

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 43

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November 5,
2025

Local News

Rotary Club Provides Dictionaries to Students

On October 14th the Pocahontas Area Rotary Club proudly presented dictionaries to third grade children in Laurens-Marathon Community Schools District. Dictionaries were provided to each student.

Third grade has been designated because the students are developing dictionary skills and are beginning to use other resource materials. In addition, students in third grade make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. All formal education from this point through college is dependent upon the ability of each child to read and to understand what he or she reads. The Pocahontas Area Rotary Club wants our children to succeed in education by providing this resource to them. The students will benefit from the additional resources in the dictionary: International Atlas, Periodic Tables, Sign Language chart, Roman Numeral Tables, and other information.

Pictured are the receipts at Laurens-Marathon. Front row from left to right: Lydian Cassady, Celia Ruthart, Hazel Toner, Laiken Pinney, Bryer Heldt, Ethan Willson. Middle row: Lukas Williams, Amelia Griffin, Elli Cazares, William Martz, Caden Birkey. Back row: Helen Beneke, Rotarian; Raelynn Leuer; Oliver Lahr; Emmett Miller; Madison Stafford; Evelin Rodriguez; Mrs. Brinkman, Teacher.



At the Library with Glenda Mulder November 5, 2025

Have you seen our “Summer Reading” statue that was installed just south of the Library? This memorial was purchased by her family “In memory of Joyce M. Rigby (1936–2022), whose infectious laugh and love of books brightened the day for many patrons of the Laurens Public Library during the 28 years she worked here.” We think this is a perfect addition to our Library. Also a thanks to Doc & Kaye Van Genderen who put a new wood seat & back on that favorite swing that is right by this.

The 2026 All Iowa Reads titles were announced recently. All Iowa Reads is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa. Here are the books chosen in 3 categories: **Children:** *The Trouble with Heroes* by Kate Messner, **Teen:** *Strong Like You* by T.L. Simpson and **Adult:** *The Quiet Librarian* by Allen Eskens.

We are getting new books in again! So appreciated in light of recent supply issues. New Novels include *The Girl from Devil's Lake* by JA Jance, *Secret Christmas Library* by Jenny Colgan, *Clementine Crane Prefers Not to Travel* by Kristin Bair, *What We Can Know* by Ian McEwan, *The Academy* by Elin Hilderbrand, *Ferry Merry Christmas* by Debbie Macomber, *Remain* by Nicholas Sparks, *Conform* by Ariel Sullivan, *Keep This for Me* by Jennifer Fawcett, *The Portrait* by Danielle Steel, *The Hitchhikers* by Chevy Stevens, *Gone Before Goodbye* by Harlan Coben, *The Killer Question* by Janice Hallett, *The*

Proving Ground by Michael Connelly, *Santa's Holiday Spectacular* by Fern Michaels, *The Christmas Ring* by Karen Kingsbury, *The Widow* by John Grisham, *Twice* by Mitch Albom, *Three Shattered Souls and Four Ruined Realms* by Mai Corland. In nonfiction we received *Future Boy: Back to the Future and My Journey Through the Space-Time Continuum* by Michael J. Fox.

Book Club Choice this month is *The Housemaid* by popular mystery author Frieda McFadden who is known for the twists and turns in her novels. *The Housemaid* follows Millie Calloway, a down-on-her-luck woman who has recently been released from prison. After losing her job and apartment, she has been living in her car, and, desperate for work, she secures a position as a live-in housemaid for the wealthy Winchester family. I won't tell you anymore because I don't want to spoil it for anyone! Join our discussion November 24th at 7 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

November 18 @ 2 p.m. - Playing with Paint Techniques with Deb & Linda
November 3 & 17 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time
November 18 - Cards with Deb @ 6:30 p.m.
November 24 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club
December 2 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday
December 2 After School – Kids Make & Take
December 9 - Hugo Kringle/The Dulcimer Guy



Time to Reserve the Laurens Community Center

We have several holidays approaching and what better place to host your family reunion, birthday parties, and any other gatherings you might have over the holidays than at the Laurens Community Center! Make sure you reserve today!

A festive advertisement for the Laurens Community Center. The background is red with a white and red striped border. At the top, there are Christmas stockings and a gift. The text "Laurens Community Center" is in large white letters on a green background, with "Est. 2024" below it. Below that, it says "PERFECT FOR HOLIDAY GATHERINGS!". There are two photos: one of a large meeting room with tables and chairs, and another of a kitchen area. At the bottom left, there is a decorated Christmas tree. The contact information is at the bottom right.

Laurens Community Center
Est. 2024
PERFECT FOR HOLIDAY GATHERINGS!

TO RENT THE COMMUNITY CENTER,
Contact Pat Sullivan 712-358-0095
psullivan@ecommunitybank.org
or
Jason Aschenbrenner 712-450-3413
brenner360@gmail.com

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ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER

Tuesday – November 11, 2025

Laurens Community Center

(former Catholic Church Parish Center)

250 Ralston Street

Laurens, IA

Serving – Pulled Pork Sandwich

Baked Beans, Chips and a Bar

Time – 11:00 – 1:00

Cost – Free Will Offering

Dine In, Pickup and delivery

**The money raised is going to be used for upkeep and
Improvement of the Veterans Monument.**



Delivery is available by calling 712-358-4419

Fonda Arts Center - Tammy & Larry Sing Country and Pop

The busy holiday season at the Fonda Arts Center kicks off on Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 p.m. with an afternoon of country and pop hits from the 60's, 70's, and 80's, performed by Fonda native Tammy Voss Lange and Arts Center favorite, Larry Heschke.

The Fonda Arts Center is located on the Northwest corner of 4th & Main in Fonda. As always free admission, free refreshments!

In lieu of the annual Fonda Craft Show and the role that the Arts Center plays in this event, the Arts Center will be taking pre-orders for the beautiful holiday greens you have come to expect every year, with a pick-up date of Sunday, November 23rd, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., at the usual spot, in front of the Fonda Arts Center. Call Annie at 712-288-6278 to preorder.

A trio of organizations will provide enticements to come to the Arts Center on November 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ! The Fonda Garden Club will offer luncheon items to purchase: homemade chili, potato soup and maid rites, topped off with homemade bars!

Also in the downstairs of the Arts Center, the Cedar Creek Sanctuary Animal Rescue will offer an opportunity to adopt a pet rock, created by N-F 4th and 6th grade students!

As we gear up for this busy time, we wish to thank you for your support throughout the year. We look forward to sharing these events with you!

**"RUN, RUN, RUN AS
FAST AS YOU CAN" ...
TO THE**

**LAURENS
CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSES**

**"YOU CAN CATCH THE
GINGERBREAD MAN"...ON**

**NOVEMBER 13TH,
10:00AM - 7:00PM**

Heart n' Home
Gather On Third
Silver Dollar Cantina
The Perfect Blend
Chicken Bakin Ranch Bakery
William & Wesley

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: November 5, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation class

Saturday: November 8, 2025

9:15 AM ~ Women of Bethany Fall
General Mtg.

Sunday: November 9, 2025

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

**Twenty-second Sunday after
Pentecost**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS & Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Stewardship /
ThankOffering

4:00 PM ~ Laurens Care Center
Service

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: November 11, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

10:00 AM ~ Veteran's Day Program at
LM School

Wednesday: November 12, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation class

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

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



Biggest Little Paper In Town!

This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Thursday, November 6:

United Methodist Women meeting
@ 2:00 PM in the Wesley Room

Sunday, November 9:

Sunday School @ 9:15

Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service @ 10:30 AM



Send Your News to

The Paper!

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This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, Nov. 5

11:30 a.m. - Ladies Lunch followed
by C.W.F. at the church

Thursday, Nov. 6

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, Nov. 9

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

Four-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference November Webinar Will Focus On Navigating Low Colostrum Yields in Dairy Herds

The Four-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference webinar series continues on Tuesday, November 25, with Katelyn Goldsmith exploring the growing understanding of factors that influence colostrum yield.

In this presentation, Goldsmith will discuss the growing understanding of factors that influence colostrum yield and offer strategies to support colostrum production and manage through periods of low colostrum yields.

Katelyn Goldsmith serves Wisconsin's dairy producers as a Statewide Dairy Outreach Specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension. In this role, she bridges the gap between research and practical on-farm management by developing resources and programs tailored to the needs of dairy farmers. Raised on her family's dairy farm in Iowa, Katelyn went on to receive her Bachelor's from Iowa State University and a Master's focused on dairy cattle nutrition from Michigan State University. After working as a dairy cattle nutritionist, Katelyn joined UW-Madison Extension, where she enjoys helping farms find functional, research-backed solutions to everyday challenges.

Producers, dairy consultants and industry reps are encouraged to attend the free webinar live from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 25 by registering at least one hour before the webinar at: <https://go.iastate.edu/LOWCOLSTRUMFIELDS>

For more information, please contact: Fred M. Hall in Iowa at 712.737.4230; Jim Salfer in Minnesota at 320-203-6093; Phil Cardoso in Illinois at 217.300.2303; or Paul Fricke in Wisconsin at 608.263.4596.

Laurens Northwest Career Academy

Here is your chance to learn more about the Northwest Career Academy in Laurens. Madison is currently in her second year completing her internship and here is what she has to say about the program.

"Hi, my name is Madison Galvin. I visited the career academy and i was interested in welding. I started off in high school with beginning welding and I really enjoyed it. Then I kept taking classes through the academy and now I am completing the internship program. I am learning a lot and I want to thank my instructor for always pushing me and helping me to continue to learn and grow."

If you want to learn more about the academy or want a tour make sure you speak with your high school guidance counselor or call MaryJo Litwiller at 712.730.2259.

Fumigation Continuing Instruction Course is November 18

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office will host a Fumigation Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial and private pesticide applicators on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. The program provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

The local attendance site is ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County. Preregistration may be required. Walk-ins on the day of the program will only be admitted if room allows. The course runs from 9 to 11 a.m. The registration fee is \$45 on or before Nov. 11 and \$60 after November 11. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or email lzeman@iastate.edu.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in category 7C (Fumigation) and private pesticide applicators who are certified to apply fumigants. The course will cover topics including: pesticide use and the environment; pesticide formulations and labels; and category-specific pests, pest management and pesticides.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered through PSEP can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/psep.

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Ag Pest Control Course Set for November 19

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County will host an Ag Pest Control Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The program, provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), is available at office locations across Iowa.

The local attendance site is ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office. Preregistration may be required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. The course runs from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$45 on or before November 12 and \$60 after November 12. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or email lzeman@iastate.edu.

The course will provide continuing instruction credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 1A, 1B, and 1C. Topics covered will include pesticide use and the environment; pesticide labels and comprehension; and pests, pest management, and pesticides.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered at this program. Interested participants should bring their CCA number.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered by the PSEP program can be accessed at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PSEP>.

Webinar to Discuss Workforce Factors Affecting Iowa Dairy Farms

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar series will continue on Tuesday, Nov. 11 from noon to 1 p.m. CST. The webinar will review workforce factors affecting Iowa dairy farms and be presented by Richard Stup, agricultural workforce specialist with Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

Stup will provide an overview of long-term demographic and economic trends affecting the farm workforce, current trends driving change and how farms are adapting. Stup will also discuss programs such as TN visas, the H-2A guestworker program and how these impact the dairy industry. Lastly, he will conclude with a review of the future farm workforce.

Fred Hall, dairy specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, noted the topic's importance for Iowa dairy farmers.

"Developing and retaining a reliable farm workforce has become one of the most limiting factors for dairy farm success," Hall said.

Producers, dairy consultants and industry representatives are encouraged to attend the webinar live by registering online at least one hour before the webinar. The webinar will also be archived for later viewing on the Dairy Team webinar 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; in northeast Iowa, Jennifer Bentley, 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu; in east central Iowa, Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496 or tranel@iastate.edu.

Register at: <https://go.iastate.edu/DAIRYWORKERS>

Growers Invited to 2025 High Tunnel Short Course in Madrid

The Iowa State University Commercial Horticulture program will hold the 2025 High Tunnel Short Course at the Iowa Arboretum in Madrid, Iowa, on Nov. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Commercial growers, as well as those interested in high tunnel production for fruit and vegetable crops, are invited to learn, connect and explore the arboretum.

Growing specialty crops in a high tunnel structure offers numerous benefits for growers, including extended growing seasons, improved yields, minimized disease and pest pressure and controlled water application. Dan Fillius, horticulture field specialist for commercial vegetables with ISU Extension and Outreach, said this year's event is a valuable opportunity for Iowa's growers.

"I'm excited for our terrific lineup of speakers ready to share their expertise on high tunnel production with Iowa specialty crops growers," he said.

Event speakers will share their insights, experiences and research on high tunnel production with attendees. Topics include peach production, soil management, irrigation and automation in high tunnels, providing a unique educational opportunity.

Participants must register online to attend the 2025 High Tunnel Short Course. The registration fee is \$11.20, which covers lunch expenses. The Iowa Arboretum is located at 1875 Peach Ave, Madrid.

For more information and a full agenda, visit the 2025 High Tunnel Short Course web page or contact Dan Fillius at fillius@iastate.edu.

Our Town Our Paper!

Registration Open for 2025 Integrated Crop Management Conference

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will host the 36th Annual Integrated Crop Management Conference, set for Dec. 10–11 at Prairie Meadows in Altoona. This premier event will provide crop production professionals with the latest information, cutting-edge research updates and tools to prepare for 2026.

"The ICM Conference has always been a great opportunity for farmers, industry, ag retailers, agronomists and educators to network with each other and interact with their university specialists," said Erin Hodgson, professor and extension entomologist at Iowa State University. "We are excited to offer a great program full of new information to prepare for 2026, including a strong slate of invited speakers. This year we are trying something new and starting each day with a keynote presentation."

This year's conference features 33 workshops covering crops, pests, nutrients and soil and water management topics. Hodgson noted that Prairie Meadows offers updated facilities, an on-site hotel and short distances between sessions, ensuring a convenient and comfortable experience for attendees. Attendees can also expect to enjoy time to network, visit with sponsors and view exhibits.

Invited speakers.

- Ashleigh Faris, assistant professor of entomology and plant pathology at Oklahoma State University, will discuss integrated pest management for corn leafhopper and corn stunt disease.
- Laura Lindsey, professor of soybean and small grains at The Ohio State University, will talk about whether to prioritize corn or soybean planting in the spring.
- Bill Chism, chair of the Endangered Species Committee of the Weed Science Society of America, will provide information on the label changes occurring as a result of the Endangered Species Act and implications for management.
- A panel of experts will discuss and field questions about the Endangered Species Act. Panel members are Bill Chism, WSSA; Mike Kelly, Nationwide Agribusiness; Wesley Everman, Iowa State University; and Gretchen Paluch, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Certified Crop Advisers can receive up to 14 continuing education credits for attendance. Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicator can also earn 2025 continuing education in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 4 at an additional fee.

To register, visit the ICM Conference website (go.iastate.edu/ICM). Early-bird registration is \$260 and ends Nov. 16 at 11:59 p.m. Regular registration is \$310 and ends Dec. 3. On-site registration will be offered at \$350.

For registration-related questions, please contact Registration Services at 515-294-6222 or registrations@iastate.edu. For all other inquiries, email crops@iastate.edu.

City Council Minutes

October 6th, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6th, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Aaron Christenson, Loren Booth, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, and City Clerk Joan Hoben.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from September 15th and 19th, 2025, meeting, the list of claims, and a Class B Native Wine License for Heart 'N Home pending fire inspection. Christenson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 10/06/2025

ACCO	CHEMICALS	3,969.20
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS FEE	91.32
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	OCT EYE CARE INSURANCE	190.28
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS	SHOP SUPPLIES	229.08
BOLTON & MENK	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,216.00
BOMGAARS	SHOP SUPPLIES	114.97
COMMUNITY STATE BANK	GARBAGE TRUCK PAYMENT	4,302.58
CORE & MAIN LP	WATER PLANT SUPPLIES	566.28
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	WATER PLANT SUPPLIES	31.82
DANKO	FIRE DEPT REPAIRS	1,005.00
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	689.70
DON PIERSON FORD LINCOLN	FIRE RIG FOR GRASS FIRES	68,835.00
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	3,582.75
GFC LEASING - WI	TECH SUPPORT	206.00
HACH CO	CHEMICALS	1,430.50
HALLET MATERIALS	FILL DIRT	293.02
HILARY REED	MILEAGE FOR CLASSES & MEETINGS	303.10
I & S GROUP, INC.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6,425.00
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	1,200.00
IDNR	ANNUAL WATER PERMIT	115.00
INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS & SERVICE	CHEMICALS	146.61
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	10,369.15
IOWA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	FY26 1ST QUARTER JULY 26	300.00
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	25.20
IPERS	IPERS	9,425.41
JCL SOLUTIONS/SPENCER OFFICE	SHIPPING	5.00
KEVIN SHANNON	FALL CONFERENCE	44.30
KRUDICO, INC.	CHEMICALS	1,743.25
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE CHARGES	652.96
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	4,580.39
MACC	TECH SUPPORT	758.19
MENARDS	BOARDS	442.45
PAYMENTUS	PAYMENT PROCESSING	182.22
POC CO IT DEPT.	WEBSITE HOSTING	120.00
POC CO SECONDARY ROAD	36.96 SQ YARDS PATCH	6,109.60
RSM US, LLP	TECH SUPPORT	1,722.55
SCE, LLC	BACKHOE OPERATOR	2,185.00
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	SEPT SALES TAX	3,674.00
USA BLUE BOOK	SEWER SUPPLIES	611.83
VERIZON WIRELESS	MONTHLY CELL PHONE	529.07

City Council Minutes

WAYNE PEASLEE	NUISANCE MOWING	1,595.00
WHARTON BENEFITS	GROUP INSURANCE	<u>5,140.00</u>
	TOTAL	<u><u>145,158.78</u></u>

PAYROLL	9/15/2025	
001 GENERAL		1,502.91
210 ROAD USE TAX		2,056.85
600 WATER		3,395.16
610 SEWER		3,279.64
670 GARBAGE		<u>2,701.78</u>

TOTAL 12,936.34

PAYROLL	9/29/2025	
001 GENERAL		1,551.49
210 ROAD USE TAX		1,715.53
600 WATER		3,325.31
610 SEWER		3,190.63
670 GARBAGE		<u>2,866.61</u>

TOTAL 12,649.57

PAYROLL	10/1/2025	
001 GENERAL		<u>7,710.83</u>
TOTAL		7,710.83

PAYROLL	10/2/2025	
001 GENERAL		<u>93.02</u>
TOTAL		93.02

PAYROLL TOTAL 33,389.76

PAID TOTAL 178,548.54

001 GENERAL	92,389.95
110 ROAD USE TAX	6,968.72
112 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,474.56
600 WATER	41,853.65
610 SEWER	19,521.42
670 GARBAGE	<u>15,340.24</u>
TOTAL BY FUND	<u><u>178,548.54</u></u>

After discussion, Zylstra moved to approve the purchase of the wastewater pickup from H&N Chevrolet. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

PCEDC Director, MaryJo Litwiller, approached the council to discuss downtown. No action was taken.

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

John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem

Hilary Reed, City Clerk

City Council Minutes

October 20th, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25th, 2025. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, John Jamison, Aaron Christenson, Loren Booth, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, and Publics Works Director Julian Johnsen.

Jamison moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from October 6th, 2025, meeting, the list of claims, and a Class B Retail Liquor License for Dollar General pending fire inspection. Booth seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 10-20-25

AFLAC	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
AGSTATE	CHEMICALS	130.30
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS FEE	37.51
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	DVDS & BOOKS	402.68
AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS, CO	WATER PLANT MAINT.	1,730.00
BADGER METER	TECH SUPPORT	54.32
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS	127.96
BOMGAARS	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	214.93
BV GLASS CO	GLASS AT CEMETERY	508.00
CENGAGE LEARNING, INC.	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	494.59
CITY OF MOVILLE	SEPT NUSIANCE LETTERS	1,687.63
COFFMAN'S LOCKSMITH SHOP	8 KEYS FOR PD	32.00
CONNECTIONS, INC.	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	31.14
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	797.75
HACH CO	CHEMICALS	402.20
HALLET MATERIALS	FILL DIRT	271.47
HEIMAN	HOOD COVER	1,191.75
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	4,662.34
IA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY	MMPI EVALUATION	150.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SHOP WORK	1,670.18
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET	114.44
LMU	OCT MONTHLY UTILITIES	324.80
LAURENS SUN	LEGALS/AD	93.47
MACC	TECH SUPPORT	753.49
MCCLURE	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	5,940.00
THE MESSENGER	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	296.40
NORGAARD SAND & GRAVEL	BLACK DIRT	534.40
PAYMENTUS CORPORATION	TECH SUPPORT BILLING	182.05
POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE	MONTHLY LANDFILL FEES	7,021.90
POCAHONTAS EQUIPMENT	CHAINSAW	89.50
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	757.72
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY FUEL BILL	2,450.26
RICHARDSON'S SERVICE	TRANS OIL	17.37
RSM US LLP	TECH SUPPORT	1,266.30
SHAMROCK RECYCLING, INC.	SEPT. CURBSIDE RECYCLING	2,010.60
VERIZON WIRELESS	MONTHLY CELL PHONES	256.12
WELLMARK	NOV. HEALTH INS.	10,095.92
	TOTAL	<u>47,005.87</u>

PAYROLL

10/13/2025

001 GENERAL 4,871.73

City Council Minutes

210	ROAD USE TAX	2,021.95
600	WATER	2,792.95
610	SEWER	3,173.93
670	GARBAGE	<u>2,694.79</u>
	TOTAL	<u>15,555.35</u>
	PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>15,555.35</u>
	PAID TOTAL	<u>62,561.22</u>
001	GENERAL	13,920.47
110	ROAD USE TAX	5,454.47
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	4,859.05
600	WATER	15,005.51
610	SEWER	8,254.78
670	GARBAGE	<u>15,066.94</u>
	TOTAL BY FUND	<u>62,561.22</u>

Booth motioned to adjourn at 5:19 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Hilary Reed, City Clerk

October 22, 2025

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 3:00 o'clock p.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Kelly Horsman, Jerry Runneberg, and Ben Storms. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the agenda for the October 22, 2025 regular board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2025 regular board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the summary of receipts and list of expenses for August and September 2025. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

<u>Summary of Receipts</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
A/R- Electric	\$ 238,625.24	\$ 259,773.84
A/R- Communications	\$ 43,413.81	\$ 30,651.79
Merchandise/Services- Electric	\$ 2,405.94	\$ 790.00
Carrier Access Fees- Communications	\$ 2,358.10	\$ 953.56
NIMECA Power Bill- Electric	\$ 79,001.27	\$ 64,823.79
E-Rate Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 61.20	\$ 61.20
Deposits- Electric	\$ 700.00	\$ 850.00
Deposits- Communications	\$ 204.00	\$ 83.00
Marathon Energy Sales- Electric	\$ 12,860.51	\$ 11,225.66
Tower Leases- Communications	\$ 955.09	\$ 3,427.09
Attachment H Revenues- Electric	\$ 28,555.07	\$ 32,499.21
Investments Interest Earned- Electric	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,014.99
Broadband Lifeline Support- Internet	\$ 0.00	\$ 18.00
Voice Lifeline Support- Telephone	\$ 0.00	\$ 22.00
CC Processing Fees Refund- Electric	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,102.31
State of Iowa- Electric	\$ 77.30	\$ 0.00
Office Phones- Electric	\$ 60.00	\$ 0.00
EBS Refund- Electric	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00
EBS Refund- Communications	\$ 77.79	\$ 27.00
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 409,055.32	\$ 416,623.44

<u>List of Expenses</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
A&M Laundry	\$ 133.92	\$ 133.92
AFLAC	\$ 142.86	\$ 142.86
Ahlers & Cooney PC	\$ 3,315.00	\$ 1,632.00
Aureon	\$ 137.96	\$ 184.77
Aveis (Fidelity Security Life)	\$ 217.63	\$ 0.00
B & K Embroidery	\$ 8.03	\$ 0.00
Calix Inc	\$ 1,761.22	\$ 1,761.22
City of Laurens	\$ 103,820.97	\$ 73,745.78
Cleveland, Chad	\$ 448.08	\$ 54.60
Consortia Consulting	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,200.00
Customers	\$ 0.00	\$ 271.13
Department of Energy	\$ 44,364.75	\$ 45,752.00
DGR Engineering	\$ 0.00	\$ 280.00
DGR Engineering	\$ 10,301.50	\$ 2,420.00
DGR Engineering	\$ 8,163.50	\$ 30,861.50
Don Pierson Ford Lincoln	\$ 0.00	\$ 136.53
Echo Group	\$ 187.38	\$ 282.21
Employee Benefit Systems	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	\$ 1,534.15	\$ 3,246.48
GFC Leasing – WI	\$ 160.64	\$ 80.32
Goldfield Telecom	\$ 84.58	\$ 2,608.13
Dust Mops & Mats		
Employee Contributions		
Legal Fees		
CALEA/SS7/Transport/Switching		
Group Vision Insurance		
Embroidery Services		
Cloud Services		
Utility Billing		
Meeting Expense/Supplies		
Consulting Contract		
Credit Refunds		
WAPA Power Bill		
East Gen Plant Shutdown		
West Gen Plant Fuel System Project		
Relay Upgrades/SCADA Project		
Truck Recalls & Alignment		
Conduit/Ethernet Cable/Supplies		
Self-Funding Administration		
Self-Funding Claims		
Copier Leases		
Fiber SFPs/Security Camera Setup		

Grainger	Miscellaneous Tools	\$	52.60	\$	0.00
Horsetech	UPS Shipping Fees	\$	15.17	\$	0.00
Iconnectiv, LLC	Local Number Portability	\$	239.63	\$	0.00
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$	9,433.43	\$	13,553.55
Interstate TRS Fund	Assessment	\$	500.54	\$	250.27
Iowa Assoc. of Municipal Utilities	Energy Rebate Portal	\$	70.00	\$	0.00
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$	4,115.88	\$	4,465.59
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	1,794.42	\$	1,491.51
Iowa Office of Auditor of State	Audit Filing Fee	\$	0.00	\$	250.00
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$	13.50	\$	0.00
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement	IPERS	\$	11,043.42	\$	8,053.25
Laurens Golf & Country Club	Ag Day Sponsor	\$	100.00	\$	0.00
Laurens House of Print	Paper	\$	0.00	\$	58.85
Laurens Municipal Power & Comm	Communications Bill	\$	193.90	\$	100.96
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Utility Bill	\$	414.40	\$	108.58
Laurens Plumbing	A/C Maintenance/Supplies	\$	485.58	\$	242.12
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$	548.34	\$	236.57
Lind, Alaina	Postage	\$	0.00	\$	88.41
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$	16,140.03	\$	9,118.82
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$	288.00	\$	144.00
LumenServe	Tower Lighting Monitoring	\$	316.24	\$	316.24
Metering & Technology Solutions	Meter Gasket	\$	35.40	\$	0.00
Mid America Computer Corporation	Utility Billing	\$	888.67	\$	898.14
MidAmerican Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$	89,000.00	\$	37,000.00
Midwest Liquid Systems	West Gen Plant Fuel System Project	\$	2,063.22	\$	0.00
National Emergency Number Assn	E911 Numbering Plan	\$	255.00	\$	0.00
NIMECA	Property Taxes	\$	0.00	\$	199.50
Oakhill Consulting	BDC Filing	\$	72.50	\$	72.50
Paymentus Group Inc	CC Processing Fees- Communications	\$	180.62	\$	203.09
Paymentus Group Inc	CC Processing Fees- Utility Billing	\$	190.57	\$	182.23
Payroll	Hourly, Salaried, & Overtime	\$	24,007.88	\$	35,545.34
Petty Cash	Postage/Wash Vehicle	\$	0.00	\$	31.05
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Group Life/Disability Insurance	\$	666.55	\$	666.55
Plymouth County Treasurer	Property Taxes	\$	0.00	\$	40.50
Pocahontas County Treasurer	Property Taxes	\$	0.00	\$	2,970.50
Postmaster	Stamps	\$	0.00	\$	780.00
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel	\$	312.29	\$	387.10
Pro Cooperative	Generation Fuel	\$	14,633.50	\$	0.00
Qwest dba CenturyLink-IA	Access Charges	\$	95.15	\$	95.15
RESCO	Switching Cabinet	\$	2,017.00	\$	0.00
RSM US LLP	Network Support/Duo/Sophos/KnowB4	\$	3,064.70	\$	3,410.95
Secure Shred Solutions	Paper Shredding	\$	0.00	\$	27.00
Skarshaug Testing Lab	Glove Testing	\$	85.02	\$	0.00
US Cardsystems	Consulting Fees	\$	149.95	\$	149.95
VECTOR	Lake Park VECTOR Dues	\$	9,074.00	\$	0.00
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$	115.95	\$	115.95
Visa	Candy/Flowers/Domains	\$	225.34	\$	126.00
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$	10,268.62	\$	10,268.62
Woodbury County Treasurer	Property Taxes	\$	0.00	\$	1,292.50
Ziegler Inc	Generator Maintenance	\$	8,411.99	\$	0.00
Ziegler Inc	<u>Annual Generator Maintenance Fees</u>	\$	<u>36,900.89</u>	\$	<u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses	\$	425,752.91	\$	297,804.98

The Board reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2025 and September 30, 2025. No action taken.

The Board reviewed the September 2025 investment schedule. Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to authorize the Investment Committee to invest up to \$500,000.00. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to authorize the Investment Committee to reinvest up to \$1,000,000.00 upon the maturity of CDs 9024506 and 9028937. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the summary of discounts and adjustments for July, August, and September 2025. No action taken.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the proposed revisions to the ACH maximum limits at Community State Bank. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the renewal of our group health insurance plan with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield through Woodley Insurance. The renewal goes into effect on December 1, 2025, and runs through November 30, 2026. The Utility will be staying with the same health plan code and drug code. The Utility will continue to partially self-fund the group health insurance plan as follows:

Deductible Individual	\$ 2,500	self-insured down to	\$250
Deductible Family	\$ 5,000	self-insured down to	\$500
Max Out-Of-Pocket Individual	\$ 5,000	self-insured down to	\$1,000
Max Out-Of-Pocket Family	\$10,000	self-insured down to	\$2,000
Rx Plan	\$8/\$35/\$50	self-insured down to	\$8/\$25/\$40

Single coverage monthly premium will be \$957.16. Family coverage monthly premium will be \$2,392.91. Employees with Family coverage will continue to pay 8% of the difference between the family and single premium. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the renewal of our group dental insurance plan with Blue Dental through Woodley Insurance. The renewal goes into effect on December 1, 2025, and runs through November 30, 2026. The Utility will be using dental plan Code DG000102. Single coverage monthly premium will be \$45.84. Family coverage monthly premium will be \$151.10. Employees with Family coverage will continue to pay the difference between the family and single premium. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 4:50 o'clock p.m. Chairman Storms announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing on the matter of approving the proposed plans and specifications, proposed form of contract, and estimate of cost for the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project.

The Chairman asked the Secretary whether any written objections had been filed by any resident or property owner of the City. The Secretary advised the Board of Trustees that no written objections had been filed. The Chairman then called for oral objections to the approval of the proposed plans and specifications, proposed form of contract, and estimate of cost for the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project, and none were made.

At 4:55 o'clock p.m. Chairman Storms declared the hearing on the matter of approving the proposed plans and specifications, proposed form of contract, and estimate of cost for the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project to be closed.

The following are the bids received for the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project:

- Harold K. Scholz Company bid price of \$247,500.00
- Ward Electric Company, Inc. bid price of \$692,658.68
- RMS Energy Company provided a bid, but it was not complete. No bid bond provided.

The Board reviewed the letter of recommendation from DGR Engineering. They are recommending that we award the contract to Harold K. Scholz Company for a total price of \$247,500.00.

Board Trustee Runneberg introduced the following Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE RELAY UPGRADES AND SCADA REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR LAURENS MUNICIPAL POWER & COMMUNICATIONS, LAURENS, IOWA" and

moved that the same be adopted. Board Trustee Horsman seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was: Ayes: Horsman, Runneberg, and Storms. Nays: None.

Whereupon Chairman Storms declared the resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE RELAY UPGRADES
AND SCADA SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR
LAURENS MUNICIPAL POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS, LAURENS, IOWA.

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

Section I. The bid of Harold K. Scholz Company (HKS), 7800 Serum Avenue, Ralston, Nebraska 68127 in the amount of \$247,500.00 (total bid) for the construction of the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project in and for Laurens Municipal Power and Communications, Laurens, Iowa, be and is hereby accepted, the same being the lowest responsible responsive bid received for said work.

Section II. 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 III. 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 LMPC until all bonds and insurance forms are on file with LMPC.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this 22nd day of October 2025.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Attest: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Designated Entity Contract No. 25-UGPR-94 between WAPA, LMPC, and NIMECA and authorize the Board Chairman to sign said contract. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the Firm Electric Service Contract No. 12-UGPR-1086 Amendment No. 1 between WAPA and LMPC and authorize the Board Chairman to sign said amendment. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the Statement of Work – Managed IT Services Renewal from RSM US LLP. This renewal is for three (3) years (October 26, 2025 through October 25, 2028). Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to authorize the General Manager to purchase a used digger derrick truck with a cost not to exceed \$185,000.00 plus taxes and licensing. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to conduct a public hearing on the proposed calendar year 2026 budget at the Municipal Building on November 25, 2025 beginning at 3:00 o'clock p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to authorize the payment of LMPC's proportionate share of NIMECA's portion of the seed money required under its participation agreement for the IPPA transmission projects. LMPC's proportionate share is \$25,400.00. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 o'clock p.m.

Ben Storms
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Attest: Chad Cleveland
Secretary, Board of Trustees