

The Paper

Our Town , Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 33

www.thepapernow.com

May 21, 2025

Local News

How to Recycle Items for Fun

On May 9, 2025, Vani Ahlers and Ann Butler presented a program entitled “Dumpster Divas” to the Laurens Women’s Club at the Bethany Lutheran Church. They presented ideas about using discarded items to create something decorative or even amusing.

A general rule for them is not to overdo your project. Each creation is individual. Sometimes they have used Crown Royal bottles to recycle into grinchies, santas, and snowmen. Old wreaths are often useful for making new items.

Vani Ahlers enjoys making a coffee table from an old trunk. Ann Butler is especially good at making owls, and then purchasing the eyes and hangars. Other items such as hinges, knobs, bottle caps, cans, can openers, buttons, tin foil, and spools (for feet) can be raw materials. With perhaps a touch of paint, they have done suncatchers, sunflowers, outdoor planters, windmills, bees and Christmas decorations. Sheryl Ahlers makes vanilla, as well as stocking hats, purses, and billfolds.

These handmade items can be purchased at Vani’s store in Laurens on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1-5 pm and on Saturdays. They will do deliveries in Laurens.



Party In The Park - Marathon, Iowa

The community of Marathon will be holding the 4th Annual Party In The Park at the Marathon Poland Park in Marathon, Iowa on June 7, 2025.

The Party In The Park is for anyone who has lived in Marathon in the past or present, anyone who graduated from Marathon High School, or anyone who has any connection to Marathon, Iowa.

The event is hosted by a committee of former or current residents. It will start at 10 a.m. and conclude around 4:30 p.m.

The committee is hosted by Chairperson Roxanne Wilken, along with other committee members which include: Kelly Anderson, Tim Christy, Bob Robinson, Larry Robinson, Terry Sample and Nate Anderson.

There will be a meal which is pot luck with meat and drinks provided. There is a car show and an unsanctioned bags (cornhole) tournament being held during this event.

For more information call Roxanne Wilken at: 515-971-6293.

80th Birthday!

Bonnie Newgard will be celebrating her 80th birthday on May 22!

Bonnie was a part of many of our important moments in life through her work at Town & Country Floral. Let's make her day special with birthday wishes.

Cards can reach Bonnie at: 303 Oak St, Laurens, IA 50554

Help Us Celebrate!

"Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live!"

Our mom, Dorothy Runneberg, will celebrate her 97th Birthday on May 30th!

Bless this precious lady with cards or notes for her big day!

Dorothy Runneberg
Laurens Care Center
304 East Veterans Road
Room 202
Laurens, Iowa 50554

Thank You!!

Mary Korreect, Jan Ragaller, Dave Runneberg and families



United Methodist Church

Thursday, May 22, 2025

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Extended Hours)

201 West Main Street | Laurens



APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org



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ORDER OF EVENTS FOR MEMORIAL DAY 2025– LAURENS, IA

***Start Time – 9:00 Monday May 26, 2025**

***Welcome – Patricia Bailey**

***The “Star Spangled Banner” will be sung by Lee Greenwood**

***Opening Prayer – Pastor David Klappenbach, Bethany Lutheran**

***Pledge of Allegiance – by EVERYONE**

***American Medley by Branson Acapella Group 6**

***SPEAKER – Ron Day – former Laurens-Marathon School Principal**

***The song “God Bless the USA” by Lee Greenwood**

***Reading of the Honor Roll – Patricia Bailey**

Youth from Laurens will place the wreaths.

***CLOSING PRAYER – Pastor David Klappenbach**

The color guard is made up of members of our local VFW and American Legion members.

“TAPS” will be played by Emily Harrold

At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
May 21, 2025

It's time for the first holiday weekend of the summer! Naturally, our Library will be closed all three days of the Memorial Day Weekend, because librarians love celebrating holidays too!

We are wrapping up our visits with Laurens-Marathon classes, and Tessa is now preparing for Summer Reading! **"Level Up at Your Library"** will meet Wednesdays at 11 a.m. starting June 18th. There will be a special visit from Spock's Sanctuary, which will bring reptiles to our library July 2nd.

New adult fiction includes: *Heartwood* by Amity Gaige, *Children of Eve* by John Connelly, *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman, *Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong, *Where the Rivers Merge* by Mary Alice Monroe, *Never Flinch* by Stephen King, *Amalfi Curse* by Sarah Penner, *Whistle* by Linwood Barklay, *Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick, *Return to Sender* by Craig Johnson, *The Busybody Book Club* by Freya Sampson, *A Thousand Distant Shores* by Buck Turner and *Run for the Hills* by Kevin Wilson. In nonfiction we received *We Can Do Hard Things: Answers to life's 20 questions* by Glennon Doyle, Abby Wambach, Amanda Doyle and 118 Wayfinders and *Autism Out Loud: Life with a Child on the Spectrum, from Diagnosis to Young Adulthood-Moving Stories and Parenting Lessons Learned from Three Mothers of Children with Autism* by Kate Swenson.

The Laurens Public Library Foundation recently received a \$150 from Fidelity that states it is a Retirement Distribution Check. Unfortunately, there is no donor listed on the check, so we can't send a thank you or tax receipt. So if it was you, thank you! Let us know if you need a tax receipt. Donations to the Library Foundation fund extra projects that we might not have funds for in our regular budget, such as kids summer reading, themed tubs for child cares, and special programs.

Mark Your Calendar

May 24-26 - CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

June 18 – August 13 - Level Up at Your Library @ 11 a.m. on Wednesday

June 23 @ 7p.m. - Book Club *The Wager* by David Grann

The Paper

Published weekly by
My Laurens, Inc.
112 Walnut St.
Laurens, IA 50554

Phone:
(712) 841-2684

Fax:
(712) 841-4662

Website:
www.thepapernow.com

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This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: May 21, 2025

7 PM ~ Confirmation

Sunday: May 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

TIME CHANGE for Summer

8:30 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Worship

10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

4 PM ~ Laurens Care Center Service

6 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Monday: May 26, 2025

9 AM ~ Memorial Day Service at
cemetery

Tuesday: May 27, 2025

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

Wednesday, May 21:

SPRC Meeting @ 6:00 PM at the
Laurens UMC

Administrative Council Meeting @
7:00 PM in the Wesley Room

Thursday, May 22:

Laurens Community Blood Drive at
the UMC from 1:00-6:00 PM.

Sunday, May 25:

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM

Monday, May 26:

Memorial Day Church Offices
Closed



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, May 22

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, May 25

9:30 a.m. - Worship (Note time
change) return to summer schedule



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

Laurens Care Center Summer Fundraising Events

Laurens Care Center is hosting three separate fundraising activities this summer to raise money to purchase a 6-person golf cart for resident use.

Two of these fundraisers will take place on Saturday July 19, 2025. Our big fundraiser will be a 2 person best ball golf tournament at the Laurens Golf & Country Club. Registration starts at 8AM, with Tee Off scheduled for 9AM. There will also be auction items available to bid on and a meal provided afterwards. On the same day, Laurens Care Center staff will also be selling dishes of soft serve ice cream with a variety of toppings at the new Laurens Aquatic Center during the Conference Swim Meet hosted by the Laurens Swim Team.

Our wrap up with summer fundraising includes hosting a Bake Sale on Saturday, July 12th during the Laurens Days Pie and Ice Cream Social at the Methodist church from 11AM to 2PM. Our staff will be providing baked goods, and we would be extremely grateful for any additional contributions of baked goods for us to sell during this fundraising event. Donated baked good contributions can be delivered to the care center on Friday, July 11th or brought to the Methodist Church on Saturday, July 12th.

Thank you so much for your support!
Jaime Dodd, Administrator

LAURENS CARE CENTER **1st ANNUAL 2 PERSON BEST SHOT** **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Family, Memorial, and Business Sponsorship Levels

Quality

- Golf tournament sponsor
 - \$500
- *must be received by June 24, 2025, for Sponsorship Banner Acknowledgement.**

Comfort

- Golf hole sponsor
- \$250

Care

- \$100

Compassion

- \$50

\$30 Entry Fee per Person

Questions?

Contact Jaime Dodd, Administrator
at 712-845-4595 or
jdodd@laurenscc.com



The Laurens Care Center continually looks for new and fun ways to enhance quality of life for those we care for. Funds raised from this first tournament will be applied towards the purchase of a 6-person gas powered golf cart, which will enable us to provide resident access to local social outdoor activities with greater ease. Your help and support in our efforts to enhance the quality of life for our community is invaluable and greatly appreciated!

Tournament Information:

SATURDAY JULY 19, 2025

8AM Registration

9AM Shotgun Start

Meal and prizes afterwards!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ Quality Level \$500

___ Comfort Level \$250

___ Care level \$100

___ Compassion level \$50

___ Cash ___ Check

Send to:

Laurens Care Center
304 E Veterans Rd
Laurens, IA 50554

Downward Trend in Iowa Cash Rental Rates for 2025

The 2025 survey of cash rental rates for Iowa farmland shows that rates decreased, on average, by 2.9% in 2025 to \$271 per acre. This is the first decline in cash rents since 2019, after a peak of \$279 per acre the previous two years of the survey. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach conducts the annual Cash Rental Rates for Iowa Survey.

Crop reporting districts experienced differing results in cash rents: from a decrease of 6.9% in Crop Reporting District 8 (South Central) to an increase of 2.8% in Crop Reporting District 9 (Southeast). Every Crop Reporting District showed a decline, with the exception of the Southeast Crop Reporting District, which reported an average cropland cash rent 0.8% (\$2) higher than its previous peak of \$252 in the 2023 survey.

The intent of the Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2025 Survey is to report typical rents in force, not the highest or lowest values heard through informal sources. Iowans supplied 1,492 usable responses about typical cash rental rates in their counties for land producing corn and soybeans, hay, oats, and pasture. Of these, 44% came from farm operators, 37% from landowners, 8% from professional farm managers and realtors, 6% from agricultural lenders and 5% from other professions and respondents who chose not to report their status. Respondents indicated being familiar with a total of 2.5 million cash-rented acres across the state.

Changes in average rent across counties and land quality. There was considerable variability across counties in year-to-year changes, as is typical of survey data, but 68 out of the 99 Iowa counties

reported decreases in average rents for corn and soybean acres.

All land qualities reported similar decreases in average cash rents. High-quality land experienced a 3.4% decrease, from \$328 per acre in 2024 to \$317 in 2025. Medium-quality land experienced a 2.5% decrease, from \$278 per acre in 2024 to \$271 in 2025. Low-quality land experienced a 3.0% decrease, from \$232 per acre in 2024 to \$225 in 2025.

The report also shows typical rents for irrigated, alfalfa, grass hay, oats, pasture, corn stalk grazing and hunting rights by crop reporting district. New information in the 2025 report includes crop reporting district averages for land in organic crop production.

Using the survey information. Survey information can serve as a reference point for negotiating an appropriate rental rate for next year. However, rents for individual farms should be based on productivity, ease of farming, fertility, drainage, local price patterns, longevity of the lease and possible services performed by the tenant. Three major factors with the potential to influence future cash rents are crop prices, government payments and land values.

The survey presents typical dollars of rent per bushel of corn and soybean yield for each county, based on the county average yield for each crop during the last five years, and row crop CSR2 index point. This year, the rent per bushel ranged from \$0.95 to \$1.88 for corn and from \$3.11 to \$6.20 for soybeans, with overall averages for corn and soybeans of \$1.39 and \$4.67, respectively. The statewide average per CSR2 index point was \$3.38, with a range of \$2.32 to \$4.78.

An important factor considered by landowners when negotiating cash rents is the return on their farmland investment. Calculations based on the ISU Land Value Survey and Cash Rental Rates for Iowa Survey show the evolution of the ratio of average cash rents to average land values in Iowa. The calculations suggest that the average return on investment for

landowners who cash rent their land to operators has followed a declining trend since the early 1990s, stabilizing at around 3% after 2010. Note that this ratio does not measure net returns as ownership costs, including real estate taxes, are not considered in its calculation.

Survey resources. The annual survey was carried out by ISU Extension and Outreach. This information would not be possible without the 1,492 responses on typical cash rents from producers, landowners and ag professionals across the state. Every survey response is greatly appreciated. The full publication is available for download.

AgDM File C2-10, Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2025 Survey, provides detailed results by county and Crop Reporting District. Archived publications from previous years are also available on this webpage, and Ag Decision Maker File C2-11, Historical County Cropland Rental Rates, reports historical county averages from previous years.

Other resources available for estimating a fair cash rent include the AgDM Information Files Computing a Cropland Cash Rental Rate (C2-20), Computing a Pasture Rental Rate (C2-23) and Flexible Farm Lease Agreements (C2-21). All of these fact sheets are on the Ag Decision Maker Leasing page, and include decision tools (electronic spreadsheets) to help analyze individual leasing situations. An online decision tool can be used to visualize the cash rents by land quality in each county by year, and compare trends in cash rents for a county versus its CRD and the state average.

For questions regarding the cash rent survey, contact the authors. For general leasing questions, contact the farm management field specialist in your area. Farm management specialists will once again present farmland leasing programs across the state in July and August for an in-depth assessment of trends and issues impacting Iowa tenants and landowners.