

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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August 27,  
2025

## Local News

### *Small Businesses, Manufacturers & Entrepreneurship Lunch and Learn*

Join us for one of our Lunch and Learns to learn more about how to support our small businesses and manufacturers in our county along with learning more about entrepreneurship! This session is FREE and light snacks will be provided. Join us by scanning and registering through the QR code provided.

### *Join the Fun, 4-H Enrollment Now Open!*

Pocahontas County 4-H has enjoyed an unforgettable year, filled with workshops, trips, summer camps, and a successful county fair and is excited to announce that enrollment for the 2025–2026 4-H year opened on September 1, be sure to enroll and get ready to make new friends, learn new skills, and create memories that last a lifetime!

Pocahontas County 4-H has 4, 4-H Clubs in Rolfe, Laurens, Pocahontas, and Palmer as well as a Clover Kids Club for all Pocahontas county youth in grades K-3.

Thanks to the generous donations to our Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment, we are happy to offer enrollment at no cost to our members. To enroll, existing members can login to your 4H Online account to re-enroll. New members can create an account at <https://4honline.com/>.

## LUNCH & LEARN

September 22nd

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Pocahontas Iowa State Extension Office  
305 N Main St.  
Pocahontas, IA 50574

Coffee and pastries will be provided

OR

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Northwest Career Academy  
300 West Garfield St.  
Laurens, IA 50554

A light lunch will be provided

Come learn about the  
**\$96 MILLION INVESTMENT**  
to support small  
businesses, manufacturers,  
and entrepreneurship!

Register:



<https://forms.gle/VQs4aFg4ticnKCbC6>



VENTURENET IOWA

InnoVenture Iowa

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by a federal award number 21031-0015 awarded to America's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Iowa by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

## *At the Library* *with Glenda Mulder* *August 27, 2025*

School has started and now it's almost Labor Day weekend – I guess summer really is over! I'm looking forward to cooler weather, which is perfect for snuggling up under a blanket to read! The Library will be closed Saturday & Monday, so stock up now so you don't run out of reading materials.

Take it Tuesday is always the first Tuesday of the month, and that's almost here! Adults will have the option of painting a cute bumblebee or ladybug bottle. Please contact the Library to register so we can be sure to have enough supplies. The kids after school craft will also feature a bumblebee. See you September 5th for this.

Our Evening Tot Time will be starting up again September 15th at 5:30 p.m. This year it will be the first and third Mondays of each month. This is geared to our littlest library patrons, but older siblings are encouraged to attend because we always need helpers and good role models for the littles!

New fiction this week includes: *Apostle's Cove*, which is part of the *Cork O'Connor Mystery Series* by William Kent Krueger, *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan, *King of Ashes* by S.A. Crosby, *Something to Look Forward To* by Fannie Flagg, *Smuggler's Cove* by Fern Michaels, *Locked Ward* by Sarah Pekkanen, *When Cranes Fly South* by Lisa Ridzen, *For Richer, For Poorer* by Danielle Steel, *Too Old for This* by Samantha Downing, *Kiss Her Goodbye* by Lisa Gardner, *Deepest Lake* by Andromeda Romano-Lax, *We Are All Guilty Here* by Karin Slaughter and two books by James Patterson – *Emma on Fire* and *Billion-Dollar Ransom*.

We also received the non-fiction *Sea of Grass: The conquest, ruin, and redemption of nature on the American prairie* by Dave Hage. This book was donated in memory of Don Beneke by his family and friends.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

August 30-September 1 – Library Closed for Labor Day Weekend  
September 5 - Kids Make and Take after school  
September 5 6:30 p.m. - Adults' Take it Tuesday  
September 15 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time  
September 29 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds  
October 15 - Library Foundation Potato Bar Supper 5-6:30 p.m.  
October 15 7 p.m. - Spooky Stories with Darrin Crow  
December 9 - Hugo Kringle/The Dulcimer Guy  
LegoMania all day every Friday this summer!

## **The Paper**

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# Services to be Held for Larry W. Craver

Larry Wayne Craver, age 85, longtime resident of Newton, IA, passed away Saturday, July 26, 2025, at his home in Marinette, WI after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Larry was born on November 15, 1939, in Montezuma, IA to Arno and Nellie Craver and was a 1957 graduate of Lynnville-Sully High School where he was a star athlete in football, basketball, and track. Following high school, he proudly served in the United States Army. After his military service, he attended Area Institute of Business in Des Moines, earning a certificate in Computer Systems which led to his employment with the Maytag Corporation in Newton. In 1963 he married Deanna "Danny" Larson of Laurens, IA, whom he had met at a Halloween party in Des Moines the year before, soon followed by the birth of his children, Eric and Kristen.

Larry Craver was a homebody. He loved his family and friends – but preferred them to come to him! Fortunately, his family and friends refused to put up with that and got him and Danny out of the house nearly every weekend. Whether he and the "2nd Avenue Gang" took their kids out to pull them on sleds behind minibikes, took all-day canoeing trips down the Skunk River, or went camping at Cutty's Campground, it seemed that the Cravers were constantly preparing for fun with their friends. They always attended the Woods' annual Halloween Party, the Gorballs' annual Christmas Party, and frequently hosted the group for planned parties and impromptu get-togethers. Given their "open door policy," it quickly became common for friends to stop by, just to have a beer or two in the "Craver kitchen." No matter the season, the Cravers were always busy. Water skiing in Clear Lake behind the Smiths' boat, Gorballs' pig roasts on 2nd Avenue, buying dinner for everyone at The Amana Colonies,

and trips to Niagara Falls, Southern Texas, and Alaska were only some of their exploits.

So, yes... Larry Craver was a homebody. He just wasn't very good at it.

In addition to these activities, Larry and Danny were also very family oriented. They always celebrated Thanksgiving with the Craver side of the family and Christmas with the Larson side. Larry was an avid beer can collector with his brother-in-law, Kent. He rode motorcycles with his brother, Art, fished with his brother, Paul, and stayed in close contact with his sister, Gelene. In short, family and family traditions were important to him. Larry rarely missed the kids' activities. From Cub Scouts to junior high choir and band concerts, DECCA competitions and plays, to track meets and football games, he always seemed to be running, building a life with Danny and working hard to put both of his children through college. Even after the unimaginable loss of Kris in 1988 they stuck close to friends and family to help them through dark times. Soon thereafter Larry became a grandpa to Mary Kristen and then to Katie. And at the end of his life, he was excited to meet his new great-granddaughter, Ivy Beatrice.

As a career man, Larry was a loyal employee of the Maytag Corporation in Newton. He spent his entire professional career with Maytag, retiring in 1996 after 34 years of service to the company. And while he did not talk about it often, he was fiercely proud of his service in the United States Army from 1957 to 1960, serving most of his hitch in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Larry was organized and methodical in everything he did. He was a quiet man. He had a huge smile, bright eyes, a soft heart, and a gentle soul. And while he was prone to periods of silence and depression, he was generally quick to laugh, soft-spoken, and slow to anger. He loved telling stories and jokes. He loved his little town in Central Iowa and he rarely missed his St. Louis Cardinals or Iowa Hawkeyes on TV. And even in later years, he kept up with high school friends, with old Army buddies, and had breakfast nearly every month with a group of Maytag retirees in downtown Newton.

Larry is survived by his wife of 62 years, Deanna "Danny" (Larson) Craver; his son,

Eric P. (Susan) Craver of Marinette, WI; two granddaughters, Mary Kristen (William) DeBord of Dumfries, VA and Katherine Craver of Menominee, MI; a great-granddaughter, Ivy DeBord; a brother, Art Craver; nephews, Jordan (Brenda) Craver and Kenneth (Xiaohong) Craver; nieces, Kari Steffy, Leslie (Gary) Nedved, Susan (David) Kovarna, and Charlene Gibson; as well as many other loving cousins, relatives, and friends. Larry was preceded in death by his only daughter, Kristen M. Craver and his parents, Arno and Nellie (McCoy) Craver, as well as his brother, Paul (Arlene) Craver, sister, Gelene (Sam) Steffy, nephew Steve Steffy, and niece Kim Gersdorf. The Craver family would like to express deep love and gratitude to our many friends who came together to help Larry and Danny when they needed you most. And a very special thank you to the caring staff and residents of The Cottages Senior Living & Memory Care Center in Marinette. Our family is ever grateful.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Larry in Newton, IA at the Izaak Walton League on Saturday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to remember Larry and to share stories and laughter. Larry will be laid to rest next to Kristen in a private ceremony at Union Cemetery in Newton. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Larry's name to the Iowa Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association at [www.apdaparkinson.org/iowa](http://www.apdaparkinson.org/iowa).



## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Sunday: August 31, 2025**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30 AM Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Worship

10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

4:00 PM ~ LCC Service

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

**Monday: September 1, 2025**

**LABOR DAY**

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

**Tuesday: September 2, 2025**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Saturday: September 6, 2025**

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

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



**Bethany**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*North American Lutheran Church*

## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Sunday, August 31:**

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

**Monday, September 1:**

**Labor Day Church Offices Closed**



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

## *This Week at First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Thursday, August 28**

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

**Saturday, August 30**

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

**Sunday, August 31**

9:30 a.m. 5th Sunday Worship

followed with refreshments

following worship: Kristen's Care and  
Support Team Meeting



## *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

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## *Iowa Organizations Invited to Fall Grant Writing Workshops Aimed at Boosting Funding Success*

Nonprofit staff, school administrators and local government officials in Iowa can register for one of three virtual workshops this fall designed to help them write stronger, more competitive grant proposals.

The Grant Writing 101 workshop, hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, will be offered on three separate dates. Each session runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and costs \$40.

Lindsay Henderson, a community and economic development specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach who leads the training, said, “Grants are becoming more competitive. This training helps people understand the steps it takes to plan, write and submit a strong application. We want them to leave with the tools and confidence to take action.”

Participants will also receive access to digital resources and be able to ask questions during the live session.

Workshop dates:

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, 9–11:30 a.m.  
Register by 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 15.
- Wednesday, Oct. 22, 9–11:30 a.m.  
Register by 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 20.
- Wednesday, Nov. 19, 9–11:30 a.m.  
Register by 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 17.

For questions about the workshop or help registering, contact Lindsay Henderson at [lindsayh@iastate.edu](mailto:lindsayh@iastate.edu) or Esther Crompton, communication specialist, at: [eecrompt@iastate.edu](mailto:eecrompt@iastate.edu).

## *September Dairy Webinar to Discuss Immigration Enforcement for Iowa Livestock and Dairy Producers*

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team will continue its monthly webinar series on Friday, Sept. 12, from noon to 1 p.m. CDT.

Kristiana Coutu, director of the Beginning Farmer Center and counsel for the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation at Iowa State University, will discuss common reasons why federal immigration officials may contact agricultural employers or visit farms.

Additionally, Coutu will provide practical information to help producers understand what to expect and how to prepare for potential interactions with immigration enforcement officials.

“Agricultural employers are increasingly concerned about immigration enforcement and have questions about how it may directly impact their farm,” said Fred Hall, extension dairy specialist at Iowa State. “This webinar will address situations dairy farm employers should be aware of, along with key compliance areas that every agricultural employer should understand.”

Producers, dairy consultants and industry representatives are encouraged to attend the virtual event.

This webinar is available at no cost, but online registration is required. It will also be archived for future viewing on the Dairy Team Webinar Archive web page.

For more information, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach dairy field specialist in your area: in northwest Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230 or [fredhall@iastate.edu](mailto:fredhall@iastate.edu); in northeast Iowa, Jennifer Bentley, 563-382-2949 or [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu); in east central Iowa, Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496 or [tranel@iastate.edu](mailto:tranel@iastate.edu).

Registration hyperlink: <https://go.iastate.edu/IMMIGRATIONISSUES>

# City Council Minutes

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 4th, 2025. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members John Jamison, Loren, Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and Public Works Director Julian Johnson. Council member Hannah Zylstra was absent.

Christenson moved to approve the consent agenda as amended consisting of the minutes from July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, meetings, and the list of claims. Swanson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

## CLAIMS 08/04/25

ACCO	CHEMICALS	793.40
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS FEE	94.98
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	AUG MONTHLY EYE CARE INSURANCE	190.28
COMMUNITY FIRST AUTO	TRUCK SERVICE	122.44
PARTS	WASTEWATER TESTING	1,229.50
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL	POLICE SUPPLIES	818.82
LAB	FIRE TRUCK #370 MAINT.	544.08
GALL'S INC	RETIREMENT 457	800.00
HUBBELL TRUCK & AG	MEMBERSHIP DUES	210.00
SERVICES	FED/FICA TAX	7,791.82
IACMA	LOCATES	1.10
IDNR		
IRS		
IOWA ONE CALL		
IOWA RADIOLOGY	XRAYS	140.00
IPERS	IPERS	7,213.53
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	22.35
JCL SOLUTIONS/SPENCER	WHITE BATHROOM TOWELS	114.26
OFFICE	INTERNET SERVICES	112.14
LMPC	MONTHLY UTILITIES	4,820.25
LMU	SERVICE CALL	2,790.65
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICES	ROCK FOR PARKING LOT	216.01
MARTIN MARIETTA	JULY MOSQUITO SPRAYING	1,275.00
MATERIALS	CUTTING EDGE FOR BUCKET	896.46
MARTIN PEST CONTROL	KEY CUT	445.64
MURPHY TRACTOR &	JULY PEST CONTROL	75.00
EQUIPMENT	MONTHLY PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
POCAHONTAS SALES &	JULY SALES TAX	4,490.33
SERVICE	SWEEP BRUSH	505.63
PRESTO X COMPANY	SUPPLIES	1,748.86
SANTANDER LEASING	WATER SUPPLIES	168.51
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	TOTAL	<u>39,092.38</u>
TRUCK EQUIPMENT		
US BANK		
USA BLUE BOOK		

PAYROLL	7/21/2025	
001 GENERAL		9,624.23
210 ROAD USE TAX		2,201.53
600 WATER		3,303.93
610 SEWER		3,335.03
670 GARBAGE		<u>2,796.74</u>
TOTAL		21,261.46
PAYROLL	8/1/2025	
001 GENERAL		<u>7,947.07</u>
		<u>7,947.07</u>
PAYROLL TOTAL		<u>29,208.53</u>
PAID TOTAL		<u>68,300.91</u>

# City Council Minutes

001	GENERAL	33,161.31
110	ROAD USE TAX	5,779.29
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	76.34
176	HOMETOWN PRIDE COMMITTEE	321.90
600	WATER	15,116.41
610	SEWER	8,358.88
670	GARBAGE	5,486.78
TOTAL BY FUND		<u>68,300.91</u>

REVENUES	GENERAL	44,353.98
	ROAD USE TAX	13,808.50
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,518.90
	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	14,953.17
	POOL RESTRICTED	200.00
	POCKET PARK TOTAL	125.00
	DEBT SERVICE	3,661.32
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	349.64
	WATER	46,404.41
	SEWER	32,760.55
	GARBAGE	19,115.45
	STORM WATER	2,901.91
TOTAL		<u>182,152.83</u>

Jamison moved to approve the road closure request from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main to 3<sup>rd</sup> & Olive from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm for the block party on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Swanson moved to approve Resolution 21-25 Appointment of Amber Japenga to the Library Board. Booth seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Jamison, Booth, Christenson, Swanson. Nays: None. Absent: Zylstra.

Brooke Sievers, Civil Engineer with ISG, addressed the council in regards to the Street / Utility Projects. After discussion, Booth moved to approve the Agreement between the City of Laurens and ISG for the Street/Utility Projects. Jamison seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Jamison moved to approve the specifications for Demolition of the Old Swimming Pool pending attorney review. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth moved to approve the Contract for Demolition of the Old Swimming Pool pending attorney review. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Jamison moved to approve the to approve the Public Notice Accepting Competitive Quotes for Demolition of the Old Swimming Pool. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth motioned to adjourn at 5:37 p.m. Jamison seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

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Rod Johnson, Mayor

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Hilary Reed, City Clerk