

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!

Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 2 No. 1

www.mylaurens.com

April 2, 2008

Letter to the Editor

Disappointed and Disheartened

Submitted by: Kathy Nesbit

I've been receiving The Paper for the past year and it has been a great way to stay in touch with the news of my hometown and the school in which I grew up.

Unfortunately, I was very disappointed and disheartened with the first page of The Paper this past week (March 26), as I saw a "news" paper turn into a means for the publisher to voice his opinion loud and strong on the first page and present it as a "news" story, rather than place his opinions in an editorial or along with other letters to the editor. It hurt the credibility of The Paper and the publisher, and it damaged the image of The Paper really being a "news" source. In fact, the publisher even stated that he had no hard evidence, but yet presented a very strongly slanted and biased article as news. (I have taught communication and writing courses at colleges and universities for the past 29 years so I'm basing my evaluation on what is taught in college writing courses.)

I have to admit that I hesitated writing this letter as I thought about the fact that I no longer live in Laurens. I decided to write it when I remembered how the link to The Paper states "Your News Source" and how the editor has

applauded the fact that so many people from so many states rely on this paper for news of our hometown. Please remember that many of us really ARE relying on this paper to be "news" from our hometown, and it would be appreciated if the news included the facts, and that the opinions and editorials were labeled as Editorials and Letters to the Editor. (Facts can be substantiated by hard evidence, not perspectives or perceptions, and sources can be cited which prove the facts as factual.)

I also admit that I do not know the details of the case at hand, but I have served on our Union Grievance Team at the college where I am employed for many years. We have had to sit at the table with the Administrators of our

college and have had to be a part of both professors and administrators being let go for a variety of reasons. The process has been very difficult to say the least, but the facts and details of each case could not be made public. Thankfully, the public and the college employees trusted our judgment and the decisions of those people whom they had elected. I hope that the citizens of Laurens and the employees of Laurens-Marathon School will place the same trust in your local school board members. They deserve it.

Thanks for listening and for your consideration,

Kathy Nesbit



What are these L-M High Schoolers doing in the school lobby? Check out more photos and the story on page 13!

Heroes and Role Models

If I had a choice on who my role models in life were that had such an impact on my life, that would be an easy answer for me to make. They are without a doubt Carol Johnson and Doc Hodges. Carol Johnson and her family were my next door neighbors all through my childhood here in Laurens. There is not one thing my sister and I would not do for Carol and her family.

We used to love to go in the winter time next door to her house and scoop her driveway or walk with our father because it was the right thing to do. Of course, there were those wonderful home baked cookies that only Carol could make that we loved so much as kids. Carol was also my favorite nurse at Doc Hodges' Office. As long as I can remember as a kid, I wanted to be just like her. I wanted to be a nurse like her and one Christmas even asked Santa Claus to bring her a diamond ring for all the wonderful things she did for everyone else. Carol has a heart of gold, she has always been there for everyone else whether it be family, neighbors, clients at Doc Hodges' office or for anyone here in town.

In all the wonderful years I have known this admirable woman, whom I am proud to call my role model, never once have I ever heard her complain about anything in life. She taught me more values and morals than I will ever be able to put here and why, you might ask, do I say that? The reason is that this wonderful lady took in a child more known to be a loner and let her into her heart and into her life. Carol Johnson and her family always were and are family to myself and my siblings as well as to my children. I am privileged to live again in the town where I spent my childhood years and get to see Carol

occasionally walking around town with "Gigi". My children already love her and think of her as their second grandma. They do also find it very funny when I tell them she was my nurse and had to give me shots too once upon a time. Carol also has taken care of, I believe it was, four generations of my father's side of the family, the Kirsch's while employed with Doc Hodges.

Now, Doc Hodges, he also is a role model to me. Even as a child, I looked up to him and at the same time feared those needles when he came close but, he was always kind and compassionate with his patients in his office and outside of the office. I remember as a child asking him all sorts of questions about many topics, most times to take my mind off of those shots, and he always had the kindness and patience to answer each and every one as if it were the most important question in the world to him. That is something I have never forgotten. Doc Hodges had taken care of five generations of my family before his retirement and was a doctor I trusted explicitly even as a child. I remember just how much I trusted him when I had gotten hurt and rode my banana bike to his office alone without one of my parents and cried on his shoulder while I told him what had happened to me. He gently explained that I would need a dreaded shot and then would fix me right up. Well, I remembered thinking he is treating me the same as he would treat my daddy. I felt very grown up that day and never forgot how wonderful he always was with me and my siblings. If I was ever out of town and got hurt, I remember I would refuse to see another doctor and so my parents would have to drive home to Laurens just so I could see Doc Hodges.

I used to love the stories he told me about my grandmother and great-great grandmother that he took care of. Doc Hodges was and is still always helping people whenever he can with that same

patience and kindness and loving attitude that he had as my doctor until he retired. I had the pleasure of seeing Doc Hodges at Iowa Central Community College when I graduated there back in 2006. He was standing on the stage beside the president of the college and I remember feeling like I was going to cry when I saw him standing up there helping to hand out diplomas to us college graduates. I had never felt more proud than at that moment having one of my childhood heroes and role models there when I graduated and for one of the most important days in my life.

I remember having the largest smile on my face and when I reached him, I said "Hi, Doc Hodges" and barely got the words out. Of course, out of reaction I had to make sure he did not have any dreaded needles with him! Ha! Ha!

These two wonderful people have been a part of my life since I was born and I could not be more proud. To some of us who lived here as children, moved away and have now returned home, it is a comfort to see and be able to joke around with these two wonderful people. How do you say thank you to two people who have been your inspiration and childhood heroes? I find I am having trouble finding the words to express my deep gratitude and thanks to two long time generous and caring residents of this fine community, a community that I have decided to come home to and raise my children in.

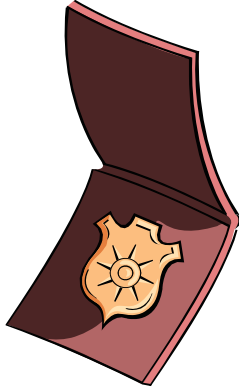
So, to Doc Hodges and Carol Johnson, at this point, I hope you can accept my humble "Thank You" for having such a wonderful impact on the life of one child who has never forgotten all the wonderful little things that you did for me and my siblings; that still means so much.

*Holly J. (Kirsch) Newhouse
211 Bissell Street
Laurens, Iowa 50554
712-841-7026*

The Police: Myths

By: Tom Shaw, Chief of Police

I thought it would be fun to lighten up the topic for this week and cover a few myths associated with law enforcement. These myths are merely common perceptions that have become ingrained over time. Let's explore together:



1. Cops love donuts. Hmm, I'm not so sure this is a myth! But there is a logical explanation for how the cops and donuts thing started. Try to remember a time before all the 24 hour convenience and grocery stores. It used to be that the only shops open late at night were the donut shops. So, in the larger towns and cities, when the cops on the late shift wanted to take a break they would naturally congregate together at the only business open – the donut shop. People have associated donuts with cops ever since.

2. Ticket Quotas. There is a reoccurring complaint that tickets are issued because the cop was trying to meet his quota. Well, speaking for this Department, we do not have any quotas and we do not place bets on who can write the most tickets. As a matter of fact, it is illegal in the state of Iowa for agencies to establish quotas.

3. Speed Limits. I am often asked if it is true that tickets are not issued if the motorist is travelling (insert various speeds) seven miles per hour over the speed limit. There is no standard when it comes to how much leeway an officer will give. The truth is that a citation

can be given for one mile an hour over a posted speed limit. The signs do not say "35 plus 10 or 55 plus 7." And, there are certain speed zones where very little tolerance is given such as the 20 mph school zone.

4. Hollywood Cops. The portrayal of cops by television shows and movies have a big impact on the images created in the public's mind on how the police operate. I call it the "Law and Order" syndrome. On that particular show, a crime is committed, the crime is solved, an arrest made, and a trial is completed in one hour, minus commercials! I dare say that our justice system does not move that fast. There are other shows that use lots of imaginary technology. No, we can't enter a fingerprint into the system and immediately discover that the suspect had a fight with the victim on the playground while in kindergarten and that his grandmother's favorite color is blue. These police dramas are very entertaining but just remember, it's Hollywood.

I really enjoy listening and talking with folks about the experiences they have had with law enforcement and their explanation of why an officer did what they did. Should you have a complaint or concern, call me at 841-4414, or email me at lzpd@laurens-ia.com, and I'll set the donuts aside to talk to you.



Engagement Announced

Lance and Linda Grave, along with Dave and Carol Anderson, all of Spencer, announce the engagement of their children, Katie Grave and Mark Anderson of Jackson, Minnesota.

Katie graduated from Minnesota State University at Mankato with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She is a fifth grade teacher in Jackson. Mark is a graduate of Minnesota State University at Mankato with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. He is a registered nurse at the Fairmont Medical Center. Mark is the grandson of Jeanette Krebs of Laurens.

The wedding will take place on August 23, 2008, at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Specner, Iowa.



Schmidt Awarded Schutt Offensive Player of the Game

Jesse was back and just as good as ever in the season opener on Friday night against the defending American Conference champion Pioneers. When the Steamwheelers defeated them by a score of 48-41.

There was another story on Jesse Schmidt and the

Quad-City Steamwheelers in the Quad City Times following the game on Friday night.

According to the article's author, Eric Page, "Jesse Schmidt's first step looked just fine.

So did his second, third and fourth for that matter.

The hulking 6-foot-3, 225-pound Schmidt hauled in 10 receptions for 101 yards and three touchdowns to earn Schutt Offensive Player of the Game honors."

Jesse stated in the article, "It feels great. I couldn't ask for a better game," said Schmidt, who played his college ball at Buena Vista (Iowa). "To be able to get back out there and play well and



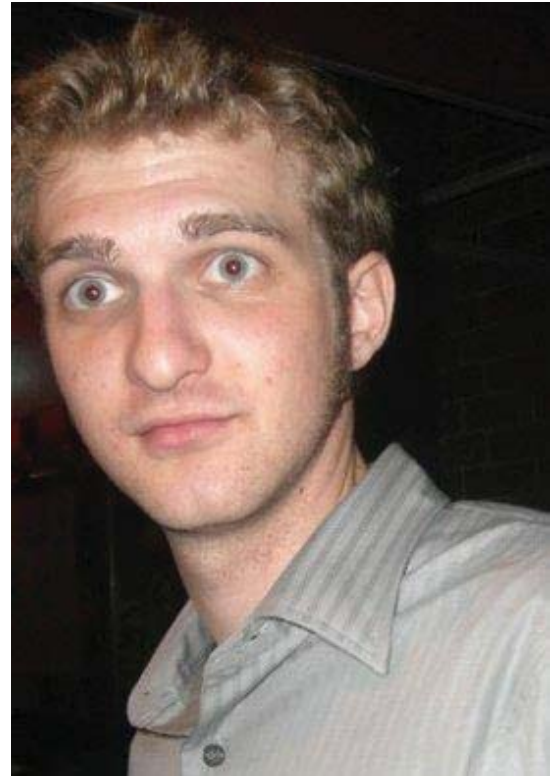
Heston Roewe at Sony Studios

Heston Roewe, a 2004 graduate of Laurens- Marathon School, has been awarded one of 3 internships from The Moving Picture Institute. Heston was chosen from a group of 142 applicants. The MPI places interns with different production companies and filmmakers.

Applicants are required to have demonstrated excellent research and communication abilities and an interest in film production. The candidate must also be committed to individual rights and have an informed appreciation for American liberty. Judgment, focus, organization, empathy, an ability to work under pressure, and a sense of humor are also important.

The Moving Picture Institute identifies and nurtures promising filmmakers who are committed to protecting and sustaining a free society. Heston is a senior at the University of Iowa majoring in filmmaking and communications.

His summer internship will be with Happy Madison Productions at Sony Studios in Culver City, CA. Heston is the brother of Taylor Roewe and son of Susan Roewe of Johnston, IA and Dale Roewe of Laurens.



help the team play well and win, it means a lot."

The Wheelers took advantage of having Schmidt back on the field. It didn't take them long to use Schmidt's rehab improved talents.

"Schmidt scored Q-C's first points of the season, streaking down the right sideline for a 34-yard touchdown 6 minutes into the game. And after the Pioneers took a short-lived 20-7 lead, Schmidt stopped the bleeding, leaping in the air and reaching back over a defender's head to pull in a 4-yard lob pass from quarterback J.J. Raterink."

Schmidt stated he was a bit nervous before kickoff on Friday but it didn't

take long for him to get back in the groove of things.

Schmidt's fellow team mate commented "It's going to help him," King said. "He missed 13 games, but he's got 13 games of mental reps. So, he's basically a rookie as far as experience goes, but mentally he's a veteran."

With Schmidt's excellent showing on the field Friday night, he played like a veteran.

To read the full story on Jesse Schmidt, please visit: <http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2008/04/01/sports/football/doc47ede25d7270d955353909.txt>

Politics

I remember having a conversation with one individual who ran for and was elected to a city office here at Laurens. That individual said to me, "I am not a politician." I chuckled to myself as I thought about his statement. It was obvious this individual thought there was something sinister about being a politician or least did not know what a politician is.

Quite often when we think about politicians, there are images that come to mind, like congressmen who are involved in one scheme or another, some elected official who has been accused of some despicable act, or as late the troubles of the Governor of New York. It is true that these people are politicians. However, it was not politics that got them in trouble. The root cause of these individuals' troubles is the lack of integrity or greed, not politics.

Politics is the science of government. Political science is a course of study at the university. Individuals involved in politics are politicians. People who run for a government office are politicians. Therefore, a person who runs for office at any level of government is a politician.

There is another definition for politician that is often used. This definition is a person who is seeking personal or partisan gain or scheming. This is probably what the person I was in conversation with was referring to. We all know these types of people and at one time or another we were most likely one of them. We run into them everywhere. We refer to these people with statements like, "she is politicking for a position close to the boss," "he is politicking for that special account," or "he is politicking for the position of guard on the basketball team." These events are not bad in and of themselves. As we try to make changes in our lives, we will politic for certain things at work, church, or an

organization to which we belong. The moral issue is how and what we do to politic for those things we desire.

Politics is an important part of our lives. We all will become involved in it at one time or another throughout our lives, either on the formal or informal level. We need to separate politics from the inappropriate things that a limited number of people involved in politics do and recognize politics for what it is.

By: Kent Radford

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100% of
The Paper's
articles are
submitted by
you - The Reader!!

French Connection

Looking for Ambassadors

The Laurens, Iowa Delegation traveling to Laurens, France is preparing plans for their trip. There are a few openings for those citizens that would like to spread good-will and good cheer.



Plans are to leave around September 22nd to October 1st or October 6th to October 15th...but these plans are tentative at this time. You would arrive in Toulouse and stay an evening there before heading to Laurens, France. All meals and accommodations are at your cost except for when staying in Laurens, France. There you will be their guest and staying in their homes. All other day trips, including Toulouse, will be at your expense. Also included in your personal expense is the airfare.

Laurens, France is a quaint village with 1050 inhabitants and is located in the heart of the Faugeres wine country. In 2007, 11 delegates from France came

to celebrate in Laurens, Iowa's Quasiquicentennial in July. They presented each household with a bottle of their locally produced wine as a "birthday gift". A part of the celebration was the preparation of the "Sister City" agreement. When the Iowa delegation visits France, the agreement will be signed and become official. A student from Laurens-

Marathon school was selected to attend with the flight ticket being paid through fund-raisers by the Sister City Commission. This student will help to set-up exchanges and pen-pals along with exploring international friendships.

Purchasing of the tickets will be done around April 15th. Consider becoming a "LAURENS AMBASSADOR" and join us!

If you are interested in more details about the trip, please contact Julie at 841-2546 or e-mail at: wurr@laurens-ia.com by April 11th.

From the Heart

Artwork for the home is a delicate balance of what you enjoy and what looks good in your home. I always suggest that you keep looking until you get that “ah-ha” moment. I suggest finding your inspiration piece of furniture or artwork and then find paint to compliment. Doing it the other way around can lead to frustration.

There are many levels of types of prints. First of all, there is an artist’s original. That is very precious and very hard to collect.

If the artist is going to have prints made, they need to have “artist’s proofs” printed that show a variation of colors to get approval. These are often sold as artist’s proofs and are signed with a notation of what it is.

Next level is “signed and numbered”. This is where you find a second

“real” signature and two numbers such as 175/400. The 400 is the number of prints duplicated and the 175 is the “serial” number of the print (you are getting number 175 out of 400).

The fourth level is a simple “signed” print where you will see two signatures.

The last print of these series is a “poster print” that only has the imprinted signature of the artist on it. There is no limit of these (usually ends when the demand ends for the print). Prices start with the original being the highest and the poster print the cheapest.

The next step is to have it framed. There are many types of mats. There are fabric mats, paper mats, acid-free mats, and specialty mats. All have a variety of prices.

You also have to select the glass. You have your regular glass and non-glare glass. The non-glare has little pits on the backside that takes the light being brought in and “diffuses” it so it won’t

go straight back to you. However; non-glare glass can also slightly distort the image.

There is conservation glass in either regular or non-glare. Conservation glass reflects 97% AV rays that can damage your artwork. Think of it as suntan lotion for your prints.

And all of these options also come in a framer’s quality plexiglass which is a great option for extremely large prints or for areas that you don’t want much weight. The plexiglass is much different than the type you can find at a large hardware store. The disadvantage of plexiglass is you would not want it around where someone smokes (it absorbs the color) and you can not use regular glass cleaner.

Next week we will touch on frames and methods of attaching your artwork!
From an artwork heart,
Julie Wurr

At the Library with Glenda Mulder

April 2, 2008

Get out your calendar and put a big red circle around April 22. At 7:00 Shana Stuart will present a program about Carnegie Libraries. I think this will be of local interest since Laurens was a recipient of a Carnegie Grant to build our original library. This program is made possible by a Christmas gift by Mark Mather to the Laurens Public Library Foundation in honor of his mother, Marilyn Mather.

We received three more DVDs for the Read a Great Movie collection. New



titles are Heidi, I am Legend, The Kite Runner and Nancy Drew. Other new DVDs are Enchanted, Bee Movie, and August Rush.

Our book discussion group enjoyed talking about *Marley and Me* and their own dog stories this week. Our next book choice is *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*. It is Bill Bryson’s memoir of growing up in the Baby Boom generation of the 1950’s in the Des Moines area. Reviewers say it’s “Laugh out loud funny” and “It will enchant anyone who has ever been young.” It sounds like a good choice to me. I look forward to reading it! Stop in and pick up a copy so you can join the discussion on April 28th.

New in Non fiction this week we received *Standing Tall: A Memoir of Tragedy and Triumph* by Vivian C. Stringer who is one of the most successful coaches in the history of women’s basketball. Our fiction readers might want to try one of these:

- *Compulsion* by Jonathan Kellerman
- *Buckingham Palace Gardens* by Anne Perry
- *Irish Tiger* by Andrew Greeley
- *Civil and Strange* by Clair Ni Aonghusa
- *Simply Perfect* by Mary Balogh
- *Winter Study* by Nevada Barr
- *The Winding Ways Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini
- *The German Bride* by Johanna Hershon
- *Turning Tables* by Heather MacDowell
- *Guilty* by Karen Robards

Stop in and check it out!

Dear Roxer

Which dog is best for you?

Is a toy breed better suited to you? Small, affectionate, can be litter trained for those apartment dwellers; easy to take with you? Or are you active, like the outdoors, jogging; perhaps a sporting dog is best for your lifestyle.

Hounds are an independent group of dogs with high activity levels. Herding dogs are great when they have a job, but can be a nuisance when they go chasing other animals when left to their own antics!! But such a fun group of dogs to train and show in obedience and agility!

The Terriers are a very active bunch, but such clowns! Working dogs like a challenge, can be protective, and look for a leader. If you

aren't firm, but fair, in training these breeds, they may walk all over you.

A shelter dog or mixed breed will carry characteristics of their mixed parentage, so it may be more of a guessing game. It may be difficult to guess what the mix may be, but hopefully, the staff at a shelter can help you to determine what the mix may be.

Breed rescues are also a source to look for a dog. Perhaps an older dog may be available. You can be past the housebreaking and chewing stage. But, of course, the rescue organization should let you know why the dog was surrendered and if there are special needs for the rescue dog. They too, should help you to learn if a particular breed will fit into your lifestyle.

As an obedience instructor, I try to help the owner have a well-rounded dog. Socialization is of the utmost importance. Then, help the dog to understand the basics

of obedience to be a good canine citizen. Sit, down, the all important, recall, along with not jumping, etc. are just some of the basics! Do keep in mind that not every dog can be trained the same way. An experienced dog obedience instructor will help you to train the dog. For instance, the Husky will be more challenging to train to heel. Does that mean the Husky can't heel on lead? No, but remember what was a Husky bred to do? RUN!! Pull a sled. That instinct is natural to the Husky, so it may take more patience and motivation to train a Husky to heel. The Labrador Retriever wants to chew and constantly carry something in its mouth! Why do you think they call them Retrievers? Each breed will have natural inclinations. These characteristics should also be looked into, before purchasing a puppy.

Submit questions or comments for Roxer at cdedriver@sctc.com

Make a Difference in Your Neighborhood with a Working Windbreak

There are many ways to improve a Homestead or Building site with a windbreak shelterbelt using the State Cost Share program that is available at your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

During the winter, windbreaks trap snow that later melts. The

melted snow provides moisture for growing plants in the ground water. Furthermore, windbreaks provide homes for insect-eating birds. Upland game birds and other wildlife use them for cover, food, nesting, and travel lanes. Bees and other pollinating insects find protection on the leeward side of windbreaks.

Windbreaks reduce wind erosion, conserve energy, reduce heating bills and beautify a farmstead. They also serve as a sound barrier and provide food and cover for wildlife. Livestock gain more weight when windbreaks protect them from winter winds and snow.

This program is available at the NRCS that offers landowners 75%

cost share for the establishment of an acreage or feedlot windbreaks, leaving only 25% of the cost at the landowner's expense.

NRCS has detailed information about how to properly establish a windbreak, including locations that are best avoided for safety reasons. For technical assistance in establishing windbreaks, contact the NRCS Office at 600 West Elm, Pochontas, IA 50574 or by phone at 712-335-4790 ext 3.

Send Your News to

The Paper!

www.mylarens.com

100% User Generated Content!

Laurens United Methodist Church

Wed. April 2
7:30 p.m. ~ Sr. UMYF

Thur. April 3
12:45 p.m. ~ UMW Exec
2:00 p.m. ~ UMW General

Fri. April 4
7:00 a.m. ~ Men's Bible Study

Sun. April 6
Native American Ministries Offering
9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday School
9:30 a.m. ~ Fellowship Coffee
10:30 a.m. ~ Worship
Mon. April 7
7:00 p.m. ~ Quilt Club

Wed. April 9
7:00 p.m. ~ Christian Ed
7:30 p.m. ~ Rebekah Circle
7:30 p.m. ~ Sr. UMYF

Fri. April 11
7:00 a.m. ~ Men's Bible Study

Sat. April 12
7:00 a.m. ~ UM Men
9-11 a.m. ~ Bridal Shower for Amanda Svuba
10:00 a.m. ~ Workshops at Ida Grove
1-3 p.m. ~ Bridal Shower for Ashlie Brazel



This Week at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wed. April 2
1:00 p.m. ~ Willing Workers meet at the church
3:30 p.m. ~ ChiRho Kids & Friends

Thurs. April 3
2:00 p.m. ~ CWF General Meeting

Sun. April 6
9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School
10:30 a.m. ~ Worship

Wed. April 9
1:00 p.m. ~ Willing Workers meet at the church
3:30 p.m. ~ ChiRho Kids & Friends
7:30 p.m. ~ Lydia Group Meeting

This Week at Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday, April 2:
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study
Adventure Club
7-Up (Jr. High)

Thursday, April 3:
6:30 PM Deacon Board Meeting
7:00 PM Trustee Board Meeting
7:30 PM Church Board Meeting

Sunday, April 6:
8:30 AM & 10:45 AM Morning Worship
9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages
7:00 PM Daren Streblov Comedy night at L-M High School Gym

Wednesday, April 9:
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study
Adventure Club
7-Up (Jr. High)

This Week at Bethany

Wednesday, April 2nd
4-5:30 PM: Affirmation of Baptism
Classes @ Grace Lutheran, Marathon
7 PM: High School Bible Study @ Cleve-lands

Thursday, April 3rd
Pastor @ Fall Convocation
Planning Meeting, Sioux City

Sunday, April 6th
9 AM: Worship with Communion
10 AM: Coffee Fellowship
10:15 AM: Sunday School Hour

Worship, Love, Accepted ~ Together in Christ's Name



Living in God's amazing grace

Sacred Heart Church - Laurens Clustered with St. Joseph Church - Sioux Rapids

Mass Times - April - June
Saturday - 5:00 PM Laurens
Sunday - 9:00 AM Sioux Rapids Confessions 1/2 hour before masses Laurens
CCD grades K-12 meet at 7:00 PM
Wednesday evenings at the Parish Center
Daily Mass as scheduled in bulletin.

Mon. April 7
7:00 p.m. ~ Rosary Society Meeting

Sat. April 5
K-C Ladies Appreciation Night Following the 5:00 Mass @ Deb's Country Kettle

Submit...
100% of The Paper's articles are submitted by you - The Reader!!

Open Letter from the Laurens Ambulance Service

We will not be hosting our annual soup supper this year. Although we can always make use of your financial contributions, we need something even more important from you this year. We need something money can't buy. **We need you!**

Our service is short of members able to take day time call. We are no longer able to supply the man power to staff our ambulance with 24 hour service. We have, therefore, contacted Pocahontas community Hospital's ambulance service for assistance. Although you will still dial 911 for emergency care, the responding ambulance may come from either Laurens or from Pocahontas. Quality care will still be provided. It just might take a little longer to respond to your call.

These changes will become effective April 1st, 2008; however, we need YOU to step forward and volunteer to become an EMT. If you step forward and volunteer, we will not have to rely on the Pocahontas ambulance to help us out.

If you would like information on becoming a member of our service or if you have any questions, please contact any of our members. You are still welcome to make a financial contribution to the service.

Thank You,

Garthlene Bell
Laurens Ambulance Service
712-841-2560

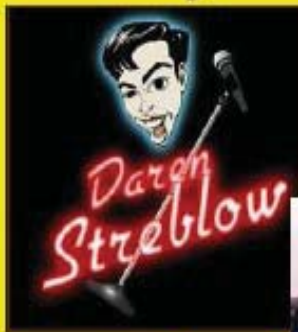
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Submit... 100% of The Paper's articles are submitted by you - The Reader!! Take a minute to send us your news and photos too! It's fun and it's FREE!



COMEDY NIGHT

featuring...



Sunday, April 6th

Doors open at 6:30pm

Laughter starts at 7pm

@ LM High School, Laurens

&



BLACK V

IMPROV team from
Northwestern College
Orange City



This event is a
guaranteed laugh event.
You will laugh whether you
like it or not!! So you may
as well as just get used to
the idea!



TICKET INFORMATION:

TICKETS = \$8

GROUPS OF 10+ = \$5

AT THE DOOR = \$10

CALL 712 843-5759 FOR MORE INFO

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

www.myfreechurch.com

ALBERT CITY EFC

212 Flower St

Albert City, IA 50510

712 843-5759

Ground Breaking Ceremony Thursday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m.



**For the NEW Iowa Trust & Savings Bank
located at 202 W. Main St., Laurens, IA**

A reception will follow at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall



Member FDIC	EMMETSBURG, IA (712) 852-3451 1-800-233-9109	CYLINDER, IA (712) 424-3485 1-800-727-7263	LAURENS, IA (712) 841-2588 866-558-6547
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The Paper

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New Arrival

Austin & Kriste Herrig of Atla, became the parents of their second daughter, Gracen Lane. She was born on March 18th at 9:18 p.m. at BVRMC in Storm Lake. She weighed seven pounds, five ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Her big sister, Mckenzie, is 2 1/2 years old.

Grandparents are Dwight and Lori Kulp and Terry and Cindy Herrig, all of Albert City, and Steve and Gayle Shephard of Pomona, Kansas.

Great-grandparents are Georgine Grund of Laurens, Don and Elaine Herrig and Andy and Bonnie Blomberg, all of Albert City, Clare Irwin of Kansas City, Mo., Ann Shephard of Ottawa, Kan. and Jack Shephard, of Pomona, Kan.

Marathon Fireman's Ball

 April 19, 2008 

Marathon Community Center

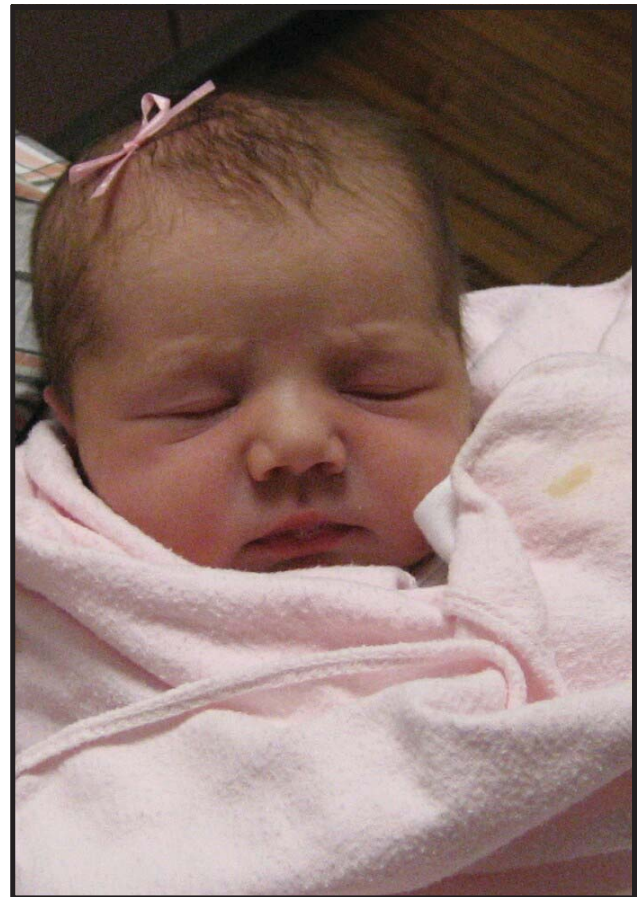
Hog Roast and Music by The Expressions

Dinner From 6 p.m. Until Gone 

\$ 6 for Food and Band

Band Starts at 8:00 p.m. 

Raffles Throughout the Night



Engagement Announced

Craig and Kathy Rubel of Plover and Charles Brazel of Truesdale are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Ashlie Brazel, to Kale Joynt, son of Gary & Barb Johnson of Webb and Pat Joynt & Wendy Horsman of Mallard. An April 12th Bridal Shower will be held at 1 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Laurens. The couple will be married on June 14th. ***In last week's issue, Gary & Barb Johnson were mistakenly identified as Gary & Barb Joynt. We apologize for the error.**

60th Anniversary

Bob and Donna Wood celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 31, 2008. Please help them celebrate by sending a card to: Bob and Donna Wood, 108 Agora Street, Marathon, Iowa 50565.

Happy Anniversary Mom & Dad, Love the Wood children and their families.



Bridal Shower

Come & Go bridal shower for Crista Aschenbrenner, bride-elect of Josh Wilkening. Saturday, May 3rd, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Laurens Golf & County Club. Crista is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Heart 'n Home and Target.

Local & School Calendar

April 3 - Parent/Teacher Conferences from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. School to Dismiss at 2:30 p.m.; Swing Show Dress Rehearsal at 2:30 p.m.

April 4 - No School; High School Swing Show and Art Show at 7:00 p.m.

April 7 - Girls and Boys Track Meet, Russ Kraai Relays in Holstein at 5:00 p.m.

April 8 - Golf @ 4:00 p.m. Girls at Aurelia, Boys at Newell; Pre Solo/Small Group Festival Recital at 7:00 p.m.; Jr. Class Career Day @ Emmetsburg

Early Childhood Applying for Grant

The Laurens-Marathon Early childhood program is in the process of applying for Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity for all young children in the State of Iowa to enter school ready to learn by expanding voluntary access to quality preschool curricula for all four-year-old children. The allocation of funds for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is intended to improve access to quality early childhood education and provide a predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding method to increase the number of children participating in quality programs. Therefore, the four-year-old preschool funds are intended to reduce or eliminate the cost of preschool tuition in order to increase the number of children participating in quality programs.

Active and ongoing collaboration with families, community agencies, organizations, boards, and other stakeholders is an expectation of any district applying for or receiving Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds. The Laurens-Marathon Community School would like to invite you to its first stakeholders meeting to be held April 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the school media center. There will be meetings to follow on April 15th and 22nd at 7:00 pm in the school media center.

If you are unable to attend any of the stakeholder meetings above and would like more information concerning the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children Grant, please contact Danielle Auten, preschool teacher at Laurens-Marathon, by phone: 712-841-5000 ext .129 or by email: danielleauten@laurens-marathon.k12.ia.us

Our Town Our Paper!

Laurens-Marathon Charger Girls Track & Field

Class A in Track & Field. 6th in Twin Lakes Conference in 2007

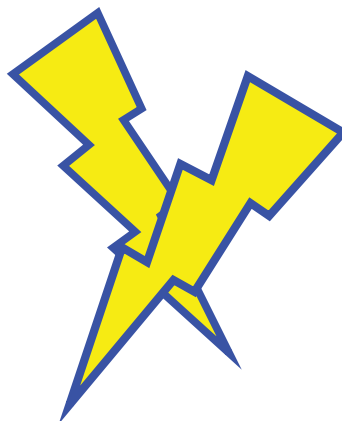
Coaches: Kerry Feekes and Michelle Rubel. Coach Feekes was an assistant coach from 84-9 and has been head coach since then.

Coach Rubel is in her first year as assistant at L-M. She is a graduate of L-M and coached at Terril/Ruthven Ayrshire

The Laurens-Marathon Girl's Track & Field Team features 21 athletes including 14 lettermen from a year ago. Returning are seniors: Megan Hofmaster, a sprinter who is a three time qualifier in the 4 X 100 relay. She also qualified in the sprint medley. Kacie Woodley, middle distance and hurdler, who is a two time qualifier in the 400 hurdles and qualified in the shuttle hurdle in 2007. Megan Cleveland and Diana Johnsen, sprints and hurdles, 2005 State champs in the shuttle hurdle relay. Last year Diana qualified in the 4 X 100 and shuttle hurdle. Megan qualified in the shuttle hurdle. Adrian Johnson and Kelsey Bell run sprints for the Chargers.

Returning juniors include: Jordan Sundblad, hurdler, high jumper, and sprinter, who qualified in the 4 X 100 and shuttle hurdle last season. Chelsey Anderson was a sprinter last season.

Returning sophomores: Grace Christensen ran sprints, hurdles, and long jumped, Kelsey Frerichs ran sprints, Shelby Heuton high jumped and ran



relays, Holly Hofmaster ran middle distance, relays and long jumped. Holly was a State qualifier in the long jump. Chelsea Musgjerd ran distance races and relays, Ada Ramirez and Brittany Rydstrom threw shot and discus,

Freshmen include: Ashley Anderson, Melissa Cleveland, Megan Hertz, Cara Jamison, and Paige Potter.

L-M Track & Field has come off a season in which the team had larger numbers and was more competitive during the regular season. L-M had a good showing at Regionals last season, qualifying 5 events to State. Gone to graduation is Kelsey Meyer who ran sprints and middle distance. Kelsey was a 2004 place winner in the shuttle hurdle relay and a qualifier last season in the 4 X 100 relay.

The Chargers are now in the Northwest conference and are looking forward to the competition the conference will provide. Sioux Central has had outstanding teams for several years. Schaller Crestland has excellent sprint teams and Newell Fonda has a great group of athletes. L-M hosts the Northwest Conference Meet in May.

This year's team should be strong again in the hurdle relay and middle distance events. During the indoor season we have run the short hurdles well and put in good times in the 4 X 100, 4 X 200, 4 x 400, sprint medley, and distance medley. With the addition of our freshmen, we should be able to fill all 19 events in most meets.

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FFA Receives Grant From Farm Bureau

FFA president, Tyler Smith accepts a check for \$250 from Gary Zhorne, representing the Iowa Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau is donating \$50,000 state wide to FFA chapters for conducting educational activities that educate students as well as their community about taking care of our environment. The Tall Corn project will teach students how to make ethanol, tour Bio energy and promote renewable fuels.



The Vote Is In

After a five-hour, closed session board meeting on Wednesday, March 26th, and an additional two and a half hours on Monday, March 31st, the vote that this community has been waiting for is finally in.

Principal Davis lost the battle with a 3-1 decision by the board not to renew her contract at the end of the year.

Following the board's decision, you could see the deep disappointment and hurt on not only Mrs. Davis' face but on many of the nearly 180 community members in attendance.

On Tuesday, April 1st many high school students staged a sit-in in the lobby of the school still showing their support for Mrs. Davis and their disapproval of the decision made on Monday night. This was no April Fool's joke, students sat in the lobby of the school until approximately noon when they were told to either go back to their classes or have their parents excuse them for the day. Students were faced with the possibility of disciplinary action. Many of the students at the sit-in simply left for the day and were told they would be able to make up their classes.



From left to right: High Schoolers Katrine Madsen, Megan Hofmaster, Kylie Woodley, Hilary Goedert, Taryn Kay and Kacie Woodley in the lobby on Tuesday morning of the sit in, in protest of the decision made not to renew Mrs. Davis' contract.

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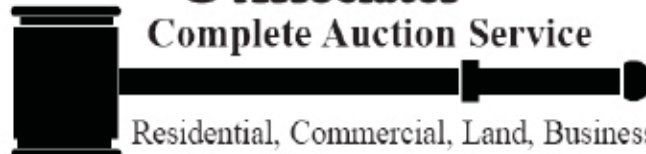
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Tax Preparation and Accounting: The Bottom Line, Kristy Mather, 712-845-2311. Reasonable rates, electronic filing. 2 miles East of Laurens on Highway 10. Watch for the Iowa State Cyclone mailbox.

Announcements

Reward offered for information regarding the theft of ornamental mailbox bull on February 23, 2008. Call Craig Ferguson at 712-845-4978.

Country Club Thursday Night Special. The special for April 3rd will be homemade meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy and baked beans. *Public Welcome!* Don't forget our fish fry on April 5th serving starts at 5:00. Harry Reese is the cook.

Bridal Registry at JH Design Studio for Amanda Svuba and Brad Tendal. Shower April 12th at United Methodist Church, Wedding June 7th. JH Design, 217 W. Veterans Rd., Laurens. We wrap and deliver.

Come and Go Bridal Shower for Amanda Svuba, bride elect of Brad Tendal. April 12, 2008 in the Wesley Room at the United Methodist Church in Laurens. 9-11 a.m. Come and Go. Amanda is registered at JH Design, Target, Heart 'n Home and Town and Country Floral.

Wednesday Night Specials at Laurens Lounge & Lanes: Rent a lane for \$10 per hour. One dozen buffalo wings and a pitcher of beer for \$11. Laurens Lounge & Lanes, Laurens, 712-841-2545.

Our Town Our Paper!

For Sale

For Sale or Rent: 3-4 bedroom ranch home. 2 car heated garage, screened in porch and deck. Newer roof and furnace. 316 Oak St., Laurens. Call (712) 229-6539.

Tools For Sale: Craftsman Table Saw, Porter Cable Cordless Circular Saw, Freud Biscuit Cutter. All in very good condition. If interested, please call 712-841-4973 to discuss details.

For Sale

For Sale: 1996 Monte Carlo, 2-door, good shape, excellent school car. Call 712-843-5683.

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LAURENS AREA "FOOD DRIVE"

The Following Items are needed in the Food Pantry

FOOD ITEMS

- Powdered Milk
- Pork & Beans
- Chili Beans
- Kidney Beans
- Canned Carrots
- Tuna
- Spam
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Turkey
- Rice
- Instant Potatoes
- Dry Beans
- Cooking Oil
- Tomato Items
- Sugar
- Flour
- Creamed Soups
- Other Canned Soups
- Macaroni
- Noodles
- Spaghetti
- Helper Dinners
- Macaroni & Cheese Dinners
- Crackers
- Peanut Butter
- Fruit Juices

MONEY!!!!

To be used to purchase items short of in the Food Pantry

HYGIENE ITEMS

- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Bath Soap
- Tooth Brushes
- Tooth Paste
- Toilet Paper

NOTE: HYGIENE ITEMS ARE IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY AND ARE BADLY NEEDED

The **Laurens Area Cub Scouts** will begin collecting your donations at **11:00 am on Saturday April 5th, 2008**

Please place your donations outside your front door and the scouts will pick them up.

All items should be picked up by 3:00 pm. on Saturday. Please contact Kelly Gordon at 358-0959 if **Items are missed.**

"Thank you" for your support
(Laurens Area Includes: Laurens, Marathon, Albert City)