

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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November 29,
2023

Local News

SPLASH!

A groundbreaking was held recently for the Laurens Municipal Aquatic Center! Committee Members, City Council Members and the Mayor joined the Sande Construction Project Manager for a ceremonial Groundbreaking at the site of the NEW POOL! Sande Construction is already busy working at the new pool site.

Pictured left to Right: Julie Wurr, Chad Cleveland, Aaron Christenson, Lyle Wallin, Kelly Tate, Loren Booth, Glenda Mulder, Hannah Zylstra, Mayor Rod Johnson, Jean Swanson, Rose Davis, John Jamison, Hilary Reed, Mackenzie Johnsen, Sande Construction Project Manager and Julian Johnsen.



At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
November 29, 2023

Tuesday, December 5th is our crafty day! After school the kids will be making Christmas trees and then at 6:30 p.m. the adults will be making Star Santas. Contact the Library for more details.

December Book Club will mark our 200th book! We first met January 29, 2007 to discuss *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf. We've skipped a few months because of the QuasQuiCentennial, a visit from Iowa author Heather Gudenkauf, and Covid, but other than that, we have met the 4th Monday of every month. I'll have a list of our choices available online and at the Library, in case you are interested. It's an interesting mix of classics, contemporary fiction, nonfiction, and a few youth books thrown in.

New novels this week include: *Death by Demo* by Callie Carpenter, *Manner of Death* by Robin Cook, *Unnatural Death* by Patricia Cornwell, *A Different Kind of Gone* by Catherine Hyde and *The 4th Rule* by Jeff Lindsay.

Deb and I are excited for our "Ugly Sweater" making night! Here's the premise; You bring a plain sweater, sweatshirt or t-shirt (or whatever else you want to decorate!) and your creativity. We'll have lots of embellishments you can add to make it more festive. Put the evening of Tuesday, December 12 on your calendar & plan to join the fun!

Dates to Remember

December 5 @ 3:45-5:00 p.m. - Kids Make & Take

December 5 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday for adults

December 6 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time

December 12 @ 6:30 p.m. - Ugly Sweater Making Party!

December 18 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The Gift of Family* by Mary Monroe – our 200th book!

December 23-25 Library closed – Merry Christmas!

The Paper

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Mid-Sioux's 15th Annual Mitten Campaign

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. is hosting their 15th annual mitten fundraiser by partnering with local businesses in five counties to provide assistance to needy families. You can help by purchasing a mitten at any of the participating businesses for \$1.00. All proceeds go toward meeting the needs of families in Lyon, Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee and Ida counties. All of the funds raised will be used for direct services to families. Assistance may be in the form of clothing items, food, rental assistance or utility assistance. You may purchase a mitten at any of the following businesses:

- In Remsen: American Bank, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., Iowa State Bank, Mrs. B's Convenience Store, Alley Access
- In Cherokee: Fareway, Bomgaars or Hy-Vee
- In Akron: Maynard's
- In Ida Grove: Cenex or Food Pride
- In Holstein: A & A Food & Fuel
- In Rock Rapids: Sunshine Foods, P-N-P
- In Sioux Center: Shell Sioux-Per Center
- In LeMars: Iowa State Bank

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. is a Community Action Agency that fights poverty on the local level serving Cherokee, Ida, Lyon, Plymouth and Sioux counties in Northwest Iowa. The mission of Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. is helping people, changing lives. For more information on the Mitten Campaign and other Mid-Sioux events, please visit www.midsioux.org.

2024 Pocahontas County 4-H and FFA Fair Market Beef Weigh In

2024 Pocahontas County 4-H and FFA fair market beef weigh-ins will be held on Saturday, December 16, from 9-10:30 a.m. for county only animals and from 10:30-11:00 a.m. for State Fair retinal image identification. This will be held at the Dale Wenell Farm, 11413 500th St., Albert City.

All market beef animals that will exhibit at the 2024 Pocahontas County fair need to attend this county weigh-in date. Please call the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or email lzeman@iastate.edu with the number of animals you will bring to the weigh-in. We will offer retinal image at our weigh-in this year for state fair identification. FFA members you must get tags from your advisor, 4-H tags will not be used in FFA animals.

Songs of Christmas at Fonda Arts Center

Local musicians will present "Songs of Christmas", December 3, beginning at 2 p.m., at the Fonda Arts Center. We hope you can join us in this kickoff to a festive Christmas season.

Everyone is welcome; admission and refreshments are free! All this happening at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth and Main Streets in Fonda.

Community Tree

The Community Tree (which donated items go to the Laurens-Marathon School) at Festival of Trees this year will be located inside the front door. The needs this year are hats, gloves and boys jogging pants. The jogging pants sizes needed are 6-8, 8-10, 10-12 & 12-14. We appreciate all the donations as well as keeping our kids warm. Thank you! Festival of Trees Committee

Lucinda (Cindy) Siddall Longo Passes

Lucinda (Siddall) Longo of Hamilton, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on November 20, 2023, at Clover Meadows in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, after a bravely fought battle with cancer.

Lucinda, known as Cindy to her family and friends, was born on February 8, 1954, in Emmetsburg, Iowa, to loving parents Glenn and Doris Siddall, and was the youngest of seven children.

Cindy grew up in Laurens, Iowa, where she made special life-long friendships. After graduating in 1973 from Laurens Community high school, she attended William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where she majored in Elementary Education. In 1977 she relocated to New Jersey and worked as a substitute teacher in the Trenton school system for fifteen years. In 1992 she left teaching and was hired by McGraw Hill in Hightstown, New Jersey, and was a key member of the Call Center team. Due to the proficiency she demonstrated, she was given a temporary assignment in the Philippines where she was responsible for the start-up of the McGraw Hill Call Center, as well as the training of the newly hired staff. After the closure of McGraw Hill, which led to her retirement, Cindy began working part-time at ShopRite Hamilton, New Jersey. She enjoyed the interaction with customers and developed a friendly rapport with them, many of whom became friends. She retired from

ShopRite when she received her cancer diagnosis in April 2021. She knew cancer was a formidable opponent and she was determined to do whatever it would take to beat it. She did just that. Cindy sought treatment at the Cancer Center at RWJ Hamilton. There she formed relationships with the staff, who found her to not only be totally committed to her treatment, but also someone whose positive outlook and resilience inspired others battling the same disease.

Cindy will be remembered by all those who loved her and by those whose lives she touched in her own unique way. She possessed a quick wit that remained firmly intact as she courageously fought cancer, and a strong will that was always tempered by her kindness and her concern for others. She never dwelled on the daily challenges she faced but remained hopeful and grateful for the life she had been given. She was a devout member of Saint Mark United

Methodist Church in Hamilton Square, NJ practicing her faith there, and in how she lived her life every day. It was her strong, unyielding faith that enabled her to accept her illness, always trusting in God's plan and in His love for her.

Cindy was predeceased by her beloved parents, Glenn and Doris Siddall, her three brothers, Roger, Emmett and Dennis Siddall.

She is lovingly remembered by her sisters, Neva Metcalf (Rene) of Elk River, MN, Rita Schmidt (Ed), of Laurens, IA and Becki Winegarden (Jim) of Maple Grove, MN. As well as many special nephews and nieces.

In keeping with Cindy's wishes, there will be no funeral service held. She will be interred in Laurens, Iowa, at a private family graveside service, at a future date.

If you would like to honor her memory, you can do so by making a donation in her name to The American Cancer Society.



HOURS
Noon to 6pm
Saturdays
and
Sundays
until Christmas!

*Laurens
Festival
of Trees*

11-1 December 16
Sloppy Joe Lunch
Fundraiser

at the Laurens United Methodist Church 201 West Main

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Saturday: December 2, 2023

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

Sunday: December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee

Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion

Monday: December 4, 2023

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: December 5, 2023

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Sat., Dec. 2:

Festival of Trees open NOON- 6 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 3:

Sunday School @ 9:15 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship @ 10:30 a.m. w/ Holy
Communion & Potluck

Festival of Trees open NOON- 6 p.m.

Youth Group 5-7 p.m. here

Mon., Dec. 4:

Quilt Club @ 2 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 5:

Advent Bible Study @ 11:00 a.m.



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, Nov. 30

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, Dec. 3

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship followed by
Annual Congregational Meeting and
Potluck



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



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Human Sciences

**STAY
INDEPENDENT:
A HEALTHY
AGING SERIES**
for adults age 60+



SPOT, STOP, AND AVOID FRAUD


Protect yourself and others from being a victim of fraud. Learn about common scams and warning signs and how to take action to protect against theft of money, property, or belongings.

Monday, December 11, 2023
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Cost: Free, thanks to sponsorship from Pocahontas Co Extension

<https://go.iastate.edu/AOOGP4>

Pre-register by Friday December 8
Email esvuba@iastate.edu
or
Call (712) 335-3103



LOCATION

Pocahontas Co Extension
305 Main St, Pocahontas

MORE INFORMATION

Erica Svuba
(712) 335-3103
esvuba@iastate.edu

The fees for service will be used to offset direct expenses and to support the Human Sciences County Extension Program. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/act. HS 68



toys for tots

Join us in collecting new toys, children's mittens, gloves, hats, coats, and clothing for Toys for Tots. Donations accepted until Friday, Dec. 8.

Community
State **BANK**

Lobby Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-3
Drive-up Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:30; Sat. 8:30-11

102 South Third St.
Laurens
712-845-2627

Member
FDIC



Dairy Webinar Series Continues with “What Does This Season’s Corn Silage Look Like?” on December 13

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar series continues Wednesday, December 13 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The program “What does this season’s corn silage look like?” features a presentation by Neal Wininger, Feed and Forage Consultant with Dairyland Labs, Arcadia, Wisc.

Wininger will discuss what the lab analysis from this year’s corn silage samples are telling him about the quality of the crop and what producers can anticipate about how it will convert into milk in the tank.

Producers, dairy consultants, and industry representatives can attend the webinar by registering at <https://go.iastate.edu/WUWI1W>. There is no registration fee; however, registration must be done at least one hour prior to the program to receive the URL.

For more information, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Field Specialist in your area: in Northwest Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230 or fredhall@iastate.edu; in Northeast Iowa, Jennifer Bentley, 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu; in East Central Iowa, Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496 or tranel@iastate.edu; in Ames, Dr. Gail Carpenter, 515-294-9085 or ajcarpen@iastate.edu.

Pest Control Operators Continuing Instruction Course is December 6

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will host a Pest Control Operators Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. The program provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 7A (General Household Pest), 7B (Termite), 8 (Public Health), and new this year 7D (Community Insect). The course will cover topics such as: personal protective equipment and safe handling; storage of pesticides, including chemical security; and pests, pest management and pesticides.

Preregistration is required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. Walk-ins on the day of the program will only be admitted if room allows. The course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$70. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered through PSEP can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP.

Senior Fraud Prevention Program to be Held December 11 in Pocahontas

Protecting savings and assets becomes increasingly important as people age, and unfortunately, older adults can be attractive targets for fraudsters.

To help protect local citizens from fraud, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host “Stay Independent: Spot, Stop and Avoid Fraud” from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 11, at the Pocahontas County Extension Office. The program is free to attend, but pre-registration is required by December 8.

“Stay Independent: Spot, Stop and Avoid Fraud” is designed to raise awareness among older adults and their caregivers on preventing financial exploitation and fraud,” said Barb Wollan, a human sciences specialist in family wellbeing with ISU Extension and Outreach. Spot, Stop, and Avoid Fraud is a part of the Stay Independent Healthy Aging series. The workshop focuses on:

- Frauds and Scams – what they are and which ones are common in Iowa
- Why the older population is a target for fraud and scams
- The warning signs of common frauds and scams
- Ways to protect yourself from frauds and scams

The Stay Independent program is geared towards adults 60+ and/or their caregivers. The program will help Iowans identify warning signs of common scams and review ways to protect their finances. “Everyone, regardless of age, is a potential victim of theft and other fraud, swindles, or scams— known as financial crimes. There are over 50 million Americans aged 62 and older, which puts older Americans at greater risk than the general population. Elder financial fraud is the most common form of elder abuse,” says Wollan, who will lead the workshop.

Pre-register by the end of the day on December 8 by calling Pocahontas County Extension (712-335-3103).

This workshop’s normal \$10 fee has been covered thanks to sponsorship from the Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach.

City Council Minutes

Monday, November 20th, 2023

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20th, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamison called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, Deputy City Clerk Joan Hoben, and Chief of Police Ben Aschenbrenner.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the November 6th, 2023, meeting, the list of claims, and Special Class B Retail Native Wine License – Heart ‘N Home. Booth seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 11/20/23

ADVANCED NETWORK PROFESSIONAL	WEBSITE HOSTING / TECH SUPPORT	320.00
AFLAC	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	MONTHLY EYECARE INSURANCE	232.08
BADGER METER	TECH SUPPORT	48.72
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS	880.48
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	189.68
GREAT AMERICA FINACIAL SERVICE	COPIER LEASE	79.00
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	837.46
HALLETT MATERIALS	SALT/SAND MIX	292.21
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	5,676.15
JAMES LITWILLER	MILEAGE/MEAL FOR MEETING	52.40
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE FEES	114.32
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	333.52
LAURENS SUN	LEGALS	195.16
PETTY CASH	POSTAGE/SHIPPING/SUPPLIES	41.49
PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEM	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	175.00
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	871.65
R&D INDUSTRIES, INC.	SECURITY TECH	175.00
RICHARDSON SERVICE	F150 PICKUP REPAIRS	84.89
SHAMROCK RECYCLE, INC.	CURBSIDE RECYCLING	1,895.20
USA BLUE BOOK	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	229.47
VERIZON WIRELESS	MONTHLY CELL PHONE FEES	409.36
VISUAL EDGE, IT	MONTHLY COPIES	80.89
WELLMARK	MONTHLY HEALTH INSURANCE	9,653.20
	TOTAL	<u>23,071.71</u>

PAYROLL	11/13/2023	
001 GENERAL		5,310.18
210 ROAD USE TAX		1,810.06
600 WATER		3,183.25
610 SEWER		2,659.13
670 GARBAGE		3,557.51
	TOTAL	<u>16,520.13</u>
	PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>16,520.13</u>
	PAID TOTAL	<u>39,591.84</u>
001 GENERAL		10,073.32
110 ROAD USE TAX		2,837.69
112 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		6,295.72
600 WATER		6,440.68
610 SEWER		5,702.85
670 GARBAGE		8,241.58
	TOTAL BY FUND	<u>39,591.84</u>

John Graupman with Bolton & Menk presented to the council an update regarding the Wastewater Facility Permit Compliance Plan.

Zylstra moved to approve Resolution 21-23 – Wastewater Plan authorization to send to Iowa DNR, and application for disadvantaged community. Swanson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Swanson, Christenson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There was not a representative present for the Nuisance Hearing. No discussion or action was taken.

An update from Pat Sullivan regarding the Proposed Community Center was given.

Booth moved to approve going into closed session at 5:32 p.m. pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(j) to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate where only premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

At 5:36 p.m. Booth motioned to come back into open session. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Zylstra moved to approve Ordinance 01-23 Rezoning of Lot, Second Reading and waive the third reading. Booth seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Swanson, Christenson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Christenson moved to approve Resolution 22-23 – Unpaid Fees. Zylstra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Swanson, Christenson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Booth moved to approve Health Insurance Renewal effective January 1, 2024. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth moved to approve the current Eye insurance renewal effective January 1, 2024. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth moved to approve the Delta Dental insurance renewal effective January 1, 2024. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Zylstra moved to approve Resolution 23-23 Handbook Policy Update effective for FY24 as of July 1, 2023.

Christenson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Swanson, Christenson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Swanson moved to approve the onetime payment. Christenson seconded. Ayes: Booth, Christenson, Swanson, Jamison. Abstaining: Zylstra. Motion carried.

Zylstra moved to adjourn 6:27 p.m. Booth seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

John Jamsion, Mayor Pro Tem

Hilary Reed, City Clerk