2018 Karl King Honor Band Selections Announced

Laurens-Marathon Middle School Band had a good hand full of kids who were selected to the Karl King Honor Band this year! These 10 students will represent the Laurens-Marathon Band Program on January 13 at St. Edmond’s in Fort Dodge.

Representing 6th Grade: Tiffany, Clarinet ~ Kyler, Bass Clarinet ~ Isaiah, Bassoon ~ Pearl, Flute
Representing 7th Grade: Alia, Clarinet ~ Maddie, Clarinet ~ Addison, Alto Sax ~ Emily, Trumpet ~ Garrett, Tuba ~ Joel, Percussion.

Congratulations, Students and Best of Luck!

Vazquez-Gonzalez Selected to OPUS Bass Clef Choir

Congratulations to Anthony Vazquez-Gonzalez for being selected to the OPUS Bass Clef Choir!

Only 45 of each voice part were chosen from across the state, with over 3000 students auditioning for the four different choirs.

Anthony performed with the other 179 members of the Bass Clef Choir on November 16 in Ames.
Announcements

LMPC
2017 Tour of Lights & Festival of Trees
Open House

Wednesday, December 20th  5:00 - 7:30 PM
United Methodist Church
Bus Tours 5:30 & 6:30
Vote for your favorite Light Displays
Cookie Decorating * Visit Santa * Door Prizes
Hot Chocolate * Coffee

Come meet our new line-up of Officers

Laurens Police Department
Christmas Open House
107 Highway 10, Laurens
Wednesday, December 20th  5-7:30 pm
* Refreshments * Tour of Lights Bus Stop *
Hugo Kringle Visits Laurens

Hugo Kringle entertained the L-M elementary kids with Christmas songs on various instruments and stories of his boyhood. Growing up the younger brother of the boy who would become Santa Claus definitely had some interesting situations!

In the evening, he switched to his real identity, Mike Anderson The Dulcimer Guy, and entertained the folks at the Laurens Festival of Trees with more songs, stories and interesting facts.

Hugo/Mike’s visit was sponsored by the Laurens Public Library Foundation and Laurens Festival of Trees.
Ring in the New Year at Laurens Golf & Country Club!

Ribeye Steak or Jumbo Shrimp Dinner with full salad bar!
Serving from 5-8 p.m.

LAURENS AREA YOUTH GROUP

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 3RD JUNIOR HIGH
DECEMBER 10TH HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 17TH CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ALL YOUTH. – (AT BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH)
NO MEETING DECEMBER 24TH OR DECEMBER 31ST DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS!!

Youth Group meetings are from 6-8p.m. on Sunday evenings. All youth 6th to 12th grade are invited to attend.
BAPTIST CHURCH ADDRESS IS: 202 BYRON STREET, LAURENS, IOWA 50554
QUESTIONS CALL: ANGELA CHRISTENSON—712-450-0295

Friday Night Special for December 22nd is free dessert with every dinner ordered off our full menu!
Serving begins at 5 p.m.
We wish you a Merry Christmas with friends and family. Naturally, the Library will be closed Monday, but we’ll be open again on Tuesday.

Oh am I filled with Christmas spirit after enjoying the talents of Mike Anderson the Dulcimer Guy! His program at school as his alter ego Hugo Kringle had the L-M elementary kids riveted. He told them stories of growing up the younger brother of the boy who would be Santa, including how Santa got his magic! He also played a variety of instruments as he sang Christmas carols and invited the students to sing along. In the evening, Mike played Christmas carols surrounded by the lights and decorations at the Festival of Trees. His programs were cosponsored by the Laurens Public Library Foundation and the Laurens Festival of Trees.

New novels this week include: Tom Clancy Power and Empire by Marc Cameron, 50 Shades Darker by E.L. James and Out of the Ashes by Traci Peterson. That’s about the most interestingly diverse shipment I’ve seen!

How’s your Top 5 Books of 2017 list coming along? I’m curious to see what your favorites are. Please get them to me soon so I can compile them. Deb will be using these lists as suggestions for our monthly choices for Book Club!

**COMING EVENTS**

- Tot Time – Every Monday at 10 a.m.
- Take it Tuesday – 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
- Card Making – 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.
- Book Club – 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. (3rd Monday in December)

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The City of Marathon is accepting resumes for the position of City Clerk/Treasurer. This is a 20+ hour/week position at $12 - $15/hour based on experience. A high school diploma or equivalent is required.

Computer and bookkeeping experience are preferred.

Send resume to: City of Marathon, PO Box 189, Marathon, IA 50565

Applications are due January 9, 2018.
Thank You!

A big thank you to Grace Lodge #513 for your generous donation to the Laurens Sister City Commission. We are very thankful and hopeful we will secure enough funds to send some of our young Laurentians to Laurens, France in the very near future!

-The Laurens Sister City Commission

Thank you!

Thank you to the Laurens Women’s Club for their generous donation to the Laurens Sister City Commission. It is our hope and desire to secure funding to send some of our young students to experience our sister culture, bringing back their newfound learning to share. This donation (as well as others!) will most definitely help the cause!

-Laurens Sister City Commission

Heart 'n Home
Holiday Hours
Order your fresh floral arrangements early for best selection

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Place orders by calling 712.841.2546
or go to our website: www.HeartnHomeOnline.com

From our home to yours...Merry Christmas!
Real ID
Information from Pocahontas County Treasurer, Sarah Winkler

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act sets standards for the issuance of sources of identification on driver's licenses. Starting on October 1, 2020 every air traveler will need a REAL ID-compliant license, or a U.S. Passport. However, not all states are currently REAL ID compliant, but Iowa is. To find out more information on Real ID’s just Google: Home Land Security Real ID. This website is a good source of information on the requirements, and the security reasons why Iowa has the Real ID available.

A Real ID Iowa Driver’s License will have a gold star in the upper right corner. In general, the documents that are needed are: 1) a U.S. passport, or U.S. birth certificate; 2) your Social Security card, or a W-2 form, 3) your Marriage certificate; 4) plus two additional documents that prove your actual physical address, for example an Iowa vehicle registration, or a stamped envelope from your utility company. It will cost you $10.00 for a voluntary replacement if you want to convert your current driver’s license to a Real ID Drivers’ License. Most people will want to upgrade their regular driver’s license to make it a Real ID license, which can be done at the time your renewal comes up, or sooner if you are planning on flying after 2020.

Please call the Pocahontas County Treasurer’s Office for further information at 712-335-4334, as there are other variables that are not addressed in this article. The Iowa DOT website (www.iowadot.gov) also has additional information about Real ID requirements.

Services Held for James Benson

James “Jim” Delford Benson of Dallas Center, Iowa (previously of Marathon, Iowa) passed away peacefully on December 10th, 2017 surrounded by his loved ones.

Jim was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1947 and moved to Marathon, Iowa in 1949. He attended Marathon Community School and graduated from Marathon High School in the class of 1965.

He attended Iowa State University, where he was a part of the men's choir and a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He graduated with a degree in Animal Science in 1969 and was united in marriage to Therese (Terry) Lind in Laurens on June 21st, 1969. Jim served in the United States Air Force from 1969 to 1973 and was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi; Norfolk, Virginia; Panama and Iceland during his tour of duty. During this time, he also became the father of James Jr. and Jennifer, followed later by Melissa and Lucas.

Upon returning home, Jim assumed management of Benson Industries. He worked diligently to maintain a successful farming operation and was a conscientious steward of the land. The Benson farm was not only a place of work, but also a place of gathering and celebration. Jim and Terry hosted many joyful gatherings throughout the years that were filled with memories of music, dancing, and laughter.

In 2013, Jim and Terry moved to Dallas Center to be closer to family and enjoyed following the activities of their children, grandchildren, and extended family. Jim also enjoyed spending time with Terry at their cabin in Pillager, MN, where he spent his time with endless remodeling projects, entertaining family, meeting new friends, and passing along his love of fishing to his grandchildren. They also enjoyed traveling the United States and abroad and had an unforgettable trip to Rome with their entire family last year.

Jim was an avid outdoorsman and fisherman, woodworker, lifelong learner, and devoted family man. He was the model for kindness and generosity and opened his home and heart to everyone he encountered. He was the soul of humility, the embodiment of kindness, and an example of how to live a life in service to others.

Jim was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Krusenstjerna Benson. He is survived by his wife, Terry Benson, children Jim (Mindy) of Ames, Jennifer (Dennis) Bussey of Urbandale, Melissa (Tim) Harris of San Antonio, and Luke (Constie Brown) of Iowa City, and grandchildren James, Thomas, Joe, Will, Lilli and Graci. He is also survived by his father, Delford Benson (Marilyn Givens), sister Kathy (Roy) Leeper, brother Kirk Benson (Lynn Rogers), and a host of dearly loved extended family and friends.

A service and celebration of his life was held at St. Boniface Catholic Church on Friday, December 15th.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your local Habitat for Humanity, or as a tribute to Jim and his affinity for nature, plant a tree.

“He that plants trees loves others besides himself.” Thomas Fuller
This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor Scott Baker

Sunday: December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:15 AM - Adult SS
NO Youth SS
9:30 AM - Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM - Worship
NO Youth Group

Sunday Night: December 24, 2017
5:30 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion

Monday: December 25, 2017
CHRISTMAS DAY / NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Worship, Love, Accept - Together in Christ’s Name

This Week at First Christian Church

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Friday, Dec. 22
7:00 - p.m. AA

Sunday, Dec. 24
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Worship
7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Ed Frank

Wed., Dec. 20th:
NO Caring Cards
Administrative Council @ 8:15 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 21st:
NO Rachel Circle

Fri., Dec. 22nd:
Men’s Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

Sun., Dec. 24th:
NO Sunday School
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 p.m.
Festival of Trees open NOON-7 p.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church

Pocahontas, IA
Pastor: Very Rev. Craig Collison, VF

Christmas Eve:
Sunday Afternoon, December 24th - 4:00 PM
Children will be doing some of the ministries at the Christmas Eve 4:00 PM, mass)
Sunday Evening, December 24 - 10:00 PM

Christmas Day:
Monday Morning, December 25th - 9:00 AM

Conferences: Saturday 4:15 pm at Resurrection
Office: 16 SW 2nd Street, Pocahontas
Office Phone: 712-335-3242
Residence Phone: 712-335-8065
E-mail: colly@ncn.net
Pastoral Care: Sister Renae Hohensee, 563-552-8666

18th Annual Laurens United Methodist Church Festival of Trees
December 2-3; 9-10; 16-17; 23-24; 30-31
NOON - 7:00 p.m.
FREE WILL DONATION

Submit... 100% of The Paper’s articles are submitted by you - The Reader! Take a minute to send us your news and photos too! It’s fun and it’s FREE!
Pocahontas County 4-H Scholarship Due February 1, 2018

Due to the generous support of the Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment, up to TEN $500 scholarships will be awarded to 12th grade graduating 4-H’ers that will attend college in the fall of 2018! Applications are available at the office or online at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas/4h.

All applications are due to the Pocahontas County ISU Extension and Outreach no later than February 1, 2018! Late Applications Will Not Be Accepted!

Making Ends Meet – Make Your Money Work for You

Making the most of our money is a goal shared by just about everyone. If you are one of the hundreds of area residents who know your finances should work better than they do, then "Making Ends Meet," a new free workshop from ISU Extension and Outreach, can provide strategies and solutions you need.

The two-part workshop, offered Tuesdays, January 23 & 30, 6:30-8 p.m., will be offered free at the Humboldt County Extension and Outreach Office. Each session includes activities and discussion to help you choose clear and practical steps you want to take with your finances. "The workshop is designed to be practical and even fun," says Barb Wollan, Human Sciences Specialist in family finance with ISU Extension and Outreach. "The activities offer each participant a chance to try on new ideas and strategies, so they can identify the tools that fit their lifestyles."

Even though the workshop is free, pre-registration is required. Call Humboldt County Extension (515-332-2201) by January 22 to sign up. Wollan urges participants to come with a friend or two, so you have people to support your plans after the workshop is over; likewise, couples are encouraged to come together if possible, so they can work together toward their financial goals.

Dairy Direction Workshop Held in Pocahontas

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, ISU Extension and Outreach Northwest Iowa Dairy Specialist, Fred Hall, held 2017 Dairy Directions Meeting at the Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach Office. Topics discussed with dairymen included, alternative forage crops, feed additives, dairy market outlook, and agricultural apps.

If you are interested in learning more about Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach programs, contact the Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach Office at 712-335-3103.
2018 Commercial Manure Applicator Training Scheduled for Pocahontas County

Commercial manure applicators should plan to attend the Commercial Manure Applicator training program scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2018, from 9 a.m. to noon. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, will conduct the required three-hour training workshop at that time. There is no fee to attend the workshop, but commercial applicators must register by December 28 by contacting the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

Commercial manure applicators needing to recertify and those wanting to certify for the first time should attend. The workshop will provide the required three hours of annual training and will cover rules for applicators as well as land-application requirements, snow/frozen ground regulations, spill response, compaction, biosecurity, manure application uniformity updates, team communication, manure and hydrogen sulfide safety, and evaluation review.

All currently certified commercial manure applicator licenses will expire on March 1, 2018. Commercial applicators can attend training throughout the year, but if they were previously certified, they should plan to attend training and submit the forms and fees to DNR prior to March 1, 2018, to avoid paying the late fees. Certification fees for commercial manure applicators have not changed for 2018. ISU Extension and Outreach will charge a $10 fee to applicants choosing to view the certification materials on a non-scheduled reshow day at the county office. For this reason, all applicators are encouraged to attend the workshops or to plan to view training materials on the scheduled reshow date at their local county extension office. The fee will not apply to workshops or scheduled reshow dates.

Please contact your county extension offices to determine which days are scheduled for the manure applicator certification programs. Due to scheduling conflicts, many county extension offices will no longer accept walk-in appointments to watch the training videos.

If attending the Jan. 4 commercial manure applicator program or watching the three-hour video is not convenient, commercial applicators may contact their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. In addition to needing an appointment to take the exam, applicators must bring a pencil and photo i.d., and should plan to bring a calculator.

Applicants have another option, online certification, which an applicator can take their training online at DNR MAC eLearning site at https://elearning-dnr.iowa.gov/. The applicant will need to sign-in and get an A&A account.

Commercial manure applicators hauling, handling or land-applying primarily dry or solid manure are encouraged to attend the dry manure applicator workshops scheduled for February 2018. Dates and locations can be found in the link below.

For more information about the commercial applicator program, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or access a list of the training locations at: http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/macprogrampostcard.pdf
Crop Advantage Series will bring the latest Crop Production Information to Storm Lake.

Early registration deadline is Jan. 2

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists will travel to Storm Lake on January 9 for the 2018 Crop Advantage Series. The meeting location is Siebens Forum at Buena Vista University. They will provide farmers and agri-business with current crop production information from Iowa State University. The meeting will also offer continuing education credits for private pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisers (CCA). Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will travel to 14 locations across Iowa for the 2018 Crop Advantage Series from Jan. 3-26.

“The Crop Advantage Series is an educational program that brings the expertise of extension specialists to 14 locations across the state,” says ISU Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist Paul Kassel. “The topics at each meeting are selected by the local extension specialists.”

Topics at the Storm Lake Crop Advantage Series meeting will include changes in Iowa’s growing season by Dennis Todey, dicamba topics by Bob Hartzler, tissue testing by Antonio Mallarino and field management for water quality by Matt Helmers.

Early registration for Storm Lake is $50, and late registration made less than seven days prior to the meeting or on-site is $60. Registration includes lunch, printed proceedings, private pesticide applicator recertification and CCA credits. Online registration and additional information is available at www.cropadvantage.org or from your county extension office.

For questions, contact ANR Program Services at 515-294-6429 or anr@iastate.edu, or Paul Kassel at 712 262 2264 or kassel@iastate.edu.

Crop Advantage Series is presented by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach with support from the Iowa Soybean Association and from the North Central SARE Program—Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.

Yard and Garden: Planting and Growing Holly Varieties in Iowa

Holly is a decorative and festive part of the holiday season, and quite a few varieties are available. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists discuss the history of this seasonal favorite and offer tips on selecting hollies that perform well in Iowa.

To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or hortline@iastate.edu.

How did holly become associated with the Christmas holiday? Holly was considered sacred by the ancient Romans. Holly was used to honor Saturn, god of agriculture, during the Saturnalia festival held during the winter solstice. The Romans gave one another holly wreaths, carried it in processions and adorned images of Saturn with it. During the early years of Christianity in Rome, many Christians continued to decorate their homes with holly to avoid detection and persecution by Roman authorities. Gradually, holly became a symbol of Christmas as Christianity became the dominant religion of the empire.

What is meant by the term dioecious? How does this affect the planting of hollies? Dioecious plant species produce male and female flowers on separate plants. The flowers on male plants produce pollen. Female flowers develop into fruit when properly pollinated.

Hollies are dioecious. Only female plants produce attractive, berry-like fruit. When planting hollies, a male cultivar must be planted in the same general area as the female hollies for pollination and fruit set. One male plant is usually adequate for several female plants.

Can hollies be successfully grown in Iowa? American holly (Ilex opaca) and English holly (Ilex aquifolium) are prized for their glossy, green leaves and red, berry-like fruit. Sprigs of both hollies are often used in wreaths, centerpieces and other Christmas decorations. Unfortunately, American and English hollies don’t perform well in Iowa. However, Meserve hybrid hollies (Ilex x meserveae) and winterberry (Ilex verticillata) can be successfully grown in the state.

Meserve hybrid hollies, like most holly species, are evergreens. ‘Blue Prince,’ ‘Blue Princess,’ ‘Blue Boy’ and ‘Blue Girl’ have dark, bluish green foliage and are often referred to as blue hollies. Other attractive Meserve hybrids include China Boy®, China Girl®, Castle Spire® (female), and Castle Wall® (male). Female cultivars produce attractive red fruit. Meserve hollies are variable in height. Most cultivars grow 5 to 10 feet tall. They are hardy to -20 degrees Fahrenheit (USDA Hardiness Zone 5). In Iowa, Meserve hollies perform best in the southern two-thirds of the state. Meserve hollies are susceptible to desiccation injury from the sun and dry winds in winter. When selecting a planting site, choose a protected location, such as on the east side of a building.

Winterberry is a deciduous shrub that grows 8 to 10 feet tall. (Deciduous trees and shrubs lose all of their leaves in fall.) The fruit on female plants turn bright red in fall and persist into winter. Excellent fruiting cultivars include ‘Afterglow,’ ‘Red Sprite,’ ‘Shaver,’ ‘Sparkleberry’ and ‘Winter Red.’ ‘Jim Dandy’ is a good pollinator for ‘Afterglow,’ ‘Red Sprite’ and ‘Shaver.’ ‘Southern Gentleman’ pollinates ‘Sparkleberry’ and ‘Winter Red.’ Winterberry performs best in moist, acidic soils. Plants can be grown in partial shade to full sun. Best fruiting occurs in areas that receive at least six hours of direct sun each day.
The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in special session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 11:30 a.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Richard Main, Jerry Runneberg and Ben Storms. Also present were General Manager Chad Cleveland and Blair Metzger of DGR Engineering.

The agenda for the December 11, 2017 meeting stands approved as presented.

At 11:30 a.m. Chairman Main opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for calendar year 2018 as published on November 22, 2017 in the Laurens Sun. Chairman Main called for comments or objections to the proposed budget. There being no verbal or written comments, Chairman Main declared the public hearing closed at 11:35 a.m.

The following resolution was introduced and moved for adoption by Trustee Storms: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees that the budget for calendar year ending December 31, 2018, as published in the Laurens Sun on November 22, 2017, showing the estimated revenues and expenditures for said calendar year is adopted.

Passed and approved on December 11, 2017 by the following vote: Ayes: All. Nays: None.

Richard Main
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Discussion was held on capital improvements for calendar year 2018. Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve a capital improvements budget of up to $100,000 for calendar year 2018. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Blair Metzger of DGR Engineering compared the actual numbers for calendar year 2017 to the cash flow analysis he performed for the Electric Utility last year. Blair reviewed with the Board the line items that showed a significant difference and how he expected those line items to perform in the next few years. Blair informed the Board that at this time, he was not going to recommend a rate increase for 2018. He said once our 2017 audit is completed, then he will update his analysis. No action was taken at this time.

Blair and the Board then discussed the Cost of Service Study approved at the November Board meeting. No specific action was taken.

The Board of Trustees will have their regular December Board meeting on December 18, 2017 immediately following their presentation to the City Council.

There being no further business, on motion and vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Richard Main
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees