

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 44

www.thepapernow.com

November 12,
2025

Local News

Laurens Public Library to Receive \$10,000 Gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York

Laurens Public Library will receive a \$10,000 gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York, the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie. The award is part of Carnegie Libraries 250, a special initiative celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honoring the roughly 1,280 Carnegie Libraries still serving their communities across the United States.

Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries nationwide between 1886 and 1917. Approximately 750 of them continue to use their original buildings, while others have moved to new locations. Opened in 1907, our library is one of 101 Carnegie Libraries in Iowa built through this historic program. A Carnegie gift of \$3,800

funded the construction of our library.

“Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as ‘cradles of democracy’ that ‘strengthen the democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,’” said Dame Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie and former head of the University of Oxford. “We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded.”

The \$10,000 library gifts anchor a \$20 million special initiative created to celebrate next year’s 250th anniversary by supporting America’s civic institutions and organizations that foster civic participation and bring people together.

These grants include exchange programs between people in urban and rural areas, cultural events that reach new audiences, and activities that engage the next generation of Americans. Grantees include Carnegie Hall, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Jack Miller Center for Teaching America’s Founding Principles and History, the Museum of the City of New York, The New York

Historical, Yo-Yo Ma’s Silkroad, and the Smithsonian Institution.

The special initiative aligns with the foundation’s overarching goal of reducing political polarization. Over the past year, Carnegie has invested \$30 million in grants for civics education, state-based community service, youth voting, and media and digital literacy. Related grants include \$13 million to libraries for programs such as English language learning for adults and civic participation for teens. Carnegie also makes annual grants of \$6 million to fund the Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program and scholarly research about the causes of polarization and potential solutions to reduce it.

Laurens Public Library will receive the gift in January 2026, and we may use the funds however we wish to celebrate the 250th anniversary, further our mission, and benefit our community.



At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
November 12, 2025

Deb's craft classes are getting more and more popular, so she's branching out a bit this month. We've scheduled two new classes for Tuesday, November 18. Deb and our friend Linda Booth will be demonstrating different paint techniques at this free 2 p.m. class. They have lots of fun ideas that you will want to try! Then at 6:30 p.m. Deb will be having a Holiday Cards class. Each participant will get everything they need to make 3 cards, and the cost is only \$5! Preregistration is required for both classes, so we can be sure to have enough supplies. Stop by the Library for more information on these classes.

Lots of new novels this week, including: *Regretting You* by Colleen Hoover, *Wanted: Christmas Miracles* by Cathy Lamb, *Land of Sweet Forever* by Harper Lee, *Black Wolf* by Louise Penny, *Wreck* by Catherine Newman, *6:40 to Montreal* by Eva Jurczyk, *Coyote Hills* by Jonathan Kellerman, *Mrs. Endicott's Splendid Adventure* by Rhys Bowen, *Please Don't Lie* by Christina Baker Kline and *Other People's Houses* by Clare Mackintosh. In nonfiction we received *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang and *Nobody's Girl* by Virginia Roberts Gluffre.

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, 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 a wealthy 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 17 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time

November 18 @ 2 p.m. - Playing with Paint Techniques with Linda

November 18 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cards with Deb

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

The Paper

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

Phone:
(712) 841-2684

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Laurens Women's Club to Meet

The Laurens Women's Club will meet Friday, November 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the Laurens Public Library. NOTE: This is a change in location from the originally scheduled place.

Tessa Roewe, Children's Librarian, Laurens Public Library, will present the program. Members of the serving committee will be Jackie Stelter and Rita Cordell.

Beef Weigh-Ins

Pocahontas County 4-H & FFA Beef Weigh-Ins will be held Saturday, December 20 at Dale Wenell's Farm (located at 11413 500th St. in Albert City).

All market beef animals being exhibited at the 2026 Pocahontas County Fair must be weighed in at this time.

- Market Beef Weigh-In: 9:00–10:30 AM
- State Fair Identification: 10:30–11:00 AM

You must contact Ashlie (ashliej@iastate.edu) if you plan to come to weigh-in with: number of head you're bringing and whether you need State Fair ID done.

Fees (due at weigh-in): 4-H tags – \$5 each and State Fair retinal imaging – \$10. Reminder: FFA members must bring their own tags.

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!



This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: November 12, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation class

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

Sunday: November 16, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS & Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion,
SS sing,

NOISY Offering, Blessing of

Operation Boxes

11:30 AM ~ Potluck

4:00 PM ~ 4-H Club Mtg.

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Monday: November 17, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: November 18, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: November 19, 2025

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation class

Thursday: November 20, 2025

2:00 PM ~ Circle Group

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



Bethany
LUTHERAN CHURCH
North American Lutheran Church

Our Town Our Paper!

This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Sunday, November 16:

Sunday School @ 9:15

Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service @ 10:30 AM

Administrative Council Meeting @

11:30 AM in the Wesley Room



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This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, November 13

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, November 16

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship



Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church

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

MASS TIMES:

Daily Mass as scheduled in the
weekly bulletin

Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at
10:30 AM

Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm at
Resurrection

Good Nutrition on a Budget Program at Hope Church of Pocahontas County

Buying food is more expensive than ever! Learn ways to eat healthy while controlling the food budget. This class is offered on Monday, November 17, 2025, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Hope Church of Pocahontas County. This program is supported by Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach.

“This program teaches four proven strategies to help people save money on food expenses,” states Holly VanHeel, Health and Human Sciences Food and Health Educator and program presenter. “ISU Extension resources, including the Spend Smart. Eat Smart. website and phone app will also be explored.”

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Price Outlook for 2026, food prices are expected to grow more slowly in 2026 compared to historical averages, with an overall 2.7% increase for all food. Food-at-home (grocery store or supermarket food purchases) prices are predicted to increase 2.3 percent.

VanHeel states participants in the class will learn more about menu planning, unit pricing, cooking healthy recipes and even physical activity. “Participants will have fun practicing strategies, which they can start using right away to save money, eat healthy, and feel more in control of their food budget.”

There is no fee for the program, but participants should register with Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach office at 712-335-3103.

Childcare is available upon request. Please contact the church (712-335-3663) by November 14 to secure these services.

No-Till and Soil Health Field Day to be Held near Badger on November 25

Iowa Learning Farms will host a no-till and soil health field day on Tuesday, Nov. 25, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Badger Community Center. The event is open to farmers and landowners at no cost and includes a complimentary meal.

Located in the heart of the Des Moines Lobe, known for the rich, dark soil, field day host Mark Thompson has been utilizing no-till on all soybean acres since 2002 and has made the transition to no-till corn in recent years. During the field day, Thompson will share his experiences adjusting machinery settings to handle the additional residue in a no-till system and timing of operations work best for his system.

“At first, it was an economics thing, then I found out that conservation, nutrient management and erosion control came along with it,” said Thompson. “If you have never tried no-till, try some no-till beans. You will be shocked how well it works and how easy it is – just hesitate to do any tillage in the fall and plant right into the corn stalks.”

Additionally, the field day will feature Angie Rieck-Hinz, ISU Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist, discussing residue management in a no-till system and Humboldt County farmer Doug Adams sharing his experiences with cover crops, no-till and strip-till and their benefits to soil health. Weather permitting, the event will also feature a field tour.

The field day will be held at the Badger Community Center, 211 1st Ave SE, Badger, IA 50516. The event is open to farmers and landowners, though reservations are required to ensure adequate space and food. For reasonable accommodations and to RSVP, please contact Liz Ripley at 515-294-5429 or ilf@iastate.edu by Nov. 18. Attendees will be entered in a drawing for ISU Prairie Strips honey.

Iowa Learning Farms field days and workshops are supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information about Iowa Learning Farms, visit www.iowalearningfarms.org.

About Iowa Learning Farms. Established in 2004, Iowa Learning Farms is building a Culture of Conservation by encouraging adoption of conservation practices. Farmers, researchers and ILF team members are working together to identify and implement the best management practices that improve water quality and soil health while remaining profitable. Partners of Iowa Learning Farms include the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, EPA Section 319 Grant Program, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and GROWMARK, Inc.

Related Links: <https://www.iowalearningfarms.org/events-1>

Dairy Goat Management Seminar to Discuss Healthy Herds, Profitable Actions

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team will host its annual Dairy Goat Management Seminar at two locations in December. The focus of this year's seminars is healthy herds and profitable practices for dairy goat producers.

The seminars are scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Historical Village Visitors Center in Kalona, located at 715 D Avenue. Additionally, there will be a seminar on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Sioux County Office in Orange City, which is located at 400 Central Avenue NW, Suite 700. A complimentary lunch will be provided thanks to sponsorship from Big Gain, Premier 1 Supplies and Saputo.

"Dairy goat production continues to be a vital part of Iowa's agricultural landscape," said Jenn Bentley, dairy field specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "We're excited to offer producers a well-rounded educational program focused on herd health, mastitis management, parasite control, record keeping and financial

sustainability, delivered by a lineup of experienced presenters committed to providing practical strategies for success."

Topics and speakers include:

- "Parasite Patrol" by Carolyn Ihde, small ruminant specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension
- "Understanding Udder Health and Managing Mastitis" by Jennifer Bentley, dairy field specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach
- "Dairy Goat Profit Analysis" by Larry Tranel, dairy field specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach
- "Dairy Goat Records" by Gail Carpenter, assistant professor and extension dairy specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach
- "Common Small Ruminant Emergencies" by Dr. Emily Dirr, DVM, ISU College of Veterinary Medicine

There is no cost to attend the program, but registration is required by registering online or calling the seminar location by Dec. 1 at noon. For Orange City, call the ISU Extension and Outreach Sioux County Office at 712-737-4230. For Kalona, call the ISU Extension and Outreach Washington County Office at 319-653-4811. Questions can be emailed to dairygoatextension@iastate.edu.

This project is supported by The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) program grant no. 2024-68012-41749 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

4-H Photography Workshop

Pocahontas County 4-H members recently participated in an engaging photography workshop led by guest speaker Erin Sommers from the Pocahontas Record-Democrat. Members learned the basics of taking great photos, including techniques in perspective and lighting, before setting out on a photo adventure to practice their new skills and capture their own creative shots!



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