

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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December 28,
2022

Local News

Matching Funds Available for Laurens Pool Project!!

Hold on to your hat, we have some amazing news to share! Laurens Pool Project has an anonymous donor, willing to match up to \$250,000 in donations! This means for every dollar you donate towards the new Laurens Pool has double the buying power. What an outstanding opportunity to maximize the impact of year-end giving and at the same time, make sure the families of Laurens and the surrounding communities have a new, safe recreational facility.

To date, the people of Laurens have raised \$2,351,369 towards the goal of \$2,976,469 to build a new pool and pool house for our community. Recently, the City of Laurens completed the geotechnical survey and site survey and will soon be moving into the final design phase. If plans proceed as expected, we will be breaking ground for our new pool the summer of 2023!

Thank you to this anonymous donor who shares the pool committee's love of our community, as well as our faith in this project.

Please dig deep and help us take advantage of every dollar of this matching opportunity. Consult your tax professional to ask if it is more advantageous to make your donation in 2022 or after the 1st of the year in 2023. Heck, we'll even let you donate both years!

Drop off your donation at City Hall or mail to: Laurens Pool Project c/o City of Laurens 272 North 3rd Street, Laurens, IA 50554.

MATCHING GRANT

Your Donation + **Anonymous Donor Match** = **DOUBLE THE IMPACT!**

MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT TO LAURENS POOL PROJECT

The graphic features a blue water background. At the top, the words "MATCHING GRANT" are written in large, bold, red letters. Below this, there is a visual equation: two red and white striped lifebuoys are shown on the left, followed by a red plus sign, another red and white striped lifebuoy, a red equals sign, and a single larger red and white striped lifebuoy on the right. Underneath the first two lifebuoys are the words "Your Donation" and "Anonymous Donor Match" respectively. Underneath the larger lifebuoy is the phrase "DOUBLE THE IMPACT!". At the bottom of the graphic, the text "MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT TO LAURENS POOL PROJECT" is written in large, bold, red letters.

Havelock Am Vets
Post 39

STAG NIGHT

THURSDAY
December 29, 2022 - 7 p.m.
Happy Hour—6:00 p.m.



Jack Links Employees Hold Food Drive

Jack Link employees had a food drive recently. The Laurens Food Pantry and their users thank them for this holiday donation.



Rolfe Public Library After School Program

Children read “Gingerbread Baby” by Jan Brett, they predicted what would happen at the end of the story, we were all wrong! The story does have a great ending-make sure you check it out from your local library to find out what happened to the Gingerbread Baby.

The children dipped pretzel sticks and learned basic kitchen safety. We have to wash our hands and we can’t lick our fingers! Each child made holiday crafts to decorate their homes or give to a loved one.

Children work on their crafts at the Rolfe Public Library after school program.

*At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
December 28, 2022*

Remember when I said, "Drop everything and get to the Library this evening!" I really mean it this time! Because of the weather, our Tot Time with Granny Elf Patty Boughey was postponed until tonight, December 28. Our Laurens Library Board President, Pat Boughey is featured as Granny Elf in a children's book written by her daughter Rachel Poncelot. The book is *Bowzer's Holiday Mischief: Let's go on a holiday adventure!* Patty will read the book, dressed as Granny Elf of course, for our Tot Time at 5:30 p.m. Pat will have copies of the book available for purchase.

While you are at the Library, check out a few extra books, movies, puzzles, etc for the upcoming holiday weekend. The Library will be closed Saturday through Monday. Happy New Year!

December is notoriously a dry time for new books because the publishers rush to get them out before the Holidays. But they are starting to trickle in! New novels include: *The Sunshine Girls* by Molly Fader, *Quiet Life* by Ethan Joella, *Last Circle of Life* by Lorna Landvik, *Three Edged Sword* by Jeff Lindsay, *Stella Maris* by Cormac McCarthy, *Last Invitation* by Darby Kane, *Dressmakers of Prospect Heights* by Kitty Zeldis, *Blue Moon Haven* by Janet Dailey, *Bleeding Heart Yard* by Elly Griffiths, *Wicked Dreams* by Lisa Jackson, *Sleep No More* by Jayne Ann Krentz and *Without a Trace* by Danielle Steel.

Deb has fun plans for snowman crafts for the kids' and adults' January Take it Tuesday crafts! Stop in and take a look at what we will be up to, join us for a fun evening, and get in touch with your creative side.

Dates to Remember

December 28 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time with Granny Elf!

December 30 - January 2 Library Closed Happy New Year!

January 3 @ 3:45 p.m. - Kids' Take & Make Craft

6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday

January 22 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Light Between the Oceans* by M.L. Stedman

January 24 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cardmaking

*Card Shower for
Shirley Martin*

Shirley Martin is turning 90 on Wednesday, January 4th! Help her celebrate with a card shower.

Cards can reach her at: is 505 East Main St, Laurens, IA 50554.



The Paper

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***This Week at
Bethany
Lutheran***

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: January 1, 2023
First Sunday after Christmas
NO Youth SS
10:30 AM ~ Worship

Tuesday: January 3, 2023
8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Saturday: January 7, 2023
8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

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



***This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church***

Pastor Deb Parkison

Thursday, Dec. 29:
Laurens Community Blood Drive @
2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. here. To schedule
your appointment, please contact
LifeServe Blood Center at 1-800-287-
4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org

Sun., Jan. 1:
NO Sunday School
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Jan. 2:
Church offices CLOSED



***This Week at First
Christian***

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Sunday, Jan. 1
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship



***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

Submit . . .

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 Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Course

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will be offering the Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (P-CIC), led by Extension Field Agronomist, Gentry Sorenson.

The course will be offered on February 2, 2023 at 9:30 am at the Rialto Theatre in Pocahontas.

Pre-registration with payment is recommended. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. The course will run for approximately 2 ½ hours, including check-in and breaks. The registration fee is \$30. To obtain additional information about the P-CIC, contact Pocahontas County Extension Office at 712-335-3103.

The course will fulfill 2022-2023 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators. Topics to be covered include:

- Storage of pesticides
- Pests, pest management and pesticides

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Pocahontas County 4-H Donates to Upper Des Moines

Pocahontas County 4-H donated pork loins and food baskets to Upper Des Moines with the help of Deb & Jeff Hansen Foundation, IA Select Farms.

Pocahontas County 4-H packed the baskets and Upper Des Moines will distribute to families in Pocahontas County.

Julie, Upper Des Moines is pictured accepting the donation.



4-H Livestock Committees Meet

4-H Livestock Committee members will meet Tuesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

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Farm Succession Professionals to Share Expertise at Annual Conference

Transitioning a farm to the next generation is one of the biggest challenges that farm owners and beginning farmers will face. The decisions made can affect families, finances and rural communities for decades into the future.

That's why Iowa State University's Farm Transitions Conference, slated for Feb. 9-10 in Ames, will bring together experts and experienced landowners from a wide range of backgrounds with the goal of improving the farm transition process.

Bankers, attorneys, tax professionals, mediators and family farmers will all be part of this year's event, to be held at the Gateway Hotel. Attendees will hear from professionals who deal with all parts of farm transitions – those looking to exit farming, those looking to enter or expand, and those who simply want to review their existing succession plans to ensure they are current.

"The conference is a great way for landowners, beginning farmers and anyone who plays a role in farm transitions to improve their knowledge about farm succession," said Kitt Tovar Jensen, Beginning Farmer Center manager with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "The goal is to provide

attendees with a better understanding of their current situation and the actions they need to take to improve their situation – with the hope that we can improve the farm transition process wherever they live and farm."

The conference is being held at a time when farmland values are at historic highs, followed by high commodity prices and a period of rising interest rates. The average acre of Iowa farmland increased 17% this past year, to \$11,411, according to the annual land value survey conducted by Iowa State.

Chad Hart, professor in economics and extension grain markets specialist at Iowa State, will open the conference with his "Ag Market Outlook," followed by a talk on "Major Financial Decisions for Farm Transitions," presented by Alejandro Plastina, associate professor in economics and extension economist at Iowa State.

Jim Knuth, vice president of business development with Farm Credit Services of America, will discuss interest rates, land values and how to approach and work with lenders.

Leslie Miller and Nancy Brannaman, associates with the Farm Financial Planning Program of ISU Extension and Outreach, will present on "Raising Your Financial IQ."

On the second day, participants will hear from Kiley Fleming, executive director of the Iowa Mediation Service, who will discuss "The Importance of Family meetings on the Farm." Jennifer Harrington and Kristine Tidgren, of the

Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation, will present "Legal Tools and Strategies in Farm Succession Planning," and "Business Entities and Transition Taxes."

The conference will conclude with a talk on "Preventing Mistakes in Farm Succession Planning," by Tovar Jensen, and "Planning for the Unexpected," by Patrick Hatting, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Registration Details. In-person attendees will have networking opportunities, including an optional tour of Jack Trice Stadium (limited to 50). Both in-person and online attendees can interact with speakers and ask questions. All attendees will receive a free Farm Transitions workbook.

In-person registration is \$175 per person and webinar-only registration is \$150. Participants can choose and register online.

Groups of two or more can use code GROUP50 to receive \$50 off each in-person registration. (Does not apply to student registration).

University or college students can register in-person or online for \$100. To apply for student scholarships, contact Tovar Jensen at kwtovar@iastate.edu

The Gateway Hotel & Conference Center is located at 2100 Green Hills Drive, Ames, IA 50014. A room rate of \$114 has been reserved. Reserve your room online or call 515-292-8600.

City Council Minutes

December 19th, 2022

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12th, 2022. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, John Jamison, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, Chief of Police Ben Aschenbrenner, and Officer Sam Richison. Council members Loren Booth was absent.

Jamison moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the December 5th, 2022, meeting, and the list of claims. Zylstra seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 12/19/2022

AFLAC	GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS & DVDS	224.51
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	MONTHLY EYECARE INSURANCE	232.08
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS & DVDS	478.06
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	270.65
CONNECTIONS, INC.	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	39.84
VISUAL EDGE IT. INC.	MONTHLY COPIES	77.87
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	837.46
DES MOINES REGISTER	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	660.05
FOLLETT SOFTWARE COMPANY	HOST LIBRARY OPERATING SYSTEM	1,128.63
HEIMAN	SHUT OFF HANDLE	158.32
I & S GROUP, INC.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2,208.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	5,492.70
JAMES LITWILLER	WATER CLASS	257.80
JCL SOLUTIONS	BATHROOM SUPPLIES	95.28
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	LAWN MOWER SUPPLIES	154.72
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ONE TIME PAYMENT	3,450.00
LMPC	PHONE & INTERNET	143.12
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	443.20
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICE	SUPPLIES	524.85
LAURENS SUN	LEGALS	187.27
PETTY CASH	SUPPLIES	69.96
POC CO SECONDARY ROAD	16.61 TON SALT SAND MIX	939.33
POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE	LANDFILL FEES	6,171.99
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	849.88
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY CITY FUEL	2,587.29
QUALITY PUMP & CONTROL	PARTS FOR LAGOON	248.89
R & D INDUSTRIES, INC.	TECH SUPPORT	525.38
RICHARDSON SERVICE	OIL CHANGE & SERVICE	91.28
ROOT X	CASE OF ROOTX	578.20
SHAMROCK RECYCLE	CURBSIDE RECYCLING	1,840.00
SPENCER TROPHY & AWARDS	6X8 SHELLY PLAQUE	48.75

City Council Minutes

UMB	BOND FEES	500.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE MONTHLY FEES	408.76
WELLMARK	MONTHLY HEALTH CARE INSURANCE	9,653.20
WEX BANKS	MONTHLY POLICE FUEL	<u>826.95</u>
	TOTAL	<u><u>42,608.65</u></u>

12/12/2022

001	GENERAL	5,815.83
210	ROAD USE TAX	1,379.43
600	WATER	2,932.58
610	SEWER	2,594.68
670	GARBAGE	2,354.96

TOTAL 15,077.48

PAYROLL TOTAL 15,077.48

PAID TOTAL 57,686.13

001	GENERAL	15,969.64
110	ROAD USE TAX	4,345.96
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	6,222.83
174	POOL RESTRICTED	2,208.00
176	HOMETOWN PRIDE	48.75
200	DEBT SERVICE	500.00
600	WATER	7,192.51
610	SEWER	6,964.63
670	GARBAGE	<u>14,233.81</u>

TOTAL BY FUND 57,686.13

Chad Cleveland and the LMPC board of trustees presented LMPC's annual report. Mr. Cleveland also asked the council to approve the 2022 write offs. Swanson so moved. Christenson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

Discussion was held on a possible sewer forgiveness request. The item died without a motion.

Jamison moved to approve Resolution 23-22 – Appointment to the Library Board of Trustees. Zylstra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Absent: Booth. Motion carried.

No updates to the Laurens Pool Project.

Zylstra moved to adjourn at 5:43 p.m. Jamison seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Hilary Reed, City Clerk