

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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Local News

Author Ann Hanigan Kotz Visits the Library

Author Ann Hanigan Kotz recently entertained Laurens Public Library Patrons, including LM fourth graders. She talked about her background in education, doing research & genealogy for her historical fiction novels, as well as a bit about her writing process. She then read a selection from her first book, and answered questions. We then enjoyed the Norwegian treat of kringla, to tie into the fact that her books feature Norwegian immigrants.



USDA Partners with FarmRaise to Offer Educational Tools and Resources to Promote Financial Access and Equity for Agricultural Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today unveiled a new, online Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Decision Tool and farm loan resources available to agricultural producers and cooperators who help producers access USDA disaster assistance, farm loans and other federal farm programs. The new LIP tool and the farm loan informational video resources were developed in partnership with FarmRaise and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). These tools are now available at www.farmraise.com/usda-fsa.

"By providing collaborative outreach and technical assistance to the agricultural community, the Farm Service Agency's partnerships with organizations like FarmRaise, Inc. increase awareness of and broader participation in our extensive suite of farm and farm loan programs," said FSA State Executive Director Matt Russell. "Offering innovative tools and resources with help from our cooperators breaks down program delivery barriers ensuring equitable access to our programs for millions of rural, urban and small-scale to mid-sized producers."

Current FarmRaise Tools and Resources. FarmRaise, Inc. has created an online, educational hub -- called Farm Service Agency 101 -- comprised of videos, and resources that enable cooperators and the agricultural producers they serve to learn about and access major FSA programs.

The newly launched LIP Decision Tool assists livestock producers who suffered losses from eligible adverse weather events and other causes of loss as well as cooperators who are helping disaster-impacted livestock producers navigate available federal disaster assistance programs. The optional decision tool gives producers guidance on what is needed to gather and submit required loss documentation, reducing the amount of time needed to complete applications and enabling FSA county office staff to deliver much-needed assistance faster. Using this tool, however, is not an application for benefits or a determination of eligibility.

Through use of the LIP tool, livestock producers can provide supporting documentation, inventory numbers, and loss numbers to FSA county offices. Doing so, in advance of the initial county office visit, will help FSA staff serve customers more effectively and efficiently. Producers will also need to complete an application for LIP assistance and, upon request, may be asked to provide additional supporting documentation.

LIP offers payments to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by qualifying adverse weather events. LIP also covers losses due to eligible diseases and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. This includes attacks by wolves and predatory birds.

In addition to the new LIP Decision Tool, the FarmRaise educational hub offers several, easily navigated farm loan programs how-to videos designed to introduce producers to FSA's many farm loan programs options and guide them through the application process.

More FSA program resources and tools will soon be added to the FarmRaise educational hub. Cooperators and agricultural producers are encouraged to visit the FarmRaise educational hub often to access all available resources.

About the Partnership. USDA cooperators are organizations on the frontlines of access and often are the first point of contact connecting farmers to USDA programs. The partnership between FarmRaise, Inc. and FSA, through a cooperative agreement, aims to improve producer participation and customer experience in USDA programs through education and technical assistance to young, beginning, and small-scale to mid-sized producers, producers with disabilities, and veterans.

"We're thrilled to partner with our colleagues in the U.S. Department of Agriculture to drive financial access through digital education," said Jayce Hafner, the CEO of FarmRaise. "Growing up on an Angus beef cattle farm in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, my family experienced the positive impact of USDA programs on both our soil health and our balance sheet. This effort will take a team of teams, and we're eager to collaborate with cooperators to build impactful tools that will most benefit their unique missions and diverse farmer communities in the decades to come. FarmRaise aims to propel our nation's agricultural community into a transformative era of unprecedented growth, resilience and success."

By developing a digital educational hub that delivers free, user-friendly, producer and cooperator-tested resources USDA and FarmRaise, Inc. will help FSA expedite program delivery to agricultural producers. The hub offers how-to videos and visual aids that educate producers about FSA programs and prepares them for submitting applications for program participation.

At the Library with Glenda Mulder April 24, 2024

Our May Take it Tuesday is a week later (the 14th) than usual, due to the LM elementary spring concert May 7th. We will be making patriotic wine cork flags. We could use a few more corks. If you have some, please drop them off at the Library. The kids have started afterschool sports practices, so we won't be doing their Make & Take again until next fall.

New novels this week include: *In the Unlikely Event* by Rebecca Yarros, *Extinction* by Douglas Preston, *Funny Story* by Emily Henry, *The Rule Book* by Sarah Adams, *Museum of Lost Quilts* by Jennifer Chiaverini, *One by One* Freida McFadden, *Only the Brave* by Danielle Steel and *Darling Girls* by Sally Hepworth (CD too!)

Mark Your Calendar!

May 14 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday Wine Cork Flags

May 1 & 20 Evening Tot Time

May 22 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club

May 28 @ 1:30 p.m. - Iowa Scenic Views by Foot

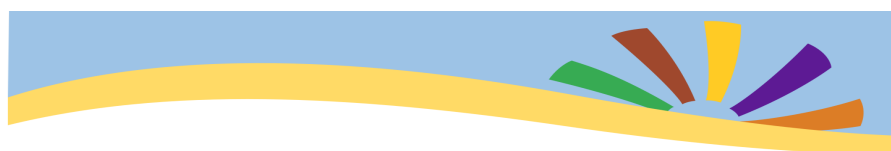
June 12 @ 6:30 p.m. - Dinosaur Dimensions!

June 19 – August 14 @ 11 a.m. - Kids Summer Reading!

June 26 @ 6:30 p.m. - Garden Fresh Eats with ISU Extension

July 17 @ 11 a.m. - The Dulcimer Guy

July 31 @ 6:30 p.m. - Preserving from your Garden with ISU Extension



Party In The Park

3rd Annual

Classic Car Show



*
No entry fee. Free lunch. Bring your car or truck and your buddies to the 3rd annual Party In The Park celebration

Marathon Poland Park

Marathon, Iowa

June 1, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



**For more information or to register your car, please contact
Larry Robinson at 712-334-0520
Bob Robinson at 712-334-0557
Roxanne Wilken at 515-971-6293 or
email Rwilken553@aol.com.**

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My Laurens, Inc.
112 Walnut St.
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(712) 841-2684

Fax:
(712) 841-4662

Website:
www.thepapernow.com

E-mail:
publisher@mylaurens.com

Publisher:
Rodney Johnson

Editor:
Amanda Tendal

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This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Thursday: April 25, 2024

2:30-5:30 PM ~ Community Blood Drive at UMC

Saturday: April 27, 2024

11:00 AM ~ Women of Bethany
NALC Spring Mtg

Sunday: April 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS
9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee
Fellowship
10:30 AM ~ Worship

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



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wednesday, April 24:

Lifeline Reveal Party in Fellowship Hall @ 7 PM

Thursday, April 25:

Laurens Community Blood Drive at the Laurens UMC from 2:30-6 PM

Sunday, April 28:

9:15 AM - Sunday School
9:30 AM - Fellowship Coffee
10:30 AM - Worship Service

Thursday, May 2:

National Day of Prayer
Community Prayer @ 11:00 AM on the City Hall steps in Laurens



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, April 25

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet open

Saturday, April 27

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

Sunday, April 28

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship



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

I-29 Moo University on May 9th Webinar to Focus on Crossbreeding for Improved Health and Profitability on Dairy Farms

The I-29 Moo University 2024 Dairy Webinar Series continues Thursday, May 9 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. CDT. The webinar will feature a discussion on crossbreeding systems to improve profitability of dairy farms.

Dr. Brad Heins, Professor of Dairy Management at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research Center, will lead the discussion about 3-breed rotational crossbreeding systems to improve profitability of dairy farms focusing on production, feed intake, health treatments, and profitability of 3-breed crossbreds compared to Holsteins for commercial dairy production.

Heins conducts his research at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, Minn. The Center has a 130-head herd in a certified organic system, and a 160-head herd in a conventional grazing system. His research and extension program focuses on best management practices for dairy production, crossbreeding of dairy cattle, group rearing of calves, and renewable energy for dairy production systems. Heins serves on the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture Board of Directors.

There is no fee to participate in the webinar; however, registration is required at least one hour before the webinar. Register online at: <https://go.iastate.edu/CROSSBREEDING>

For more information, contact: in Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230; in Minnesota, Jim Salfer, 320-203-6093; or in South Dakota, Patricia Villamediana, 605-688-4116.

Dairy Team Webinar to be Held on May 15

Webinar to Focus on Fermenting Whey to Produce Spirits

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar series continues Wednesday, May 15, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The program will feature Curt Basina from Copper Crow Distillery discussing the fermentation and distillation of lactose sugar found in whey to produce ethanol. Basina will also focus on some of the issues faced using whey in distillation, including legal requirements associated with distillation.

Basina and his wife Linda are the owners of Copper Crow Distillery in Bayfield, Wis. Copper Crow is located on the Red Cliff Indian Reservation and is the first Native American-owned distillery in the United States.

Copper Crow is well known in the industry for being on the cutting edge in the fermentation and distillation of whey, a byproduct of the cheese making industry, to produce award-winning spirits including vodka and gin produced from whey permeate. Whey spirits are also used in the production of their amaretto and aquavit.

Producers, dairy consultants, and industry reps are encouraged to attend the free webinar live from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on May 15. Registration must be completed at least one hour prior to the program. Register online at <https://go.iastate.edu/WHEY>.

For more information, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy 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.

City Council Minutes

April 15th, 2024

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15th, 2024. Senior Council Member Aaron Christenson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, John Jamison arriving at 5:10, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, Chief Ben Aschenbrenner, and Officer Josh Herrill. Mayor Rod Johnson and Councilmember Loren Booth were absent.

Swanson moved to approve moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the minutes from the April 1st, 2024 – Public Hearing and April 1st regular meeting, the list of claims, and a Tobacco Permit for Casey’s General Store. Zylstra seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 04-15-24

ALLIANT ENERGY	250 RALSTON ST. BILL	426.76
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS	183.21
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	MONTHLY EYE CARE INSURANCE	218.53
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS	667.64
C & R AUTO REPAIR AND SALES	POLICE VEHICLE MAINT.	819.99
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	273.65
CITY OF MOVILLE	NUISANCE CHARGES FROM ENFORCER	1,336.65
CMBA ARCHITECTS	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	360.00
CONNECTIONS, INC	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	30.51
DEE JACKSON/ JACKSON MOTORS	SNOW REMOVAL	30.00
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	718.02
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	855.75
CFC LEASING - WI	COPIER MAINT.	202.80
HALLET MATERIALS	COLD PATCH	1,244.25
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	8,001.20
IOWA SSN OF MUNICIPAL UT	25 WATER MEMBERSHIP DUES	616.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	EQUIPMENT MAINT. & REPAIRS	1,678.15
JOHNSEN CONTRACTORS	PLOW TO SALE BARN	100.00
JULIAN JOHNSEN	CPO TRAINING	16.75
LAURENS FOOD PRIDE	SUPPLIES	171.40
LAURENS HOUSE OF PRINT	BILLING SHEETS AND ENVELOPES	271.82
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET	114.68
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	550.60
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICE	SUPPLIES	179.54
LAURENS SUN	LEGALS & PUBLIC ADS	447.35
THE PAPER, INC	SUMMER HELP AD	100.00
POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE	MONTHLY LANDFILL FEE	6,332.10
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	764.65
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY FUEL	1,850.27
R & D INDUSTRIES	TECH SUPPORT	193.00
RB LUMBER	GARBAGE SUPPLIES	75.45
RICHARDSON SERVICE	REPAIRS / LABOR	124.40
RSM US LLP	TECH SUPPORT	945.00
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, LLC	SUPPLIES	1,237.25
SHAMROCK RECYCLE, INC.	CURBSIDE RECYCLING	1,895.20
SIEPKER AUTO REPAIR	GARBAGE TRUCK SUPPLIES	263.54
STORM LAKE PILOT TRIBUNE	ANNUAL RENEWAL	93.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	MONTHLY CELL PHONE BILLS	466.78
WEX BANKS	POLICE DEPT. FUEL	738.82
WOODLEY INSURANCE	FIRE DEPT. INSURANCE	130.00

City Council Minutes

ZIEGLER, INC.	REPAIRS FOR CAT	<u>1,054.19</u>
	TOTAL	<u><u>35,778.90</u></u>

PAYROLL		4/1/2024	
001	GENERAL		15,908.93
210	ROAD USE TAX		1,572.22
600	WATER		3,090.90
610	SEWER		2,711.26
670	GARBAGE		<u>2,342.62</u>
	TOTAL		<u><u>25,625.93</u></u>
	PAYROLL TOTAL		<u><u>25,625.93</u></u>
	TOTAL PAID		61,404.83
	TOTAL PAID BY FUND		
001	GENERAL		29,146.49
110	ROAD USE TAX		6,992.55
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		630.65
174	POOL RESTRICTED		270.00
600	WATER		5812.42
610	SEWER		5764.23
670	GARBAGE		<u>12,788.49</u>
	TOTAL BY FUND		<u><u>61,404.83</u></u>

Discussion was held on the Proposed Community Center.
 Reed presented the FY25 Budget presentation.
 Discussion was held on the IPMC.
 Jamison moved to approve Change Order #1 – Pool Project. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.
 Jamison moved to adjourn at 5:46 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Aaron Christenson, Senior Council Member

Hilary Reed, City Clerk