

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!

Laurens, Iowa



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April 9, 2008

Local News

Sam Thumma Receives National Red Cross Award

Samuel Thumma of Phoenix, AZ, son of Russell and Lanore Thumma of Laurens, received the 2008 National Leadership Award at the National Red Cross Convention held in Baltimore, MD.

(Brian) The Leadership Award recognized outstanding leadership service at the local and regional level. This award was made for someone like Samuel Thumma.

Sam's first experience with the Red Cross was watching his parents volunteer at local blood drives in Iowa. As an adult, Sam continued the family tradition and volunteered on the Special Transportation Committee at the Grand Canyon Chapter in Phoenix. Eleven years later, he stands here, representing all the best quality of Red Cross volunteer leadership.

(Kate) Being a volunteer with the Grand Canyon Chapter myself, I saw Sam rise from serving on that transportation committee right up the ranks to Chapter Chair, a post he held for 2 years. National, he served on several committees and task forces, including the Chapter Executive

and Board Leadership Task Force. He was Vice Chair of the Resolutions Committee from 2006-2007. You'd think he wouldn't have time to do much of anything else, but he also has a busy law practice and last year he was appointed as Superior Court Judge by the governor of Arizona.

(Brian) Sam is highly respected locally and nationally for his calm, steady and thoughtful leadership, especially during a crisis. He never hesitates to offer help wherever and whenever it is needed.

(Kate) CEO of the Grand Canyon Chapter, Ken Krueger, describes Sam's service like this: "If, as Winston Churchill asserts, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give," then Sam is one of the richest people I know.

(Brian) Your Honor, we are very proud to present you with the 2008 National Leadership Award. Congratulations!

The above script was provided by Pat Ameling, Sr. Volunteer Advisor, American Red Cross National Headquarters, Washington D.C.

Submitted by: Lanore Thumma

***Be a Hero. Give Blood on
Thursday, April 17th, from
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the
United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall.***

Add Two to the List

This week brought the resignation of two additional long-time L-M teachers. These were not early retirement situations—both will be working in neighboring districts next year.

I wasn't the only one in town that was disappointed to hear that Mrs. Kay and Mrs. Saunders were leaving. Mrs. Kay had been so instrumental in preparing our older two children for college level composition—such an important skill for those going on to college. And Mrs. Saunders has certainly played an important role in the development of our children's artistic talents. I haven't had the opportunity to visit with either Mrs. Saunders or Mrs. Kay or to ask them about their reasons for leaving. So, all I can say is that for whatever reason, they have willingly decided to leave us.



***Story Continued on
Page 2...***

...Continued from Page 1

In the past couple of weeks now, we've lost a total of four teachers and one administrator. And, it is possible that there will be more to come before the school year is done. That kind of turnover strikes me as higher than normal in a district of this size. Given the present trajectory, it is possible that we won't have a high school in this town by the end of the decade. I'm told that is "how it all began" in Albert City High School, a school that is no more. The very survival of Laurens, as we know it, would then be called into question. Especially so if we are not part of a regional high school.

I was one of the concerned parents that spent a total of about eight hours in the old gym waiting for word from the school board about the fate of Principal Davis. In the end it came down just about as I had speculated in my earlier column, *Exchanging Jabs*. With the exception of Dr. Brett Fehr, it was all ayes in the vote not to renew Mrs. Davis's contract and the knockout punch that I had referred to was, indeed, delivered. I have often jokingly explained to my lovely wife, Anita (she said I could mention her name any time if I prefaced it with "my lovely wife", that my opinion *is* fact. Unfortunately for Mrs. Davis, my view of the situation held true in this case. Regardless of where you stand on the firing of Mrs. Davis, I trust that you were able to pick up right away that my March 26th article, *Exchanging Jabs*, was my own view of the situation. The use of words like "I believe," "it appears," and "I am not of the opinion" would seem to me

sufficient enough to alert the reader that this was my personal view of the situation.

As for front page placement of my piece—I guess, as the Publisher, I never gave that a thought. My miscellaneous ramblings have, in large part, been placed there since day one. In the future, if you see my photo and my signature or by-line you can safely assume that what you are reading is my viewpoint or opinion. And, if it happens to be on the front page that may not necessarily mean that it is "front page news". Might have been a slow week. Might have been just the right size for that open space on the front page. Or, maybe that's just where I've grown comfortable hanging out.



Fact vs. Opinion

I think it is interesting that a letter was printed on the front page with an "editorial" criticizing the way The Paper is formatted. If you read Rod Johnson's "article" he is very straightforward about the makeup of The Paper. He is also upfront when he states "in my opinion..." Every "reporter" for The Paper (or any other paper) reports their opinion, like it or not. That is the only "fact" that we can be sure of when we read any paper, or incur any media input. So, call it an article, or call it an editorial, either way, it is fair game for the front page in this fabulous media avenue that is available to each of us, equally.

Susie Mayou

Letter to the Editor

I read with interest the letter to the editor criticizing The Paper for not being unbiased as a "true" newspaper should be. I hope that all readers of The Paper realize that it is not a newspaper in the usual sense of the word - it is more like a Web blog where people with an interest in Laurens are invited to share their personal views since it primarily consists of personal contributions. In this way, it is similar to Wikipedia - an online encyclopedia consisting of personal contributions - very unlike the Encyclopedia Britannica, for example, which is thoroughly researched and edited for facts.

Thirty years as a college and public librarian taught me the difference between the typical newspaper, which publishes the official minutes of public meetings, and a Web blog based on personal opinions about those public meetings.

For me, The Laurens Sun provides the official announcements of the courthouse news and public meetings and The Paper provides people's personal reactions to the courthouse news and public meetings including school board meetings.

Another example is a contributor's memories of the old skating rink which followed the official announcement of the new savings and loan building planned for the site of the old skating rink and Hinn's grocery store.

For an interesting article entitled "What does the Web mean for newspapers?" see the March 31, 2008 issue of The New Yorker, pages 48-59. Ask at your local public library for the article.

Kathryn Siddall Rynders
LHS Class of 1962

Letter to the Editor

It saddens me to witness what is going on at our school. Our teachers have been in a very difficult work environment all year and my fear is that more teachers will resign or be terminated. If our experienced teachers go, the students will not be far behind. If students open enroll out of Laurens-Marathon, the money will go with them, which will reduce our budget even more.

Our teachers are an asset not only to our school but to the whole community. These are people who own homes, pay taxes, support our local businesses, and many have children in this school.

Laurens-Marathon teachers have always been polite and respectful to me, without exception. I am sure there are some teachers that do not like me personally, but even those have always been courteous and professional.

As our teachers gain more experience and knowledge, they earn more because they are worth more. It takes real classroom experience for a teacher to gain the skills needed to help students with a wide range of interests and abilities. However, experience has a price, and it is unrealistic to expect someone to be very good at what they do and very cheap at the same time.

As a community, we cannot let ourselves be led down the path of "I love this teacher but that one has got

to go." I truly believe that if each parent had the power to fire one teacher, there would not be a single teacher left standing. The teacher my child dislikes could be the teacher your child loves. The teacher that struggled in the past could be doing a great job now. The class my child struggles in could be the class your child excels in and vice versa. Now is the time to offer every teacher at Laurens-Marathon moral support. As a community we need them, and right now they need us.

Regardless of which side you are on or if you would just like to learn more, whether you have kids in school or not, please attend the school board meeting on Monday, April 14th at 7:00. If the school dies, the community may follow.

Brenda Zylstra

Fact and Opinion

As a Laurens-Marathon Graduate of 2007, a student who was under the authority of Mrs. Rose Davis personally, I believe that some parents, community members, and on-lookers of the latest controversy with Rose need to quit worrying about what they read in the newspapers and look at the situation for what it really is. Open your eyes: reading about what happens in a newspaper or watching news coverage on your TV is not an actual representation of what is going on in our school right now.

Rose Davis is one of the most beloved, trusted, fair, and well-liked school staff members Laurens-Marathon has ever had, and I don't think it's fair for people who have never met or experienced working with Rose to be the judge of what's really going on.

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As for the publisher's comment that was published on the front page of The Paper, maybe you should have looked at his letter as the viewpoint of someone who has had three children under the direction of Rose Davis instead of someone trying to sabotage their authority over what gets put into The Paper. Instead of looking at him as "Publisher of The Paper," maybe you should have considered him as "A Concerned Father."

As for the difference between "fact" and "opinion," something that is completely true is that Laurens-Marathon let an important aspect go when choosing to let Rose Davis go. That's no opinion, it's the truth.

*Sincerely,
Bryn Johnson
Class President,
Laurens-Marathon 2007*

In the interest of full disclosure, it should be known that Ms. Johnson is the Publisher's daughter. Bryn is a 2007 L-M graduate and is currently a freshman at Simpson College-- she would like to be a high school teacher in the future. While Bryn obviously has very close ties to the publisher, I can tell you that this letter was unsolicited.
Rod

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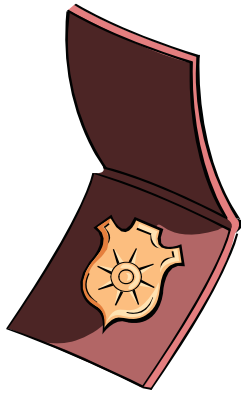
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The Police: Real Criminals

By: Tom Shaw, Chief of Police

I recently received a short note complaining about the enforcement of the No Parking Zones near the school. The citizen expressed an opinion that said we should be out catching "real" criminals, as if issuing the parking ticket was a waste of our time and unfair to her. Well, through the routine and sometimes mundane tasks of parking and traffic enforcement police nationwide do catch "real criminals." In New York City, the dreaded Son of Sam serial murderer was arrested and prosecuted due to several parking tickets he had received. The police were able to identify him because the times and dates on the tickets corresponded with the times of the murders in the same area. To cite another example, the Oklahoma City Bomber, Timothy McVeigh was apprehended due to a "routine" traffic stop. During the last seven-day, special traffic enforcement period held across the State of Iowa, there were 35 felony arrests, 110 narcotics arrests, 309 Operating While Intoxicated arrests, and 206 arrests for outstanding warrants. So clearly, we do catch "real" criminals. Those who choose to participate in criminal activity rarely worry about obeying traffic laws.

The primary purpose of enforcing traffic and parking laws is to keep our highways and streets safer. Although a parking ticket at the school may seem



like a minor infraction, keep in mind the bigger picture -- the safety of our children. Blocking the vision of other drivers at the intersections puts our children at risk and when weighed against the possibility of an accident, parking enforcement is more than justified.

You notice that whenever I use the word "routine", I always put it in quotation marks. The only thing that is "routine" about a traffic stop is that an officer is never sure of what to expect. As stated above, we often run across individuals with arrest warrants, find narcotics and other contraband, find drivers without insurance or a license, or maybe even an intoxicated driver. It is understandable when a local citizen feels like they are being treated like a criminal during a traffic stop. But for their personal safety and protection, officers must follow certain procedures. During a "routine" traffic stop, the officer must maintain their vigilance as they do not know: 1) who is in the car, 2) is the car stolen, or, 3) I can see the driver, but is someone crouched in the back seat with a gun? There are too many dangerous scenarios to mention them all here. Officers are trained to be prepared for the worst, and do not have the luxury of thinking "it won't happen here," but must operate on the principal of "when it happens here."

I would also like to remind the driving public to please be careful when approaching the sight of a traffic stop. More officers are killed by being hit on the side of the road than by being shot. Iowa has a "Move Over" law which simply mandates that motorists slow down and change lanes, or stop if necessary, when approaching an emergency vehicle on the side of the road.

As you can see, traffic enforcement consists of more than catching speeders. It is a vital function which helps keep you and the community safe. For questions or comments on this article, I can be reached at 841-4414 or by email at lzpd@laurens-ia.com.

Dog Obedience Meeting

4-H'ers that are interested in attending Dog Obedience training this year will have an informational meeting Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the ISU Extension Office in Pocahontas. Please bring a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination. Do NOT bring your dog to this meeting. If you would like to take the training, but can't attend the meeting, please call the ISU Extension Office at 712-335-3103 for further details.

Pocahontas County Fair Sheep/Goat Weigh-In

All 4-H and FFA members exhibiting market sheep at the 2008 Pocahontas County Fair need to have their lambs weighed in Saturday, April 12 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Pocahontas County Fairgrounds in Pocahontas. Any meat goats that will be exhibited at the Iowa State Fair need to be weighed in at this time also. Goats exhibiting at the Pocahontas County fair do not need to be at this weigh-in. For further information, contact the ISU Extension Office at 712-335-3103.

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From the Heart

We will wrap up the discussion on framing this week. The actual frame is really a personal choice. I would recommend going into a professional framer with an open mind. Don't be afraid to take their time and see all of your choices. Ask them what they would do. Explain where it will be hanging.

Mounting of the artwork needs to be decided next. I would strongly recommend that you ask for all cloth material (kimono, baptismal gown, jersey, cross-stitch, etc) to be hand sewn on. Any glue or tape can change the color of the cloth in time. Paper prints can either be heat mounted or dry mounted with glue. This permanently binds it to the backboard...but be warned. My aunt had a signed and numbered Norman Rockwell print in storage and it got wet. The backboard acts like a wick and the moisture ruined her print. I personally like to "hinge" the print to the mat or backboard so it hangs. With this proce-

dure, the print can adjust to the humidity in our homes easier.

Taking care of your artwork. When you pick up your artwork...avoid keeping it in your car for very long. The confined space of a car can result in extremes of temperature and humidity, producing conditions that are unfavorable to artwork.

When your artwork is home, hang it where it is not exposed to "danger". Normal room traffic, light, temperature, and humidity are all conditions that can damage artwork. Remember also, the higher you hang the artwork, the higher the temperature is. And high humidity can cause paper to become wavy and creates the conditions for mold growth.

Also avoid: outside walls that get damp or hot; steamy rooms like kitchens or baths (for signed prints); drafts from doors or windows frequently left open to the outside; fireplaces that smoke or become hot; bright light of any kind (both direct and reflected); smoke and fumes. Also make sure that an air vent from a furnace will hit your

artwork.

Cleaning your artwork. Do not spray a glass cleaner directly onto your artwork. It will run down in between the glass and frame and become absorbed by the materials. Use a soft feather or lambs-wool duster to remove dust from frames. And please don't use furniture polish on canvas pieces.

Damage. If you should ever suffer damage to your art by fires or floods... immediately contact your insurance agent. See if they recommend a professional framer to take it to. If artwork is exposed to water or extreme humidity, the greatest damage occurs when it dries. The sooner care is given, the greater the chance to reduce the potential of damage or total loss.

I know that some of this is "humdrum", but if you ever need to know this...you will be thankful!

*From the heart,
Julie Wurr*

Letter to the Editor

A wise person once said, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it."

Many community members don't like our school board's decision regarding Mrs. Davis and wish they could change it. Unfortunately, the decision was made.

Now, moving forward, if you will continue to support Rose and/or take actions to do what you feel is right for the school or for yourself - do it. But do it by changing the way you're thinking about it if you are overwhelmed with revenge or negativity.

Move ahead proactively, without compromising the standards and character Rose has inspired in our district, faculty and students. Stay positive, stay

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honest, stay strong, and do well by our students in your representation of your opinions and how you present yourself to all involved.

There is a time and place for everything, and to allow a situation such as this to spawn further unneeded disrespect and negativity will lead away from the goal - Working Together, Achieving Success!!

Sarah Main

A Response to the School

I, like several people I talked to, read the response in the Fort Dodge newspaper from Mr. Joelson. I did email him with no response.

This is the email: I read your response to the Monday sit in. I did talk to my kids about this. This is what I told them--

that if they feel like this is what they need to do, and are willing to face the outcome for this, they can sit in. You stated that you can't believe the lack of respect that these kids have. Well, in my family respect is earned and not given without it. I think that Mr. Joelson and the school board have lost all respect that they did have. I'm glad to see so many kids at school willing to back Mrs. Davis.

Maybe the school board and Mr Joelson need to read the text book about peaceful protest in our history. This started before 1776 and continues today. See this text in Washington DC signed by 13 colonies.

My kids like the school. What an education they are getting in the class room and outside of it. Don't we need to foster free thinking people willing to stand up for what they believe in? I still think this is what the USA still stands for.

Thanks for reading this.

*Dale Larson
Marathon, Iowa*

Laurens United Methodist Church

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

Sun. April 13

9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday School
9:30 a.m. ~ Fellowship Coffee
10:30 a.m. ~ Worship
11:30 a.m. ~ SPRC
4:00 p.m. ~ Pastor Larry leads Good Samaritan service

Wed. April 16

12:00 p.m. ~ Leadership
7:30 p.m. ~ Sr. UMYF
8:15 p.m. ~ Ad Council

Thurs. April 17

9:15 a.m. ~ Rachel Circle
2-6 p.m. ~ Blood Drive
2:00 p.m. ~ Dorcas Circle

Fri. April 18

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

Sat. April 19

6:30 p.m. ~ Prom Dinner



This Week at Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday, April 9:

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

Thursday, April 10:

6:00 AM Leadership Team
1:00 PM FISH
7:00 PM MOPS

Saturday, April 12:

9:30 AM Mother/Daughter/Friend Brunch

Sunday, April 13:

8:30 AM & 10:45 AM Morning Worship
9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages
4:30 PM Timothy Team
5:30 PM U-Turn 180 (High School)

Wednesday, April 16:

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

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.

Tues. April 15

KC Dinner Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

This Week at Bethany

Wednesday,

April 9th

9 AM ~ Staff Meeting
4-5:30 PM ~ Confirmation Classes @ Grace, Marathon
7 PM ~ High School Bible Study @ Clevelands

Saturday, April 12th

7 PM ~ Ladies' Night Out (Bring a friend along!!)

Sunday, April 13th

9 AM ~ Worship
10 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship
10:15 AM ~ Sunday School Hour

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



Living in God's amazing grace

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

Benefit for Helen Lathrom

Benefit for Helen Lathrom from Marathon. Bartender from Ike's Job Site. Sunday, April 13th. Lunch: 11:00-1:00 (free will donation) Auction: 1:00-? Live music with Neal Ruge following. Held at Marathon Community Center. Auction items and money donations may be dropped off at Ike's Job Site or Napa in Laurens. Items can also be brought the day of the event. Baked goods are also items that will be on the auction. Questions call Dave @ 712-450-2065 or Kristi @ 712-845-4779. Proceeds are to help Helen with medical expenses.

Laurens Federated Women's Club Meeting

The Laurens Federated Women's Club will meet Friday, April 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Homestead Cooperative of Laurens. Joyce Rigby will give the program about "Founding Mothers". She will also present "A Moment in History". Members of the serving committee will be Jan Grossnickle and Jackie Stelter. The hostess for the meeting will be Bonnie Heetland.

Baby Shower

There will be a come and go baby shower for Carl and Kristin Anderson, Saturday, April 19 at Grace Lutheran Church in Marathon from 9:30-11:00. They are expecting twin boys in July. Registered at Target and Wal-Mart.

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Erickson Greene Shower

There will be a bridal shower for Abbey Erickson, bride elect of Brad Greene, on April 26th at Bethany Lutheran Church, Laurens, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There will be a short program at 10:00 a.m. The happy couple are registered at Heart 'n Home, JH Design, Younkers, Pampered Chef, Target and Elements by K. Sorbe (Storm Lake). Please come and join us for a fun morning.



Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, cards, telephone calls, visits and meals during my recovery from my recent surgery. They were all uplifting. I am feeling great. Also, thank you to Erica for taking care of my clients. I am forever grateful.

Jayne Woodin

LOST!

Black "Dewalt Racing" jacket with a vertical gray stripe on the front. Yellow #17 on the back collar. Please call 712-845-4303 if found!

Laurens Community Blood Drive

Be a Hero. Give Blood. Siouxland Blood Bank will be in Laurens Thursday, April 17th, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Your blood donation will be very important to someone! Be sure to bring a photo I.D. You may come at any time during the stated hours, but if you prefer to make an appointment, you may do so on line at www.donorsaves.org, use Code Name: Laurens.

Local & School Calendar

April 10-Girls track, Charger Relays at Laurens at 5:00 p.m.

April 11-School will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m.; Professional Development from 1:00-3:30 p.m.; Golf with Storm Lake St. Mary's at Lake Creek, boys and girls JV & V at 4:00 p.m.

April 12-IHSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival at Holstein.

April 14-Northwest Conference golf at 4:00 p.m., girls V at Alta, boys V at Laurens; Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m.; State FFA in Ames begins.

April 15-Boys track, Odebolt/Arthur Relays at Ida Grove at 5:00 p.m.; girls track, PAC Relays at Pocahontas at 5:00 p.m.; Charger Golf, TRV & NE Hamilton at Spring Lake, JV & V, girls & boys at 4:00 p.m.

Historical Society to Meet

The Pocahontas County Iowa Historical Society will meet April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pocahontas Public Library. Bring a memento, picture or story from your family history. Refreshments will be served.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the cards, flowers and visits at both the hospital and nursing home after I fell. A special "THANK YOU" to Darwin, Garthlene, Kevin and Rick with the Laurens Ambulance Service for your speedy response and excellent care on the way to Spencer. I am back home and doing well now.

Helen Caskey

Baby Shower

Please join us for a come & go baby shower for Olivia Kay Dahlberg, daughter of Mitchell Dahlberg and Crystal Cuklanz on Saturday, April 12th from 2-4 p.m. at the Good Sam. Center in Laurens.

Systems Coordinator

Systems Coordinator will serve the primary function of supporting the company's software systems, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Provides support of the Warehouse Management System and any future software at the DC
- Responsible for security administration and access control of all software
- Research and corrects any failed transactions between the WMS and ERP
- Responds to the needs and questions of the software users
- Document any configuration changes to the WMS and trains the users on these changes

SQL, Crystal Reports, Manhattan ILS, and Microsoft Navision experience a plus
Hours: Monday – Friday

3rd Shift Wave Planner

- Friday – Saturday – Sunday
- Work 36 hours- get paid for 40 w/ no time missed.
- Builds LTL loads in the computer as orders are complete
- Must be very detail oriented
- Computer skills
- Must be able to multi task

Also looking for Production workers, Fork Lift Drivers and Order Selectors
Accepting applications at your local Iowa Workforce Development.



At the Library with Glenda Mulder

April 9, 2008

Remember all those crazy “Book Worms” we sold? Well, this week we spent the profits on new countertops for the bath-

rooms. It’s a great start! The next step will be to get the stall doors painted.

While they are out of the bathrooms, I plan to paint the walls a neutral shade. That should be a calming change from the “Brady Bunch” era wallpaper! Check out the progress next time you’re here.

This Friday, April 11, the library will again host a story time for the kids. Pocahontas County Naturalist, Clay Steele, will present a program about



Migration and Hibernation at 1:30. He’s got some great books to read and fun activities planned. So come out of hibernation and migrate to the library and join the fun!

Think back to your first memory of a public library. If you’re like me, your mental picture is of a Carnegie Library. Most likely in the basement, as that is where most housed their children’s collections. At 7:00 April 22, Shana Stuart will present a program about Carnegie Libraries.

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.

Our April 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. I’m looking forward to digging in to this book. Stop in and pick up a copy so

you can join the discussion on Monday, April 28th.

Alvin and the Chipmunks joined our DVD collection this week. New novels this week include:

- . *Antiques Maul* by Barbara Allen
- . *Prisoner of Birth* by Jeffery Archer
- . *The Silver Swan* by Benjamin Black
- . *Zapped* by Carol Higgins Clark
- . *The Carrot Cake Murder* by Joanne Fluke
- . *Bulls Island* by Dorthea Benton Frank
- . *Dark Tide* by Andrew Gross
- . *Finder* by Colin Harrison
- . *City of the Sun* by David Levien
- . *Lush Life* by Richard Price
- . *Christ the Lord: The Road to Canaan* by Anne Rice
- . *Friend of the Devil* by Peter Robinson
- . *Miss Julia Paints the Town* by Ann B. Ross
- . *Certain Girls* by Jennifer Weiner
- . *10 Year Nap* by Meg Wolitzer

Stop in and check it out!

New Countertops!

Leo’s Countertops started the update of the Laurens Public Library bathrooms this week. Stop in and check out the progress the next time you are in.



Submit...

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

Dear Roxer

Puppy Kindergarten

Once that you have chosen a new puppy, remember that socialization is a primary consideration. Hopefully, your puppy has stayed with its littermates until it is eight weeks of age. The litter of puppies may start to eat solid food at about four weeks of age. They can start to get along without mom's milk. BUT, the puppy is in no way ready to leave the litter. There are key points in the puppy's life that will impact its future as a social animal. The puppy needs to interact with its littermates. As the puppies wrestle and bite each other, they learn how hard to bite, before the litter mate either snarls back or yelps and won't play the game any more. Mom also will continue to discipline her puppies. Your well-rounded puppy needs this all-important foundation in order to learn to get along with people and other dogs. Hopefully, you can find a class that offers the "Kindergarten" classes for puppies.

One exercise that we used at the Puppy Kindergarten was to play, "pass the puppy". After a short bit of introductory obedience, I had owners sit on the floor with their puppies. Usually two groups of five people, as I kept each class size at ten participants. The owners would simply pass their puppy to the person next to them. For the next few minutes, each new person would pet the puppy and visit with them, then pass on to the next person. This exercise gave the puppy a new person to visit several times during the session. We also gave time for the puppies to visit one another on leash. Care was taken if there were larger puppies so as not to intimidate the smaller puppies. We also did not force "visiting" time. If a puppy showed shyness, we let them come out of their shell in their own time. As the weeks went on, the shy puppies did gain confidence and venture to visit and play.

I also encouraged the owners to take their puppies to as many places as possible. Visit the Veterinary clinic and let the people there pet and visit your puppy. The puppy will also learn that the clinic is a "happy

place". Visit parks, take the puppy to watch your kids' sports games. Maybe there is a dog park nearby. Do make sure that your puppy has had the basic puppy vaccinations and take care to avoid waste material. You do want to be cautious as far as diseases, but these early weeks and months are very important to socialization.

At the clinic and as an obedience instructor, we would see dogs that would display fear and fear biting problems. People would often say that the puppy or dog was abused. Quite frankly, these dogs were not abused; they simply were not socialized properly. Be sure to take the time to socialize your puppy.

Next, where to start with basic obedience.

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

More About that Rebate: Save or Spend?

What should Iowans do with their government rebate money — the economic stimulus payments they'll be receiving from the federal government after May 15?

"Spending the rebate funds may be the best choice for some families, especially if the purchase has lasting value," said Pat Swanson, Iowa State University Extension family resource management state specialist. "But compulsive spending is never a good idea and is not a financially wise use of these funds. Families should plan before spending."

Swanson offers the following advice for families.

Plan purchases. Swanson encourages people to think through spending options — even the ones that aren't especially exciting or glamorous. She recommends involving the family to identify all possible purchases and deciding together which one is the most important. Extension has numerous

resources available to help with planning personal finances (www.extension.iastate.edu/finances/personal), including a free online course called Take Control of Your Money, (www.extension.iastate.edu/finances/personal/money/web-course.htm).

Pay off debts. Paying on over-due monthly bills or credit card bills with high interest rates are both wise uses of the rebate, according to Swanson. "If a person is paying \$50 per month on a \$2,000 credit card bill with an interest rate of 18 percent, he or she could save \$800 in interest by applying \$1,000 of the rebate to the bill and continuing with \$50 per month payments." To figure how paying off debts can save money, check out Extension's PowerPay© (www.extension.iastate.edu/finances/personal/creditdebt/PowerPay.htm).

Start or add to an emergency fund. Having money saved for emergencies can get families through minor tough times, like car repairs or medical bills, without causing great strain on finances. An emergency fund also can help relieve the initial stress of the ultimate emergency, loss of employment.

Put rebate in savings for irregular expenses. There are times when something comes up and pulling out the credit card seems like the only choice to meet the expense; a savings fund can eliminate the need to add to credit card debt. Big bills — like holiday expenses, an insurance bill, or school tuition and supplies that come once a year or every few months — are more easily managed if money has been set aside for them.

Many people will be determined to make a special purchase with rebate money. Before spending on a purchase, Swanson advises putting some of the rebate toward paying off debt, planning for upcoming needs or long-term savings goals. Then, use remaining rebate dollars to make day-to-day life better.

"Make a wish list, choose the most important item, and shop for it wisely," Swanson said.

Services Held Recently for Daniel E. Ford

Daniel E. Ford age 77, of Los Angeles, CA, formerly of Laurens, died on March 6, at The Berkley West Convalescent Hospital in Santa Monica, CA.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Laurens with Fr. Donald Slaven officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to service at the church.

Daniel Elias Ford was born on July 13, 1930, at Emmetsburg. He was the son of Harold and Cecelia (Hickey) Ford. He grew up on a farm near Curlew until 1940 when his family moved to the Laurens area. Dan was educated in Laurens, graduating from Laurens High School in 1949. He later received a BFA from the University of Iowa. In 1953, he entered the U.S. Army, serving in France during the Korean War. Dan attended graduate school at Iowa and moved to California in 1956. He worked for several architectural firms, finishing his career with RBB Associates in Los Angeles in 2004 with over 30 years of service. He was a project architect, and his specialty was medical buildings. He worked for many years on buildings in the Cedars-Sinai complex in Los Angeles.

Dan's hobbies included reading, photography, book collecting, sports cars, judging car shows and world travel. He was an accomplished artist.

Survivors include his sister: Patricia Ford Payne of Oceanside, CA; brothers: Joseph E. Ford of Hamilton, OH and Michael T. (Sally) Ford of Eden Prairie, MN; five nephews, one niece, one grand-niece and one grand-nephew.

Services Held Recently for Joe H. Halterman

Joe H. Halterman, age 93, of Laurens, passed away on March 31, at Mesa, Arizona.

Visitation was held on Sunday, April 6, from 4-8 p.m. at the Smith-Lotterbour-Powers Funeral Home in Laurens. Funeral services were held on Monday, April 7, at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Laurens with Rev.

Larry McAlpine officiating.

Joe Henry Halterman was born on October 11, 1914, at Dawson, Nebraska and died on March 31, 2008, at Mesa, Arizona, at the age of 93. He was the son of Miles Albert and Maude Oakey (Dappen) Halterman.

Joe graduated from Dawson High School in 1934, and from Peru State College in 1938. He taught high school in Smithland, Iowa from 1938 to 1941. In June of 1941, Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served for four and a half years, with eighteen months overseas. On June 12, 1942, Joe married Maxine Bryan of Sergeant Bluff, at the Presidio of San Francisco Chapel. After the war, Joe returned to teaching. He received his Masters Degree from Drake University. Mr. Halterman held positions of superintendent of schools in Truesdale, Moorhead, Dunlap and Laurens.

Joe retired as superintendent in 1979. He remained active in the Army Reserve, retiring after twenty-six years as a Lt. Colonel, having attended Command General Staff School in 1966. Joe and Maxine loved spending the winter months in Arizona. Maxine died on August 1, 1997, and Joe continued to spend his winters in Arizona.

In the fifty-five years of marriage, four children were born: Bryan Joe, Sharon Maxine, Roger Miles and Debra Jean.

Joe was a member of the Laurens United

Methodist Church and the Laurens Lions Club. He was a seventy plus year member of the Masonic Lodge and the Shrine and had served on the Laurens Library Board for twenty-seven years, twenty as president. Joe had a love of golfing. He was so proud of winning many senior tournaments. The children and grandchildren loved hearing stories about the history of dad and grandpa



and his adventures growing up.

Joe talked on many occasions of the trip he and Maxine took to Europe in 1994, for the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day. Another memorable trip was to Alaska. Joe's last trip was given by his sons, Bryan and Roger. The three flew to Washington, D.C. in March of 2007, seeing the sights including the World War II monument.

Joe was proud to live in Laurens. Joe was honored to ride in the parade for the town's 125th and to be asked to open the time capsule at the school. He had a wonderful time participating in the Strait Lawnmower ride, being the leader to follow with Joe's picture on the front of t-shirts. He also enjoyed a great day with many friends, past teachers and relatives at a party celebrating his ninetieth birthday.

Survivors include his sons: Bryan (Diana) Halterman of Wylie, Texas and Roger (Denise) Halterman of Lancaster, California; daughters: Sharon (Gary) Schoenfeld of Denison and Debra (Bill) Nonus of Rockwall, Texas; grandchildren: Jeff, Brett, Marnie, Shelley, Karen, Janet, Mark, Tara, Drew, Stephen, Samuel and Shani and great-grandchildren: Emily, Amanda, Laci, Claire, Brian, Katelyn, Christopher, Jacob and Tyler Joe.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, wife Maxine and sister, Viola.

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*Laurens-Marathon
Tall Corn Chapter*



FFA Awards

Mike Hertz received the Star Greenhand, Andrew Hanson received the Star Chapter Farmer and Schyler Bechtel received the Star Greenhand also.



*Scholarships
Awarded*

Adrian Johnson received the Matt Steinkamp scholarship, which was \$400. Jessica Philp received the Dekalb accomplishment. Brent Leuer received the Blue and Gold award and Keton Joynt received the Ag Partners scholarship of \$500. There were 180 people that attended the Laurens-Marathon Tall Corn Banquet on March 27th at the Pocahontas Expo Center.

3rd Graders Receive Dictionaries

Pocahontas Rotary Club were pleased to provide dictionaries to third grade children in Pocahontas County: Pocahontas Catholic School, Pocahontas Area Community School District and Laurens-Marathon Community School District.

Fifty-one dictionaries were delivered to students and their teachers by Rotary President, Calista Hammes.

This resource book, "A Student's Dictionary", is truly a resource of information for the students. The appendix contains historical facts of each United States president; an atlas of maps and facts regarding each state, country, and continent; civic lessons (i.e.; The United States Constitution; The Declaration of Independence); information regarding the planets of the solar system; weights, measurements and Metric systems; The Periodic Table and Multiplication Table; and the communication systems of Braille and sign language.

When they received their gift dictionaries, the students were excited and began to read them immediately. The teachers have developed several lesson plans to use the dictionaries as the cornerstone of their activities.



Pictured: Laurens-Marathon Third Grade Class from left to right; Row 1: Cory Rohrbaugh, Jason Wood, Kacie Kox; Row 2: Eric Carter, Hannah Nagengast, Ashley Yartz; Row 3: Jake Unger, Hannah Runneberg, Tiffany Linke; Row 4: Noah Anderson, Ricky Hunger, McKenna Crotty, Noah Paepke; Row 5: Mrs. Sandy Aronson, Mrs. Calista Hammes

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!



7th Grade AAU Volleyball

The L-M 7th grade AAU volleyball team won all their games at Humboldt on Saturday, March 8, 2008 to qualify for State.

State 7th Grade AAU volleyball was on Saturday, March 29, 2008 in Ankeny. The girls played a lot of volleyball and gained valuable experience.



Pictured from left to right. Back Row: Coach Rhonda Saunders, Kristen Alstott, Kaitlyn Pinney, Carly Lampe, Marissa Brockman, Ivy Johnson. Front Row: Kylie Sundblad, Taylor Jensen, Caitlyn Heuton, Ashley Resse. Absent from photo: Ciri Gunnarson.

Submitted By: Carolyn Alstott

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Announcements

Marathon Fireman's Ball

April 19, 2008

Marathon Community Center

Hog Roast and Music by The Expressions

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\$6 for Food and Band

Band Starts at 8:00 p.m.

Raffles Throughout the Night



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www.heartnhomeonline.com

Thank You

I would like to thank all that were able to attend my surprise 30th birthday party at Ike's Job Site in Marathon on Friday, April 4th. It meant so much to be able to see so many friendly faces there. Thanks again to everyone that helped out and many thanks to my family and my wife for all of their hard work.

Sincerely,
Aaron Blankenship

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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 10th will be a pork loin dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, a vegetable and a bun. *Public Welcome!*

Bridal Registry at JH Desgin 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.

Announcements

Moving/Garage Sale: Furniture, freezers, kitchen items, home decor, hammock with stand, tent, patio set, DON'T MISS THIS ONE! 213 Byron St., Laurens, Friday, April 11th 3-7 p.m. and Saturday, 8-noon.

One Stop, 8 Rummage Sales: Saturday, April 19th 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sacred Heart Parish Center, 250 Ralston St., Laurens. Infant, Toddler, Girls and Boys Clothing, Toys, Household Items and Misc.

2 Party Garage Sale, 523 Smith St., Womens, Children and Infant Clothing, Furniture, Toys, Misc., and Baked Goods. Definitely Something for Everyone. Saturday, April 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

JH Design Bridal Registry. Abbey Erickson & Brad Greene. Amanda Svuba & Brad Tendal. Erica Schuttler & Brent Svuba. Briana Finley & Jason Foster. We wrap and deliver. 217 W. Veterans Road. Laurens. 841-4585

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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.

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