE TAX | 19,678.66 |
| | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 4,748.63 |
| | EMERGENCY LEVY | 151.41 |
| | LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX | 10,018.45 |
| | POOL RESTRICTED | 2,915.50 |
| | POCKET PARK | 250.00 |
| | HOMETOWN PRIDE | 1,000.00 |
| | DEBT SERVICE | 4,247.81 |
| | CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND | 504.77 |
| | PERPETUAL CARE | 160.00 |
| | WATER | 46,655.16 |
| | SEWER | 30,750.28 |
| | GARBAGE | 22,009.75 |
| | STORM WATER | 2,961.89 |
| | | <u>166,377.46</u> |

James Roetman, Tom Grau, and Emily Williams, on behalf of the Pocahontas County Visioning Committee, gave the council an update on the goals and actions for the committee, county, and each community.

Discussion was held on Ordinance 07-19. The city will keep the ordinance in place but look for spaces to have available for storage.

Discussion was held on the lot sales of the Benz Addition. After much discussion, Swanson moved to sell the lots at \$35,000 an acre. Booth seconded. Ayes: Jamison, Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: Potter. Motion carried 4-1.

Potter moved to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Jamison seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Hilary Reed, City Clerk