

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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March 12,
2025

Local News

Kindergarten Roundup to be Held

On Friday, March 21st, Laurens-Marathon CSD will be holding Kindergarten Roundup for the 2025-2026 school year. Any child who is, or will be, 5 years old on or before September 15, 2025 is eligible for kindergarten.

Students in the Laurens Early Childhood Program will have school on this day. Other potential kindergarten students for next year should report to the LOBBY of our school at 9:00 a.m. The children will be invited to spend some time in the kindergarten room. If your child is not in the Early Childhood Program, you may pick them up at 11:00 a.m.

If you have a child who will be in kindergarten next year, and they are not attending the

Laurens Early Childhood Program, please contact elementary secretary, Marilyn Ehlers, prior to March 21st to pick up a packet of pre-registration materials. You must have a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization records

Laurens Care Center-A Call to Action!

Approximately 20,000 Iowans reside in nursing facilities. Chances are you personally know and love someone who does. We are blessed with a small handful of community owned, non-profit nursing facilities in our area that possess an excellent reputation for providing exceptional care. It's my honor to serve as Administrator for one such facility, Laurens Care Center.

In the next couple of months Iowa legislators serving on the HHS Appropriations Subcommittee will be determining Medicaid funding rebasing for care facilities. Rebasing is the process of adjusting the Medicaid reimbursement rate that nursing facilities receive to provide care for individuals who rely on Medicaid to pay for their care. Rebasing occurs on a two-year cycle. 2025 is a rebase year, and 2024 provider costs will be used to determine the new Medicaid rebase rate. Provider cost data is submitted annually to the Department of Health and Human Services, reviewed for accuracy, then used to determine the new rebase rate.

Key factors for advocating for an increase in rebasing are as follows: an average of 52% of nursing facility resident days are dedicated to caring for individuals on Medicaid. Additionally, care facilities have experienced a 32% increase to wages on average to attract and retain qualified staff. Also, continuous efforts to combat inflation have been challenging.

Simply put, rebasing adjusts rates to closer align with current costs, which is crucial for continued high quality care provision. Iowa has lost 45 nursing facilities in the past two years. All but 11 were located in rural areas. Continued availability and access to a local reputable facility is so important when services are needed.

Please attend the upcoming Legislative Forum with Senator Dave Rowley on Saturday, March 22nd from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Emmetsburg Chamber, to express your support of a \$20 Medicaid rebase increase for Iowa's nursing facilities.

Thank you!
Jaime Dodd, Administrator

Touch Of Broadway Performing at Fonda Arts Center

Once again, the Fonda Arts Center welcomes Touch Of Broadway to kick off the 2025 entertainment year!

The date to remember is Sunday, March 30th, and the music begins at 3:00 p.m. The theme for this year's show, "The Colors of My Life", promises an uplifting, family friendly listening experience.

All this is happening at the Fonda Arts Center, on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main Streets in Fonda, where admission and refreshments are free and everyone is welcome!



At the Library with Glenda Mulder March 12, 2025

New novels recently include: *Queens of Crime* by Marie Benedict, *Summer Guests* by Tess Gerritson, *Beach Vibes* by Susan Mallory, and *The Antidote* by Karen Russell. Also on this invoice is *Sunrise on the Reaping*, another prequel to the Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins.

This month's Book Club choice is *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. Here's a synopsis: As he looks back on his life, Sam embarks on a journey that will take him halfway around the world. This time, his eyes are wide open-bringing into clear view what changed him, defined him, and made him so afraid, until he can finally see what truly matters. Sam, a small-town eye doctor, is no longer certain anything was by design-especially not the tragedy that caused him to turn his back on his friends, his hometown, and the life he'd always known. Running from the pain, eyes closed, served little purpose. I'm looking forward to this one, but will wait until closer to our discussion March 24th, so it's fresh in my mind.

Mark Your Calendar

March 17 Evening Tot Time @ 5:30 p.m.

March 24 @ 7 p.m. Book Club *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni

April 1 3:45-5:00 p.m. Kids Make & Take - Clothespin Bunnies

April 1 6:30 p.m. Take it Tuesday - Bunny & Duck Decorations

April 8 @1:30 p.m. *Better, not Bitter* by author Michelle Cowa

The Laurens Care Center Community Connection

Did you know that Laurens Care Center has recently been granted a facility contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs through the VA Community Nursing Home Program? This program allows Veterans within and around our community to receive the care that they need from a Top Notch care facility such as ours without having to leave friends and family.

Care Service Highlights offered by Laurens Care Center includes:

- 24-hour skilled nursing care (such as wound care or help with IV medication)
- Occupational, speech, and physical therapy
- Short term rehab services
- Hospice and palliative care for the end of life

VA Eligibility Requirements (copied from the Department of Veteran's Affairs site): Each of the VA nursing home programs has admission and eligibility criteria specific to the separate program. Nursing home care is available for Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health system who need nursing home care for service-connected disability, Veterans who have a 70% or greater service-connected disability, and Veterans with a rating of total disability based on individual unemployability.

VA-provided nursing home care for all other honorably discharged Veterans is based on available resources. Eligibility for Veterans without service-connected disabilities is highly dependent upon their household income, i.e. countable income after medical expenses can generally not exceed the maximum annual rate of a Veteran's Pension payable to a Veteran in need of regular aid and attendance (\$28,300 for a Veteran without dependents and \$33,548 for a Veteran with one dependent). Please stop by or give Administrator Jaime Dodd a call at 712-845-4915 with additional questions concerning the VA admission process for either a short-term or long-term stay with us.

Laurens Care Center February Happenings:

Sending a belated Happy Birthday shout out to our two residents with February Birthdays: Joe McDermott and Scott Thompson.

Our residents and staff voted for our Valentine's Day Sweetheart King and Queen, with Carolyn Johnson and Larry Perkins being crowned LCC royalty.

We would all like to thank the Methodist Women's group for bringing in Valentines packages for our residents. They loved your thoughtful gesture!

Looking Ahead:

LCC is hosting the first Lenten Luncheon on Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 11:30AM in our Activity Room. We also look forward to our outing to the men's soup supper this month.

Upcoming March Birthdays:

Charlotte Larsen: March 4th

Jaime Dodd, Administrator

Laurens Care Center

"Comfort, Care & Compassion"

Laurens Women's Club to Meet

The Laurens Women's Club will meet Friday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the Laurens Public Library. The program will be about "Women's History Month" presented by Evelyn Hakes and Grace Hertz. Members of the serving committee will be Sue Wenell and Pat Frantz. Evelyn Hakes will give the book report.

The Paper

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TUITION: \$99






 **4/24/25**

 **1:00 - 3:00 PM**

 **Northwest Career Academy in Laurens**




FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 515-574-1293

 noncredit@iowacentral.edu

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Clover Kids March Meeting

The Pocahontas County Clover Kids had an exciting meeting in March, featuring a special guest speaker, Russ Jergens, from the Pocahontas County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). He taught the members about various types of severe weather in Iowa, how to recognize it, and offered tips on how to prepare for such conditions. Additionally, members participated in fun, hands-on STEM activities, including creating their own tornado in a bottle and making delicious rainbow treats!



Russ Jergens (Pocahontas County EMA) delivering presentation to Clover Kids Members about Iowa severe weather.



Biggest Little Paper In Town!



Clover Kid members creating tornadoes in a bottle and rainbow snack.

*This Week at
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: March 12, 2025

11:30 AM ~ Lenten Lunch at Laurens
Care Center
6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service at
Bethany

Sunday: March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS
9:15 AM ~ Youth SS
9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion,
SS sing
11:30 AM ~ Potluck
4:00 PM ~ 4-H Club Mtg.
6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: March 18, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany
7:00 PM ~ Confirmation

Wednesday: March 19, 2025

11:30 AM ~ Lenten Lunch at Bethany
5:30 PM ~ Lenten Soup Supper at
Bethany
6:30 PM ~ Lenten Evening Service at
Bethany

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



*This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church*

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wednesday, March 12:

Caring Cards Meeting from 6:00-8:00
PM in Fellowship Hall.
Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the
Wesley Room

Sunday, March 16:

Sunday School from 9:15-10:05 AM
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Administrative Council Meeting
@ 11:30 AM in the Wesley Room
following worship

Wednesday, March 19:

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the
Wesley Room



*This Week at
First Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, March 12

11:30 a.m. - Lenten Luncheon at
Laurens Care Center

Thursday, March 13

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, March 16

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



*Resurrection
of Our Lord
Catholic Church*

**Pocahontas, IA -- Priest:
Father Paul Nguyen**

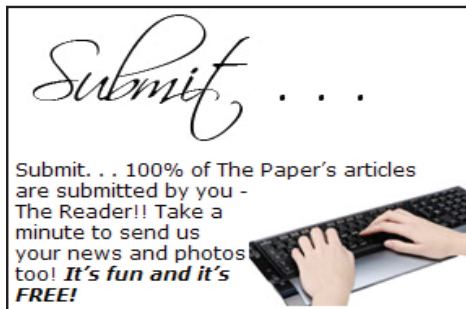
MASS TIMES:

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

Last Chance Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Course

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will offer Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (P-CIC), at the Extension office Wednesday, April 9, 2025. There will be a session that begins at 9 a.m. and a session that will begin at 1 p.m. Preregistration is required by calling the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or email lzeman@iastate.edu. The registration fee is \$30. The course will fulfill 2024-2025 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators.



Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops Scheduled for March 25

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is excited to announce a special educational opportunity on fruit tree pruning on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Join Dr. Suzanne Slack, Assistant Professor of Fruit Production at Iowa State University, for hands-on workshops designed to teach proper pruning techniques for fruit trees.

Workshop Schedule:

1. River Valley Orchards & Winery

Location: 1645 220th St, Humboldt, IA 50548

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The session will begin with an informative presentation on fruit tree pruning, followed by an outdoor demonstration where participants will have the opportunity to practice pruning a fruit tree.

2. Webster County Extension Office

Location: 217 South 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

This session will include an engaging presentation, after which attendees will travel to the Men's Garden Club Apple Orchard (2242 Oakwood Road, Fort Dodge, IA 50501) from 5:30-6:30 to practice hands-on trimming of apple trees.

These workshops are a great opportunity for fruit tree owners, gardeners, citizen volunteers, community forestry and park staff, tree care professionals, utility company representatives, county conservation board, and enthusiasts to learn from an expert about the best practices for pruning to maintain healthy and productive trees.

There will be a \$10 fee for the Webster County class participants for non-garden members. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and bring their own pruning tools if possible.

For more information or to register for these workshops, please contact the Pocahontas County Extension Office at (712) 335-3103, the Humboldt County Extension Office at (515) 332-2201, the Webster County Extension Office at (515) 576-2119 or the Hamilton County Extension Office at (515) 832-9597.

Don't miss this chance to enhance your fruit tree care skills and prepare your trees for a bountiful season!

Tree Care, from Root to Canopy Workshop Scheduled Starting March 27

Have you wondered about the health of your tree or maybe planning to replace some? After coming out of a drought, insect damage and wind damage we have had a high volume of trees questions in extension. Please join Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas, Hamilton, Humboldt, and Webster Counties have teamed up to host a live virtual learning opportunity starting Thursday evenings on March 27, April 3 and April 10 from 6-7 P.M. to learn about tree selection, placement and planting, post planning maintenance and pruning in the spring. Dr. Jeff Iles will discuss all of these topics along with an in-person session April 26, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. that will include a hands on overview of the topics.

These virtual and hands-on workshops are a great opportunity for homeowners, school grounds keepers, conservation professionals and city staff professionals to learn from an expert to be successful with selection, planting and caring

for trees from newly planted and established trees. There is a \$15 fee for three live virtual sessions and the hands-on in person session. The in-person session will be held at the Hamilton County Office located at 311 Bank St. Webster City, Iowa.

For more information, please contact the Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103 or register online at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/tree-care-root-canopy-hybrid>. Join us to learn from our experts to protect your investment of future tree purchases and maintaining the health of planted trees.

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Submit **TODAY!**

4-H and FFA Market Sheep and Market Goat Weigh-Ins to be Held

4-H and FFA Market Sheep and Market Goat Weigh-Ins will be on Saturday, April 5, from 10:00-11:00 a.m at the Pocahontas County Fairgrounds. All market lambs and market goats that will be exhibited at the 2025 Pocahontas County Fair need to be weighed in at this time.

State Fair identification will take place during the last 15 minutes of weigh-in, but you must let Ashlie know by April 1st if you need retinal imaging for the State Fair. Please contact Ashlie at ashliej@iastate.edu or call 712-335-3103.

Derby Swine Weigh-In will follow from 11:00-11:30 a.m., maximum weight of feeder pig is 90 pounds. Tags are \$4 per animal.

There will NOT be a special swine challenge this year.

Registration Open for Lambing Basics Workshop

Registration is open for “Ewe Got This: Lambing Basics Workshop,” set for Saturday, April 12, in Ames. The in-person workshop is tailored for sheep producers seeking to enhance their expertise and understanding of the lambing process and the essential care required for ewes and lambs.

The workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm, 3640 520th Ave., Ames. The registration fee is \$30, and registration is open online until April 7.

“Participants will have the unique chance to observe, discuss and engage in practical activities with spring lambing ewes and their offspring. This workshop will be an immersive and educational experience,” said Carolyn Ihde, small ruminant outreach specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach and University of Wisconsin - Madison Extension.

For more information, contact Ihde at cihde@wisc.edu.

Three-Part Hay School Being Offered in March

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will be hosting a free, three-part virtual hay school called the “Basics of Haymaking” this March. The school will cover common agronomic practices for haymaking in Iowa and will be held over three weeks during the noon hour.

“Basics of Haymaking” covers a range of haymaking topics, including renovation strategies, fertility management, in-season control of weeds, insects and diseases, as well as harvest management. When done correctly, these fundamental practices can enhance both the production and persistence of your hayfield while optimizing your haymaking process,” said Shelby Gruss, assistant professor in forage extension at Iowa State University.

Sessions will be held on March 17, 24 and 31 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Topics to be covered at each of the sessions are:

- Session 1: Forage selection, fertility and establishment
- Session 2: Harvest, storage and the economics of hay
- Session 3: Pest management: insects, weeds and diseases

There is no cost to participate in this three-part series, but you must register online. After registering, participants will receive an email message with a link for joining the sessions. In addition, all sessions will be recorded for viewing later.

If you have any questions, please contact Gruss at sgruss@iastate.edu or 515-294-3832.

Consider Dollars and What Makes Sense for Extending Days on Feed in the Feedlot

Increasing days on feed for feedlot cattle isn't a new idea. However, several research studies in recent years have shown that as cattle get bigger a large percentage of their weight gain is in the form of carcass weight gain. Grant Crawford, associate director of cattle technical services at Merck Animal Health, said this concept, termed carcass transfer, allows cattle feeders the opportunity to extend days-on-feed and increase profitability on certain groups of cattle. This is particularly true if cattle are sold on a carcass-weight basis.

Crawford, who spoke at the 2025 Feedlot Forum in northwest Iowa, said the current situation with low grain prices, near record-high fed cattle prices, and near record-high feeder cattle prices offers a unique situation.

"Current feeder cattle prices make profit projections very narrow, and there may be an advantage to adding more pounds to the cattle that are already in the feedlot -- and already paid for," he said. "Especially compared with purchasing and placing a lighter weight feeder and

taking the risk that these new cattle may not produce a profit."

Crawford explained some recent research regarding increased carcass weight and live weight gain per day.

"A very rough estimate of carcass transfer is that 75% of live weight gain during the extended feeding period (extending past the normal finishing weight) is in the form of carcass weight," he said. "The research we have conducted shows steers gain approximately 2 lbs/day carcass weight, and 2.6 lbs/day live weight with extended days-on-feed. These estimates can be used to predict performance, incremental cost-of-gain, and added revenue from extending days-on-feed."

Extending days-on-feed typically makes more sense for cattle feeders who sell their cattle on a carcass weight basis rather than a live weight basis. This is because of the high percentage of weight gain in the form of carcass weight toward the end of the feeding period, Crawford said.

Also, extending days can be risky when selling cattle on a grid basis. Though extending days may be advantageous for increasing premium quality grades like Prime and Certified Angus Beef, it will likely also increase potential carcass discounts such as Yield Grades 4 and 5 and overweight carcasses.

Heifers versus steers also can make a difference. Heifers are earlier maturing and therefore may realize carcass discounts -- Yield Grades 4 and 5 especially -- earlier than steers. They're also less efficient than steers.

While current market dynamics allow producers this opportunity, changes in those dynamics of higher

feed prices and lower fed and/or feeder cattle prices, the opportunity to extend days-on-feed may diminish.

Producers interested in learning more about how more days on feed could work in their operation can compare past similar groups, Crawford said. Finished weights and carcass weights at typical days-on-feed, feed intakes at heavy weights, and carcass characteristics are important to know. It also is important to know how often the producer sees late-term deaths or morbidities, as this can vary greatly across feedlots.

Bottom line, Crawford said, is it's important to be pragmatic.

"One in the hand vs. two in the bush' is fitting here, because there definitely is risk in feeding cattle longer," he said. "For example, larger cattle can be hard on pens, fences and feeders. Any death loss in market-ready fed cattle is expensive. Weather can also play a major factor and any potential gains can easily be offset by mud, heat stress, cold stress, etc."

About the Iowa Beef Center. The Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University was established in 1996 with the goal of supporting the growth and vitality of the state's beef cattle industry. It comprises faculty and staff from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine, and works to develop and deliver the latest research-based information regarding the beef cattle industry.

City Council Minutes

March 3rd, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3rd, 2025. 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, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and Public Works Director Julian Johnson.

Christenson moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the amended minutes from the February 17th, 2025, meeting, and the list of claims. Christenson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 03-03-25

A&M SERVICES, INC.	RUGS, RAGS, MOPS	89.36
ACCO	CHEMICALS	2,395.10
ALLIANT ENERGY	SHOP GAS FEES	528.34
AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS CO	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	2,133.75
BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES	76.93
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	732.40
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTE WATER TESTING	1,326.75
GFC LEASING-WI	COPIER MAINTENANCE	205.75
HEMPHILL LAW OFFICE	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	617.40
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	800.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	4,461.59
IPERS	IPERS	6,861.37
JULIAN JOHNSEN	CONFERENCE PARKING	30.00
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE FEES	427.24
LMU	MONTHLY FEB UTILITIES	5,907.55
MIKE HERTZ MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT CORP	FIRE SCHOOL	259.23
	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	400.00
PAYMENTUS CORPORATION	TECH SUPPORT	356.62
PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEM	GROUP INSURANCE	70.00
RSM US, LLP	TECH SUPPORT	2,223.37
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	STATE TAXES	1,084.03
UMB	BOND FEES	500.00
US BANK	OFFICE SUPPLIES	232.47
USA BLUE BOOK	SUPPLIES	500.78
WELLMARK	MONTHLY HEALTH INSURANCE	10,095.92
ZIEGLER, INC.	PARTS	444.77
	TOTAL	<u>42,760.72</u>

PAYROLL		2/17/2025	
001	GENERAL		1,178.66
210	ROAD USE TAX		2,219.51
600	WATER		3,501.08
610	SEWER		3,044.72
670	GARBAGE		2,669.48
	TOTAL		<u>12,613.45</u>
	PAYROLL TOTAL		<u>12,613.45</u>
	PAID TOTAL		<u>55,374.17</u>

001	GENERAL	8,516.48
110	ROAD USE TAX	5,254.34
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	4,778.66
200	DEBT SERVICE	500.00
600	WATER	18,643.55
610	SEWER	10,567.90
670	GARBAGE	7,113.24
	TOTAL BY FUND	<u>55,374.17</u>

REVENUES	GENERAL	9,396.92
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City Council Minutes

ROAD USE TAX	12,753.38
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	543.63
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	9,792.03
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING	41.51
POOL RESTRICTED	10,200.00
DEBT SERVICE	573.82
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	53.99
WATER	49,181.23
SEWER	34,083.09
GARBAGE	18,658.14
STORM WATER	2,897.42
TOTAL	<u>148,175.16</u>

Discussion was held on the Laurens Comprehensive Park Plan. Zylstra motioned to approve the plan and follow the recommendations put forth from the Laurens Hometown Pride Committee. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held on the camera system. Reed will gather more information. No action was taken.

Discussion was held on police matters. No action was taken.

Zylstra motioned to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem

Hilary Reed, City Clerk