

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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August 6,
2025

Local News

The Kaleidoscope Project is Complete!

11 life-sized kaleidoscopes now stand proudly across Pocahontas County. Each one is a vibrant symbol of community spirit, creativity, and collaboration.

What began in 2023 as a vision from the Inspire PoCo Leadership class to enhance quality of life, boost tourism, and honor the legacy of Leonard Olson, founder of the Kaleidoscope Factory, has grown into something truly remarkable. The impact has reached beyond county lines, even beyond Iowa, with other communities now inspired to bring scopes of their own to life.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible: Rich Hessenius & the Kaleidoscope Family, Corey & the Machine Shop, Interstate Powder Coating, Jeff Vial Construction, Kevin Kerns, Bobalee, PCEDC & the Visioning Committee, Iowa Rural Enrichment Grant, Pocahontas County Foundation, Pocahontas Area Rotary Club, Brent Aden, Mary Schroeder with True Value, Each Pocahontas County City and Pocahontas Conservation.

Now it's your turn! Take a county-wide kaleidoscope road trip and explore the unique colors and designs that reflect the history and pride of each community: Rolfe, Fonda, Pocahontas, Laurens, Little Clear Lake, Cooper's Cove, Varina, Gilmore City, Palmer, Havelock and Plover.

Enjoy the group photos from each dedication and celebrate the people who helped bring this bold, beautiful vision to life!







Laurens-Marathon Registration & First Day of School Information

Registrations are being sent in the mail again like last year, the registration date to drop them off is Monday, August 11, 2025 from 3:00-6:00 PM.

School for PK-6th starts on Monday, August 25, 2025 with scheduled PK-6 Parent & Student Conferences with their teachers between 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Our 1st FULL DAY of school begins Tuesday, August 26, 2025.



Laurens Care Center would like to thank and recognize the following businesses and individuals for their generous sponsorship of our 1st Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser.

Quality Level Sponsorship:

West Iowa Bank
Access Systems via Access Cares Foundation

Comfort Level Sponsorship:

Community State Bank
Hwy 10 Hardware
St. Croix Hospice
William & Sarah Kmiecik

Care Level Sponsorship:

Pocahontas Community Hospital
Kevin & Kylie Maurer
Chad & Melissa Cleveland

Meal Sponsors:

Martin Bros

We would also like to thank those in the community that registered and played, as well as participated in our raffle and silent auction. Also, thanks so much to the Laurens Golf and Country Club team for their knowledge and ability to host such a fun and successful fundraiser! For those who missed it, we hope to see you at our tournament next year!



CITY GARAGE SALES
& BLOCK PARTY DOWNTOWN SAT.
AUG. 9TH!

Lizziedoodle LLC
GIFTS & HOME DECOR
IN LAURENS, IOWA

WILL BE CLOSING THEIR BUSINESS

AS THEY BEGIN A NEW ADVENTURE!

Sales continue!
Cash for clearance table items

Please use gift certificates by August 31

OPEN SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 FROM 8:00-3:00.

NOTE:
OUR STORE HOURS ARE LIMITED & WILL VARY.

LAURENS-MARATHON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ~ 2025-2026 ~ SCHOOL SUPPLIES

L-M PRESCHOOL

- (2) Boxes of Kleenex (200 count)
 - (1) Tub of Clorox Wipes
 - (1) Package of Ziplock baggies (sandwich or gallon size)
 - (1) Extra pair of Tennis Shoes
 - (1) Full-sized Book Bag
 - (1) Extra set of clothing (shirt, pants, underwear, & socks)
- PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST

****PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)**

- (1) Supply box - LABEL W/NAME
- (1) Set of headphones (NO ear buds) - LABEL W/NAME
- (1) Package of #2 Pencils (NO mechanical pencils)
- (5) White Board markers (black)
- (1) Scissors - LABEL W/NAME
- (12) Glue sticks
- (3) Highlighters
- (1) Box of Crayons (24 count) - LABEL W/NAME
- (2) Set of Classic colored markers - LABEL W/NAME
- (2) Boxes of Kleenex (200 count)
- (1) Tub of Clorox Wipes
- (1) Package of Ziplock baggies (sandwich or gallon size)
- (1) Pair of P.E. Tennis Shoes - LABEL W/NAME
- Water bottle for snack - LABEL W/NAME
- Extra set of clothes - LABEL W/NAME
- Book Bag - LABEL W/NAME
- Notebooks & Folders are NOT needed, please!

FIRST GRADE

****PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)**

- (1) set of headphones - LABEL W/NAME
- Pencil Box (No bigger than about 6"x 9")
- (4) Double-Pocket Folders (with NO fasteners and NO plastic folders)
- (20) #2 Pencils (NO mechanical pencils)
- (6) Large Erasers
- (2) Large Boxes of Kleenex
- (2) Large containers of Clorox disinfectant wipes
- (3) Glue Sticks
- (1) 8 oz. Bottle of School White Glue
- (1) 7.5" x 10" Canvass Zipper Bag with Clear Front
- (1) Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E.
- (4) Dry erase markers
- (1) Box of quart or gallon size Ziploc bags
- (3) Wide-lined (1 subject) Spiral Notebooks
- (1) Box of Crayons
- (1) box of CLASSIC colored markers
- (1) pair of scissors
- (1) Small flashlight
- (1) Book bag (Bring Daily)

(SECOND, THIRD, & FOURTH ON BACK)

LAURENS-MARATHON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ~ 2025-2026 ~ SCHOOL SUPPLIES

SECOND GRADE

****PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)**

- (1-2) set of headphones - LABEL W/NAME**
- (20) #2 Pencils**
- (1) Scissors "Fiskars 6 inch"**
- (4) Glue Sticks**
- (4) Dry Erase markers & 1 SOCK (To use as an eraser and store the markers)**
- (2) Double Pocket Folders**
- (2) Large Boxes Kleenex**
- (1) Container of Clorox Wipes**
- (1) pair of tennis shoes for P.E.**
- (1) Box of gallon-sized Ziploc bags**
- (2) Wide-Lined spiral notebooks**
- Supply Box (No bigger than about 6"x9")**
- (2-3) Pack of Crayons (24 Count) Basic Colors**
- (2-3) Pack of Markers Basic Colors**
- Book Bag (Bring Daily)**

THIRD GRADE

- (1) Pair of headphones for Laptops* (NO Bluetooth PLEASE)**
- (1) Backpack**
- (4) Glue Sticks**
- (2) Boxes of YELLOW #2 pencils (They will be shared)**
- (1) Wide-lined spiral notebooks**
- (1) Scissors**
- (1) Double pocket folders**
- (2) Large boxes of tissues (200 count)**
- (1) Box of crayons**
- (1) Box of colored pencils**
- (1) Pair of tennis shoes for PE**
- (1) Box of markers**
- (1) Pack of dry-erase markers**
- (2) Canisters of Sanitizing Wipes**
- (1) Roll of paper towels**

****PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)**

FOURTH GRADE

- (1) Pair of earbuds or headphones for Laptops* (NO Bluetooth PLEASE)**
- (3) Spiral Notebooks - wide lined**
- (2) Highlighters (2 different colors)**
- (4) Dry erase markers**
- (1) Box of sandwich-sized Zip-loc baggies (girls only)**
- (3) Double-Pocket folders**
- (1) bottle of white glue**
- (4) glue sticks**
- (1) Set of markers**
- (20) #2 Pencils (NO mechanical pencils)**
- (2) Large Erasers**
- (1) pair of tennis shoes for PE**
- (3) Large boxes of Kleenex**
- (1) container of disinfecting wipes**
- (1) Pair of scissors**
- Assignment Notebook (\$5.00 purchased at Registration) Students must have one!**
- **Please NO Trapper Keepers**

Laurens-Marathon School - 2025-2026 Supply List - 5th & 6th

5th Grade:

- (1) pair of earbuds or headphones
 - (2) Spiral Notebooks - wide lined (colors: red & blue)
 - (2) Composition notebooks
 - (2) Highlighters (2 different colors)
 - (4) Dry erase markers
 - (2) Double-Pocket folders w/brads (colors: red & blue)
 - (1) bottle of white glue or (2) glue sticks
 - (1) set of markers
 - (20) #2 Pencils (No mechanical pencils)
 - (12-24) Pencil Cap Erasers
 - (1) pair of tennis shoes for PE
 - (3) large boxes of Kleenex
 - (1) container of disinfecting wipes
- Assignment Notebook (\$5.00 purchased at Registration) Students must have one!

****Please No Trapper Keepers**

6th Grade:

- Pair of earbuds or headphones
- (2) Composition notebooks
- Folders (3) red, blue, green
- (2) 1 1/2 inch Binders
- 2 packs of loose leaf paper
- Assignment Notebook/Planner (\$5.00 purchased at registration) Students must have one!
- #2 Pencils (No mechanical pencils)
- Pens - 3 red, 3 blue
- (2) Highlighters
- (1) bottle of white glue AND (2) glue sticks
- Colored pencils
- PE Clothes and Shoes
- Pencil Case
- 2 box of Kleenex (200 Count)
- Container of Hand Sanitizer
- Container of disinfecting wipes

At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
July 30, 2025

If you know me, you know I do things either planned way ahead of time, or totally spontaneous. I've done both with programs this month. Last week we had a wonderful afternoon sharing memories of Alvin Straight and of the filming of the movie *The Straight Story* with the Luther College professor who is doing research. Then the very next day, I booked Mike Anderson, *The Dulcimer Guy* to entertain us at the Library and at Festival of Trees on Tuesday, December 9th! It's all about balance, right?

Kids Summer Reading continues every Wednesday until August 13. We've had great attendance – lots of familiar faces, and some new friends! If you have kids visiting, please bring them any and all weeks they are here.

New fiction this week includes: *Party of Liars* by Kelsey Cox, *Jenny Cooper Has a Secret* by Joy Fielding, *She Didn't See It Coming* by Shari Lapena, *You Belong Here* by Megan Miranda and *Lies they Told* by Ellen Wiseman.

We finished our adult fiction weeding of books that are no longer being checked out, and have moved to the YA section. Stop and check out our discard table – they are perfect books to take on vacation, because you don't have to return them!

Mark Your Calendar

Now until August 13 Level Up at Your Library @ 11 a.m. on Wednesdays

August 25 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson

December 9 - Hugo Kringle/*The Dulcimer Guy*

LegoMania all day every Friday this summer!

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This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: August 10, 2025

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM ~ Worship

10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: August 12, 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

Sunday, August 10:

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, August 6

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch

Thursday, August 7

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, August 10

9:30 a.m. - Worship followed with
coffee and refreshments



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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

Managing Weather-related Problems in the Vegetable Garden

Warm temperatures and heavy rainfall can significantly affect the growth and yield of home vegetable crops

Not all problems in the vegetable garden are caused by insect pests or diseases. Hot temperatures and heavy or inconsistent rainfall can lead to deformed fruit and low yields. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulture specialists discuss common weather-related issues in the vegetable garden and offer tips for managing them.

According to Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture extension specialist, high temperatures, particularly those above 90°F during the day or 75°F at night, can cause blossom drop in crops such as tomatoes, peppers and green beans. Flowers may fail to form or fall off before pollination, leading to reduced yields.

“Temperatures above 85°F can delay ripening in vegetables like tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, causing fruit to remain green longer. Cool-season crops like

lettuce, spinach and peas often stop growing altogether,” said Steil. “While soil is typically cooler than the air temperature, if it exceeds 86°F, potato tubers stop forming. Heat also causes incomplete or poor pollination in vine crops like cucumbers and squash, resulting in misshapen produce.”

Flavor is also affected by hot weather. Cucumbers may taste bitter, and crops like melons and carrots may have reduced sweetness as sugars are used at a higher rate in the heat, Steil noted.

Managing heat stress in crops is challenging, but Steil recommends deep weekly watering when conditions are dry to reduce plant stress and promote deep, resilient roots. Adding a layer of mulch helps lower soil temperatures and reduces water lost to evaporation. Heavy or inconsistent rainfall can also cause problems in the vegetable garden.

“Tomatoes, particularly large-fruited varieties, may crack from rapid growth, especially under high temperatures and direct sunlight,” said Steil. “Cabbage heads can split after heavy rainfall as excess water creates internal pressure from quick uptake.”

Inconsistent rainfall can lead to blossom end rot in tomatoes, peppers and summer squash. This

begins with a brown or black spot on the fruit's blossom end (bottom) because of a calcium deficiency. “The deficiency is caused by wide fluctuations in soil moisture, which impairs calcium uptake by the roots, he said. “Secondary infections follow, causing the fruit to rot.”

While rainfall cannot be controlled, consistent soil moisture can reduce these issues. During dry periods, water deeply once a week. Mulch can also help reduce evaporation from the soil surface. If fruit shows signs of blossom end rot, discard it. Damaged produce with no signs of decay is still edible, but ensure it is used or processed quickly, as it will not store well.

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Preparing for an Empty Nest: A New Chapter for Parents

As children leave home for college, military service, employment or independent living, parents enter a new phase of life — one filled with change, reflection and opportunity. With a positive mindset and thoughtful planning, this transition can be both meaningful and empowering, says Barbara Dunn Swanson, a health and human sciences educator with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

“Parenthood is a lifelong journey of adjustments,” said Swanson. “When your child moves out, your parenting role shifts. It’s natural to feel a mix of emotions — pride, sadness, excitement and even uncertainty.”

As parents move from the daily demands of raising children to rediscovering time for themselves and their relationships, a wide range of outcomes is possible. Some may mourn the quiet house, while others embrace the freedom. Many experience both.

“There’s no one-size-fits-all approach to this transition,”

Swanson said. “But giving it some thought ahead of time can make the adjustment smoother.”

Swanson offers these suggestions for embracing the empty nest:

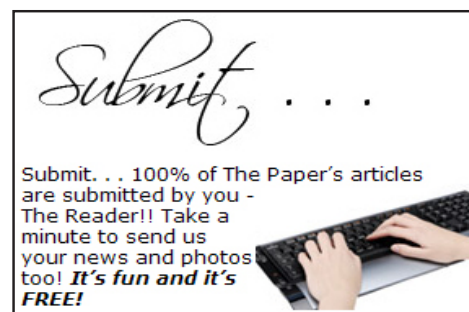
- Acknowledge the impact. Your family dynamic is changing, and so is your relationship with your child. Tending to your own emotions helps you support your young adult’s independence.
- Rekindle your relationship. With fewer parenting responsibilities, couples can reconnect and rediscover shared interests.
- Prioritize self-care. Eat well, get outside, exercise and rest. Tending to your physical and mental health helps you feel your best.
- Pursue interests. Revisit hobbies, volunteer or plan long-postponed vacations. This is your time to explore passions that may have been on hold.
- Lean on friends. Talk with trusted friends who can listen without trying to fix things. Sharing your feelings helps normalize the experience.
- Celebrate the milestone. Your child is launching into an exciting phase of life — and you’ve helped them get

there. Take pride in that accomplishment.

While many parents find joy in this new stage, others may struggle with loneliness or relationship strain. If sadness interferes with daily life, it’s important to seek support.

“We go to the doctor when we’re physically unwell,” Swanson said. “We should treat emotional health the same way. With the right support, many people rediscover joy and purpose.”

Iowans can call the ISU Extension and Outreach Iowa Concern Hotline at 800-447-1985 for help and referrals related to emotional well-being. The Iowa Concern website also offers a live chat feature to connect with trained counselors. Agencies and professionals can contact ISU Extension and Outreach county offices for hotline business cards to distribute.



New Training Event Offers In-Depth Look at Drone Spraying in Agriculture

As drone spraying technology rapidly reshapes agriculture across Iowa, producers, ag professionals, and entrepreneurs are seeking the knowledge to keep pace with this innovation. To meet that demand, Iowa State University's Digital Ag Innovation Lab and Terraplex, Iowa's premier drone spraying company, are co-hosting a new educational event:

***Drone Spraying Essentials:
From Basics to Application
Thursday, September 4, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Digital Ag Innovation Lab
3800 University Blvd
Ames, IA 50010***

Designed for a wide range of attendees, from curious farmers to licensed applicators and agtech startups—this full-day workshop will provide both foundational knowledge and advanced insights into the world of agricultural drone spraying.

Attendees will learn:

- How drone spraying is transforming farm practices
- Certification and licensing requirements for drone applicators
- Safe and effective drone operation strategies
- Legal and regulatory considerations
- Expert advice from industry leaders
- Live Q&A sessions with policy and technology experts

Whether you're just exploring the technology or already working with spray drones, this event will offer valuable tools and connections to take your operation to the next level.

Terraplex, co-hosting the event, is known for its high-precision drone spraying services and commitment to revolutionizing agriculture through technology. Their mission: "Revolutionize agriculture with cutting-edge drone technology to optimize operations and maximize yields."

Registration Details:

- Cost: \$225 (includes lunch, breaks, and handouts)
- Pre-registration required – space is limited to 100 attendees
- Deadline to register: August 15 at 11:59 p.m.
- Register online at: <https://registration.extension.iastate.edu/emc00/PublicSignIn.aspx?&aat=6b32715345316e5134676846754673574571565a6a706e4778376e6e7a5336344a6562345753704b726f4d3d###>

Our Town Our Paper!

Beef Quality Assurance Transportation Workshops for Cattle Transporters Set for August 21 & 27

Iowa cattle transporters are invited to certify or renew their certification at a Beef Quality Assurance Transportation (BQAT) workshop in August. Two identical workshops will be offered - Aug. 21 at the ISU Extension and Outreach Office in Le Mars and Aug. 27 at the ISU Extension and Outreach Office in Sac City. Both workshops will run from 1 to 3 p.m.

Beth Doran, ISU extension beef specialist in northwest Iowa, said the BQAT certification is separate from BQA certification.

"Commercial truckers and producers who haul cattle with their own semi or trailer are required to present a current BQAT certificate at major packing plants before the cattle may be unloaded," she said.

The objectives for the BQAT training are human safety, animal comfort and protocols to prevent cattle shrink, bruising and stress – all of which benefit the beef industry.

The workshops are provided at no charge, but registration should be made two days prior to the date of the workshop you plan to attend. Participants may register by calling the Plymouth County Extension office at 712-546-7835 or the Sac County Extension office at 712-662-7131.

If unable to attend an in-person training, BQAT is available online at <https://bqatransportation.beeflearningcenter.org>, also at no cost.

For more information, contact Doran by phone at 712-737-4230 or by email at: doranb@iastate.edu.

Abundant Rainfall Means it's Time to Protect Your Animals from Biting Insects

Recent and continuing abundant rainfalls across Iowa have resulted in saturated fields and, more importantly, pooled stagnant water, all of which are breeding grounds for biting pests that can cause irritability and carcass impacts to pigs.

That's why Iowa State University extension swine specialist Colin Johnson said it's important for producers to act now to reduce those impacts.

"Numerous management steps and biological products should be overlaid to reduce and destroy mosquito and fly populations," he said. "The most critical locations to control are the respective breeding grounds. For most mosquito species, this is standing water, and for stable flies, it's decaying material such as manure, bedding, compost, etc."

Johnson said two resources from ISU's Iowa Pork Industry Center can help producers learn what to look for, how to address potential issues, and where to go for more information.

"Our new IPIC publication, Integrated Pest Management in Swine Production Facilities, focuses on management practices that can help producers mitigate insects," he said. "And this spring, Chris Rademacher and I presented an IPIC webinar on preventing carcass damage by insects."

Rademacher, who is IPIC associate director and ISU extension swine veterinarian, said it's important for producers to be proactive to avoid negative carcass impacts and protect animal health, and these two resources provide information and considerations for use now and for planning.

"The publication helps producers think through a more comprehensive approach to insect pest management and how it needs to be thought about well in advance of marketing pigs," he said. "The video shares practical strategies for implementing integrated pest management in swine barns."

The publication, IPIC 209A, is available to download from the ISU extension store at no charge. The video is on the IPIC YouTube channel, also viewable at no charge.

Food Safety Webinar Will Help Small Businesses Strengthen Practices and Protect Consumers

The Farm, Food and Enterprise Development team with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer a lunchtime food safety webinar from noon to 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 12.

The virtual event, "Safe Food, Smart Business: Understanding the Basics and the Consequences," will center on food safety as a top priority for any food business.

"Whether you're a cottage food producer, farmers market vendor or small-scale processor, understanding the basics of food safety is essential for protecting your customers and your brand," said Alex Van Alstyne, food business extension specialist with Iowa State. "This is a valuable opportunity to learn from an expert and connect with support services designed for Iowa food businesses."

Hannah Hansen, food safety extension specialist with Iowa State, will lead the session and provide insights to help food entrepreneurs navigate food safety challenges with practical, accessible solutions.

In the 30-minute session, learn:

- Why food safety is crucial for your business and customers
- Common food safety risks, including biological, chemical and physical hazards
- Simple, effective strategies to minimize risk

How ISU Extension and Outreach can support your business with resources in food safety, product development and innovation

This event is designed for those just getting started in food production and those looking to strengthen their practices.

There is no cost to attend, but those interested must register online.

For more information, contact Alex Van Alstyne at alexv@iastate.edu or 515-294-3041.

2025 Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day Comes to Iowa

*Explore the latest cultivation
insights for both row crops and
specialty crops*

The Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day will be held at Iowa State University's Horticulture Research Station on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

The event, now in its eighth year, will be held in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa and Iowa State University.

Managing weeds can be a major challenge for both conventional and organic farmers, and cultivation can be an important tool for combating weeds. This field day offers a chance to observe weeding tools of various sizes demonstrated in the field, allowing attendees to learn from company representatives and farmers from across the region.

Dan Fillius, field specialist for horticulture and commercial vegetables with ISU Extension and Outreach and co-planner of this year's field day, shared the event's benefits for local growers.

"This event is in the top tier of educational field days in our region. I'm excited that it's in Iowa

this year so our growers can easily attend," he said. "I've attended in the past and have been impressed with the assortment of cultivation demonstrations on display for both row crops and specialty crops."

During the morning exposition and tradeshow, farmers can view weeding tools, speak with representatives from manufacturers in the US, Europe and Japan, and meet with other farmers from the region. Trade show booths will also be present for attendees to meet with other agricultural supply companies.

Educational sessions will also be offered, where farmers can learn in the field about new tools and techniques. Session topics include stale seedbedding and Cultivation 101 for row crop growers who want to begin or improve mechanical weeding practices. An exhibition will also feature demonstrations of walk-behind tractors and hand tools for vegetable farmers.

Following a complimentary lunch provided at noon, attendees can witness a field demonstration where corn, beets and brassicas have been planted. Several camera-guided, 3-point robotic cultivators and belly-mounted tractors will be demonstrated in the field and explained by their manufacturers.

Row crop manufacturers attending include Buffalo/Henke, Treffler, Garford, Bayshore Sales (Hatzenbichler), T&H Cultivators and Unverferth. Vegetable

manufacturers include Tilmor, Small Farm Works, BCS and Farm-ng.

The registration fee for this full-day event \$85. Event organizers encourage those interested in attending to register early, as space is limited. Walk-in registration will be available, but lunch and conference amenities are not guaranteed. Registration may also be completed by contacting Crystal Stilman at crystal@thelandconnection.org or 217-840-2128.

The Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station is located at 55519 170th Street, Ames.

For more information or questions about exhibiting products, visit the Midwest Mechanical Weed Control website or contact Crystal Stilman at crystal@thelandconnection.org or 217-840-2128, or Sam Oschwald Tilton at glacialdrift@protonmail.com or 414-213-5337.

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Composting Field Day to Be Held August 18

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will hold a composting demonstration at the Mogler Family Farm on Monday, August 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Farmers interested in composting will have the opportunity to view a demonstration of a compost turner using both cattle manure and animal mortalities.

“The Moglers have successfully composted for three years, which has reduced their rendering cost, lowered the volume of material they haul and concentrated nutrients,” said Kris Kohl, field agricultural engineer with ISU Extension and Outreach. “We encourage all farmers to come see how new innovations on Iowa’s farms are turning waste into valuable resources.”

At the field day, Kohl will discuss the benefits of composting and share best management practices. Ross Mogler, farm owner, will demonstrate the Kooima Ag compost turner that is used on the operation. Kooima Ag will also be present to provide refreshments and answer questions about the equipment.

The demonstration will be held at the Mogler Farm, located at 1625 Eagle Ave, Alvord. This event is available at no cost, and registration will begin onsite at 12:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Kris Kohl at kkohl1@iastate.edu or 712-730-5068.

Respirator Fit Test Train-the-Trainer Workshop

DATE: Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Instructor: Carolyn Sheridan RN, BSN, Ag Health and Safety Alliance Executive Director



3-hour Workshop 9:00 am-noon, lunch following

This workshop is designed to train individuals interested in learning to perform qualitative respirator fit testing.

Class size is limited to 30

Location: Palo Alto County Extension Office, 2008 10th St, Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Registration Deadline: August 8, 2025

The following items will be provided for 15 participants. Others may attend and learn how to perform fit testing.

- Respiratory Fit Test Guidebook
- Respirator Fit Test Kit
- Respirators: filtering facepiece, reusable respirator, P100 cartridges
- Mandatory fit test documents, including forms and OSHA-required documentation

Participants who complete the workshop will be asked to complete a brief pre survey and and post-survey.

Workshop Agenda: 9:00 am - noon with lunch following

30 minutes

- Introductions
- Overview of workshop
- Respirator Fit Testing Building Capacity Guide
- Review of workshop demonstration and practice materials
- Respirator protection standard

1 hour

- Occupational Exposures
- Overview of Respirator Fit Testing
- Roles and responsibilities
- Medical evaluation and questionnaire requirements
- Confidentiality
- Respirators
- Respirator fit test demonstration
- Record Keeping

1 hour and 30 minutes

- Respirator fit test practice and return demonstration
- Resources
- Questions and Answers

Participants will be asked to **demonstrate the respirator fit testing process techniques** to complete the workshop.

This program will provide adequate time to answer questions regarding fit test procedures, potential legal liabilities, recommending appropriate respirators, and other commonly asked questions.

Online Resources - click the link or scan QR codes to learn more about respiratory fit testing and access Respiratory Protection Resources.

[Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health Respiratory Protection Resources](#)

[Ag Health and Safety Alliance Respiratory Resources](#)



Contact the Pesticide Safety Education Program to register and for more information.

psep@iastate.edu ; 515-294-1122

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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GREAT PLAINS
Center for Agricultural Health

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Alliance

July 8, 2025

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in special session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 4:00 p.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Kelly Horsman and Jerry Runneberg. Absent was Trustee Ben Storms. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the agenda for the July 8, 2025 special meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Bid Summary and Recommendation Letter from DGR Engineering regarding the Generation Plant Fuel System Modifications Project.

Trustee Horsman introduced the following resolution entitled "RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE GENERATION PLANT FUEL SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS PROJECT FOR LAURENS MUNICIPAL POWER & COMMUNICATIONS, LAURENS, IOWA" and moved that it be adopted. Trustee Runneberg seconded the motion to adopt, and a roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Horsman and Runneberg Nays: None

Chairman Pro Tem Runneberg declared the Resolution duly adopted as follows:

**RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE GENERATION
PLANT FUEL SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS PROJECT FOR LAURENS MUNICIPAL
POWER & COMMUNICATIONS, LAURENS, IOWA**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees for Laurens Municipal Power & Communications, Laurens, Iowa, that:

Section 1. That the bid of Acterra Group, LLC, 200 35th Street, Marion, Iowa 52302 in the amount of \$588,587.86 for the construction of the Generation Plant Fuel System Modifications Project for Laurens Municipal Power & Communications, Laurens, Iowa, be and is hereby accepted, the same being the lowest responsible responsive bid received for said work.

Section 2. That the final acceptance of the contract will be conditioned upon review and approval of the bonds, insurance certificate, and contract documents by the General Manager.

Section 3. That upon final approval by the General Manager, the Board Chairman is hereby directed to execute the contract awarded above for the construction of said improvements, said contract not to be binding on the Utility until all bonds and insurance forms are on file with the Utility.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 8th day of July 2025.

Jerry Runneberg
Chairman Pro Tem, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees

General Manager updated the Trustees on the three potential options for acquiring the land needed to get a large electric load to locate in our electric service territory. They are:

- Swap land between Pocahontas County and the City of Laurens
- Purchase land directly from Pocahontas County
- The large electric load would look to purchase land themselves

The Trustees discussed each of these options.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to authorize the General Manager to present a proposal to the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors to purchase 3.62 gross acres (2.87 net acres) of land from Pocahontas County for the use and benefit of Laurens Municipal Power & Communications for a price of \$10,860.00. This parcel of land is favorably located near the 69kV transmission line and is adjacent to land we purchased from Pocahontas County back in 1998. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairman Pro Tem declared the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Jerry Runneberg
Chairman Pro Tem, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees

July 29, 2025

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 4:00 p.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Kelly Horsman and Ben Storms. Absent was Trustee Jerry Runneberg. Guests present were Jon and Amy Hubbell. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the agenda for the July 29, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jon and Amy Hubbell expressed some concerns about the potential bitcoin mining operation being located South of their property adjacent to the LMPC communications tower. Here are some of the concerns they mentioned: Noise - what technology are they going to use? Is it a closed-looped system or will they need a constant supply of water? How will this operation affect electric rates? How will it affect our current electric system? What do you know about the owners of the bitcoin mining operation? Will LMPC stand up for the residents of Laurens, if a problem arises with this bitcoin mining operation? The Board of Trustees thanked Jon and Amy for bringing these concerns to their attention and plan on addressing each of these concerns with the owners of the bitcoin mining operation.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2025 regular meeting and the July 8, 2025 special meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the summary of receipts for June 2025 in the amount of \$335,271.12 and the list of expenses for June 2025 in the amount of \$280,583.81. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Summary of Receipts

A/R- Electric	\$ 228,714.20
A/R- Communications	\$ 44,915.65
Merchandise/Services- Electric	\$ 126.00
Carrier Access Fees- Communications	\$ 2,047.24
Write Off Recovery- Communications	\$ 212.31
NIMECA Power Bill- Electric	\$ 11,709.84
Investments Accrued Interest- Electric	\$ 6,491.30
E-Rate Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 61.20
Deposits- Electric	\$ 700.00
Deposits- Communications	\$ 58.00
Marathon Energy Sales- Electric	\$ 7,737.98
Tower Lease- Communications	\$ 4,382.18
Attachment H Revenues- Electric	\$ 28,065.22
Broadband/Voice Lifeline Support- Communications	\$ 20.00
Office Phones- Electric	\$ 30.00
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 335,271.12

List of Expenses

A&M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 89.28
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 142.86
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Switching	\$ 128.91
Avesis – Fidelity Security Life	Group Vision Insurance	\$ 70.76
Bailey, David	Company Clothing	\$ 96.27
Calix, Inc.	Calix Services	\$ 2,599.71
City of Laurens	Utility Billing	\$ 98,519.32
City of Laurens	Cash Donation	\$ 31,887.73
City of Laurens	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 56.82
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expenses	\$ 355.60
CMBA Architects	City Hall Renovation Project	\$ 1,275.90
Community First Broadcasting	L-M School Sponsor	\$ 52.50

Consortia Consulting	Monthly Consulting Fee	\$ 1,200.00
Crystal Clear Communications	Website Hosting Annual Fee	\$ 388.00
Customers	Credit Refunds	\$ 36.73
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$ 31,476.95
DGR Engineering	Large Load Interruptible Rates	\$ 560.00
DGR Engineering	Relay Upgrades/SCADA Project	\$ 5,247.70
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Administration	\$ 120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Claims	\$ 3,089.52
GFC Leasing – WI	Copier Leases	\$ 80.32
Grainger	Supplies	\$ 160.02
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$ 9,666.24
Internal Revenue Service	Excise Tax/PCORI Fees	\$ 465.69
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$ 246.75
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$ 3,849.24
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$ 858.46
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$ 22.60
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$ 5,380.63
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Monthly Communications Bill	\$ 97.97
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Monthly Utility Bill	\$ 194.83
Laurens Plumbing Services	AC Repairs/Supplies	\$ 1,152.76
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$ 207.63
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$ 8,219.84
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$ 144.00
Lumenserve	Tower Lighting Monitoring	\$ 316.24
Main Street Checks	Deposit Books	\$ 135.24
Mid America Computer Corporation	Utility Billing	\$ 898.72
Mid-American Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$ 18,000.00
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$ 671.36
Paymentus Group Inc	Credit Card Fees- Communications	\$ 201.56
Paymentus Group Inc	Credit Card Fees- Utility Billing	\$ 292.59
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$ 24,252.98
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$ 629.83
Pocahontas County E911 Service Board	E911 Fees	\$ 757.26
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel	\$ 293.98
Qwest dba Centurylink-IA	Access Charges	\$ 95.15
Record Democrat	Advertising	\$ 35.00
RSM US LLP	Network Support	\$ 3,071.72
Sobotka Farms LLC	Limestone Hauling	\$ 718.41
Stuart C Irby	Secondary Pedestal Lids	\$ 738.30
T & R Service Company	Testing Fees	\$ 15.00
TP Anderson & Company	Audit Services	\$ 6,500.00
US Card Systems	Consulting Fees	\$ 149.95
VECTOR	Membership/First Aid/Insurance	\$ 5,395.00
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$ 155.55
VISA	AutoCAD/Meeting Expenses	\$ 185.88
Webster County Treasurer	Property Taxes	\$ 831.25
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$ 8,101.30
	Total Expenses	\$ 280,583.81

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Investment Schedule, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet for June 2025. No action was taken.

Discussion was held on proposed changes to the Employee Handbook that deal with Hours of Work, Sick Leave, and Health Insurance. The Board suggested a couple changes to the Sick Leave and

Health Insurance sections. Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to table this until the next board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the Conflict Waiver – Land Purchase from Pocahontas County and authorize Board Chairman Ben Storms to sign the written consent to proceed. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the proposed LMPC Public Records Request Policy. The Board directed the General Manager to inform Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. that the policy is acceptable. Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Horsman to table this until the next board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The General Manager reported that the City Council was in favor of having the old swimming pool torn down and removed. The City Council also accepted the offer from LMPC to pay for the demolition and removal of the old swimming pool. City staff and LMPC staff are currently working on specifications and form of contract to present to the City Council at their next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees