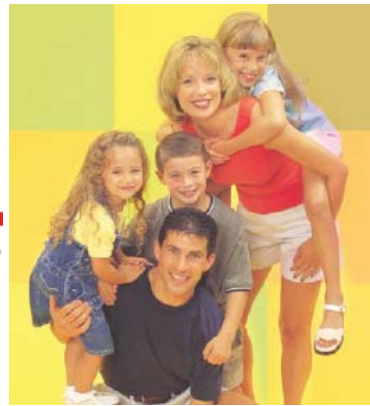


The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!
Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 1 No. 21

www.mylaurens.com

August 28, 2007

Rumors Pub - Guest Bartenders

Slinging bottles cocktail style . . .



Scott and Charity Madsen spent Friday, August 22nd serving up tasty beverages to Laurens locals, at Rumors Pub. As guest bartenders, Scott & Charity were learning the ropes.



“Rumors is one of the most relaxing spots around and the fact that it is smoke-free is quite nice,” noted Charity. “Laurens is fortunate to have such a fine establishment for the community”. Don’t miss a full weekend of fun and entertainment the weekend of Rumors big “One Year Anniversary” on September 21st and 22nd. Two fun-packed evenings kick off Friday night with the Bacardi Girls. What is a Bacardi Girl? Watch The Paper for more info each week. Saturday join us for Jimmy Buffet

night--entertainment, and great drink specials. Don’t Miss It! The Madsens will for sure be there!

A Note From the Publisher

While The Paper is a little slimmer than usual with the Quasqui behind us and the Fall sports yet to really begin, this week’s issue is an interesting one. There’s



news from Laurens, France with some interesting photos. I’m very pleased that our new friends in France have chosen The Paper to keep us informed about their local happenings! You’ll

also find an interesting article about a memorable trip to Ireland. It would appear that The Paper has taken on an international flavor.

Perhaps one of the more interesting articles that we’ve received to date is this week’s *My Secret Life as an Elvis Fan*. Submitted anonymously, this article is really an interesting read and I think you’ll enjoy it. The author thought you’d all enjoy trying to guess who... As Elvis might say, “I thankya, I thankya very much!”

Our local businesses have started to see the value in advertising in The Paper and I encourage you to let them know that you saw their ads here! If you enjoy reading The Paper, let our advertisers know it--they support *your* paper financially!

Thanks again for your interesting articles and photographs. When you share with us, you’re sharing with your community--a community that’s now stretching out well beyond N-28 and Highway 10!

Pocahontas County Historical Society

Pocahontas County Historical Society will meet at the Pocahontas Public Library on September 10th at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! Program: Dennis Fitzgerald telling about the history of his unique building on Main Street. Roll call: Memories of local banking, plus mementoes of banks in the county. Serving: Ruth Sefcik and Jeanette Korreck.

Did We Miss Anything?

The spam filter ate it!

This past week our email system went through some unexpected changes in the war against spam and it may be possible that we missed some of your news submissions in the change-over. If you have submitted news in recent days and you do not see it in this issue, please re-submit you article and we’ll get it into the next issue. We apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused!

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Notes from Laurens, France

We are home! With our memories and photos of an incredible visit with our fellow Laurentians in Iowa, to share with our villagers. It is almost as if we experienced a magnificent, warm and friendly "Dream" and met with a group of people whom one only dreams about. However, we have to wake-up and get on with our "Rentrée" (the French term for going back to normal activities after vacation).

We arrived in Laurens during the first day of our "Fête du Village"-- the annual 3 day summer village feast. Three nights of eating, drinking-a little-and a lot of dancing. With a different orchestra playing each evening. The bravest of our group, Geneviève included, went straight from our cars to the "Fête". I went to bed.

The Fête was a success and a large number of visitors from other villages and camp grounds participated. Lots of fun and no trouble-- like Laurens, Iowa.

Next came our annual Art Exhibition. We have a group of "Artists" in the village who get together each

week to paint. It is part of our "Foyer Rural". This is our organization in the village which "Sponsors" most of the social and athletic clubs. The Art group exhibits their efforts each summer in our Château-see the photos of the "Vernissage" - that is the "By Invitation" preview. As with most things French, the eating and drinking part of the evening is very important. Thus a photo of that part of the event.

Everyone in the village is asking about our visit with "The Americans". What were they like? Where did you stay? How did you communicate? And above all: What did you eat? With our answers Laurens, Iowa has become legendary. Our group has formed an Association to plan for your "Return Visit" in 2008. The first important event

will be a Laurens, Iowa Information Evening where we will be presenting a DVD about our visit to you. This will take place on 31 August in our Château. Naturally there will be a glass of "Friendship" wine to complete the evening. We shall send Peter Hong a copy.

Finally, we are very glad that it has rained in Iowa. We are still waiting for ours. Our very best to you all. Take care. RW.



This is the "Eating and Drinking" part of the art exhibition in our Château



A part of the art exhibition in our Château



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My Secret Life as an Elvis Fan

I can clearly remember the one and only time I saw Elvis Presley in concert. It was New Years Eve, 1976. My family was in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania visiting relatives and we all got to go see Elvis since my Mother was a huge fan and her brother bought us surprise tickets for Christmas that year.

I remember thinking at the concert that I could not wear my bicentennial dress anymore since it was going to be a new year. I remember my cousin and me fighting over the binoculars so we could see well. It was really cold out but I recall being hot from dancing and singing with my cousin Brad in our balcony seats. I remember my Grandparents clapping and smiling when he sang 'Amen' and I remember my Mother with her hands over her heart when he sang 'My Way'. Brad and I laughed at her. My favorite song was 'Jonnie B. Good' and I sang it all the time with the Elvis actions. It was that particular night that I went from being an Elvis in the car singer with my Mother to being a true fan. It would have never occurred to me that night that I would learn about death and remembrance that year or that I was there for Elvis's final New Year's Eve concert.

Later that year I visited Elvis' home, Graceland, in Memphis, Tennessee with my Mother when I was 10 years old. It was my double digit birthday gift and it was perfect. Elvis was alive then and I remember talking to all the other fans outside the Graceland gates. I felt like an important celebrity when Vester Presley (Elvis' Uncle) picked me

and my Mother to ride up with him in his jeep to tour the grounds – leaving behind all the other fans outside the gates. He told me I was cute as a button and I could bring my Mother along if I wanted. (There was never any doubt my Mother would want to go as she was one of the Elvis diehard fans from the start!) I was awed and could hardly speak as I was on that 15

minute jeep ride and such an important person was talking to me about school and asking me what my favorite color was and did I like grape soda pop like he did. When I called him 'sir' at one point he told me I should just call him Uncle Vester just like Elvis did. I found a empty Schlitz Beer can that Uncle Vester said I could have that I picked up – never knowing for sure if Elvis was the one that drank that particular can of beer – but as a wide eyed child I kept that beer can in my bedroom for many years to come.

I was at Cattle Congress on August 16, 1977 when I learned that Elvis had died. I remember I had on a blue Elvis T-shirt

and polyester shorts that my Mother had made for me. On my tennis shoes I had beaded friendship safety pins that I had been collecting from everyone who traded or gave them to me. Friendship pins were an important peer status symbol then and the more you had, the

more people would trade with you. It was a sad day and my Mother cried most of the day, making the day even sadder. All day long and into the next day they played Elvis tribute songs on the radio

and at some point, for every song they sang, I took off one of the friendship safety pins from my shoes and placed it on my favorite Elvis black T-shirt that I had gotten in Memphis earlier in the year. I did that song after song until all my friendship

pins were off my shoes and on my shirt. It was my own special child tribute to "The King" and even though I did not know him personally, it was the first time I felt loss.

This past week I had the opportunity to revisit Graceland and it just happened to be Elvis Week and the 30th anniversary of his death. As I stood outside the Graceland gates, I could remember my first visit there like it was yesterday, when in reality it was over thirty years ago. Across the street from Graceland I was astonished when I realized how many changes had taken place in honor of "The King". Elvis attractions were everywhere. There are Elvis specialty stores with jumpsuits, shoes and even Elvis furniture. There is an Elvis kids store, an ice cream shop, and even the Graceland Harley-Davidson shop. They have an automobile museum, a gallery, a jet airplane museum, and even a chapel that performs weddings. But most of all I got to once again go up the Graceland driveway, but this time into the Graceland Mansion. (I confess we ended up getting the VIP all inclusive pass that let us into ALL of the Elvis attractions.)

Continued on page 6



O, take me back to Ireland

As an eight-year-old Laurens farm girl, Gertrude Ford dreamed of some day visiting Ireland. She had been charmed by the tales of her paternal grandfather, Patrick Forde, who had emigrated from the old sod as a young man in the middle 1800s.

In 1985 Gert (Ford) Crotty of Laurens had her dream fulfilled when her three sons bought her a trip to Ireland as a special birthday/Mother's Day gift. Middle son Denis Crotty, who was a bachelor at the time, accompanied her, knowing his widowed mother would never make the trip by herself, even as part of a tour group. Upon landing at the Shannon, Ireland airport, they broke away from the tour, rented a car, and headed out in search of the roots to the family tree.

The memorable eight-day trip gave Gert an opportunity to meet long-distance, shirt-tail relatives who still lived on the Forde family farm and in other parts of Ireland. The peace and the pace reminded Denis of his own childhood days in Laurens in the 1950s and 60s. He fell in love with the country and his Irish heritage.

In 1989 Denis and Joyce Crotty honeymooned in Ireland, fulfilling a promise Denis had made four years earlier when he had nary a prospect of even finding a bride! They made a return trip in 1992, still enamored by the Irish charm. A year later they became the proud parents of a blue-eyed blonde whom they named Mariah.

Now it's 2007 and time for Denis to fulfill another earlier self-promise. As part of a special 14th birthday gift, Mariah flew with her parents from the Des Moines airport (the day after the Laurens quasiquicentennial parade) to Ireland... in search of the shamrocks. Upon arrival, orientation was a challenge...driving a leprechaun-sized car on the left side of the skinny Irish

roads, from what we Yanks know as the co-pilot's seat. Gradually and gratefully (say seven-hour jet-lag), we found our way to the Ballyseede Castle for our first night of Irish hospitality. We enjoyed farmhouse bed & breakfast accommodations on the rest of our trip, frequently greeted by the family dog upon arrival. As much as we enjoyed the hearty Irish breakfast each morning, the best part was meeting and chatting with other travelers from Ireland, Italy, Australia, Switzerland, England, the USA, and other countries.

Our self-tour included many of the traditional Irish tourist venues such as Dingle Bay, the Ring of Kerry and the lakes of Killarney, kissing the Blarney Stone, the Waterford Crystal factory tour, a horse-drawn carriage ride through the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park near New Ross, the open-air double-decker bus tour of Dublin's many historic sights, the countryside peat bogs of Connemara, the 400 ft. Cliffs of Moher, and much more.

Less traditional but more personal highlights included visits with Irish relatives, including a visit to the Forde

family farm so Mariah could see where her namesake had been born so many generations ago. We also enjoyed afternoon snacks at Crotty's Inn in Lemybrien, Crotty's Coffee House in Kilkenny, and at Crotty's Pub in Kilrush.

We wanted to make the trip educational for Mariah, as well as entertaining, so we also enjoyed a "pub grub" dinner program at The Brazen Head, Dublin's oldest pub. This included a narrative about the Irish potato famine of 1844-46, the legends of Irish leprechaun fairies, and the traditions of story-telling in Irish folklore.

Mariah Crotty is a fan and student of traditional Irish dancing. Our final night included a dinner program at Bunratty Castle, which featured entertainment of Irish humor and story-telling, mixed with traditional Irish music and dancing, including performances by a reigning world champion Irish dancer. And we were fortunate enough to have front-row seats...talk about luck of the Irish!

(Denis, Joyce and Mariah Crotty live in Ames, IA. E-mail: chairam@mchsi.com)

Our Town Our Paper!

Welcome Home Amy Shimon

Sat. Sept. 8th • 5 to 7 p.m.

Downtown Havelock, Ia

Meal & Silent Auction

Music & Entertainment

following the meal

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All proceeds go to medical expenses for the Shimon family

Contact Scott or Charity Madsen for donations to the silent auction.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated. 712-358-3061



'62



The Class of '62 45th Reunion article submitted several weeks ago, was missing the class photo. The class members attending include: First Row left to right: Joe Halterman (Faculty), Wilda Jennings King, Susan Larson George, Carol Leith Lauritzen, Mrs. Nancy Miller (Faculty), Jon George, Kathryn Siddall Rynders, Roger Ryon. Second Row: Steve Sloan, Larry Perkins, Richard Newgard, Keith Hoffman, Pat Adams Meyers, Linda Pohlman Lyman, Jean Schleusener Riley, Al Stover, Lyle Rebhuhn. Third Row: Sam Paton, Francis Peterson (Faculty), Mick Schleusener, Don Beneke.



**Happy 16th Birthday
Chelsey Rae!**
Sept. 1st.
Love Mom and Isaiah



MacKenzie Bell and Julian Johnsen

Bell-Johnsen Engagement

Rod & Garthlene Bell of Laurens announce the engagement of their daughter MacKenzie Bell, to Julian Johnsen, son of Harlan & Flor Johnsen of Laurens. MacKenzie is a 2006 graduate of LaJames Cosmetology in Cedar Falls, IA. She currently resides in Laurens and works at Jayne's Headquarters. Julian is a 2007 graduate of UNI in Cedar Falls, IA. He currently resides in Laurens, and is employed by the City of Laurens. The wedding is October 13, 2007.



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Upcoming Events

Fri., Sept 21st
Bacardi Girls!

Sat., Sept 22nd
Rumors 1 Year Anniversary!
Jimmy Buffet theme Night
Specials and Entertainment

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My Secret Life as an Elvis Fan *Continued from page 3*

As the bus pulled up to the Graceland doors, we were given audio headsets that allowed visitors to tour at their leisure while listening to the tour



tape in each individual room and hearing Elvis himself talk about his family, his house and his belongings as well as other important friends and family members sharing their memories. I instantly felt at home as I listened to the tape recordings of years gone by and thought of the greatness and the sadness of it all. At the end of the tour we walked past the family gravesite where Elvis is now buried with his parents and Aunt. There is also a small memorial for his twin brother that died at birth. It is surreal-all the emotion at the site.



Once again, I found myself standing next to my Mother who had tears in her eyes as she looked at the graves and I understood fully the sorrow of losing "The King" she felt at that moment. I felt it also and while her memories of

Elvis are for a much longer time period, mine were the memories of a child who grew up knowing something had been missing. I eventually moved onto Leif Garrett as my idol but figured out at that same spot in front of Graceland Mansion over thirty years later what I had missed with the loss of Elvis Presley.

Is he alive? People are still asking. As I looked around at the hundreds of thousands of people at Graceland for Elvis Week 2007, I can easily say with confidence that he lives on. By the way, I still have that Schlitz Beer Can!!!

Anonymous



Nightly Specials

Monday - Second Large \$4.99 or
Second Medium \$3.99

Tuesday - Buffet (Kids Night)
8 & Under Eat Free
(One per paying adult)

Wednesday - Any Large \$10.99

Thursday - All you can eat Buffet

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Back



Front



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Ava Francis Tental



Amanda Svuba and Brad Tental are the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl, Ava Francis Tental. Ava was born on August 11th at 6:28 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs 6.7 oz and was 21 inches long. Grandparents are Debbie Tental of Royal and Lars Tental of Laurens and Darwin and Jerlynn Svuba of Laurens. Great Grandparents are Mary and Francis Svuba of Laurens, Clarence and Linda Nagel of Marathon and Lucile Johnson of Graettinger.

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2007 Charger Volleyball



Photo submitted by Virginia Smart

1st row: Taryn Kay, Megan Cleveland, Katie Fuchs, Kacie Woodley, Hilary Goedert, Kylie Woodley

2nd row: Holly Hofmaster, Melissa Swalin, Ashley Garton, Paige Potter, Cara Jamison, Kelsey Friedrichs, Kim Kenobbie

3rd row: Amanda Zylstra, Haley Moore, Chelsey Anderson, Ada Ramirez, Chelsea Musjgerd, Grace Christensen, Jessica Phillip

4th row: Melissa Cleveland, Destiny Wiley, Katrine Madson, Ashley Anderson, Shelby Heuton, Holly Anderson, Jordan Sundblad

Charger V-Ball Opens New Season with New Faces

The Laurens-Marathon Volleyball team will face its season opener against Emmetsburg on August 28. While losing five senior starters from last season, Coach Feekes is looking to the returning letter winners and newcomers to fill the void.

Kacie Woodley returns as one of the best hitters in the area. She led our team last season in kills and blocks. Her twin sister, Kylie was an outstanding back row player for us last season and should emerge as one of the leading setters in this area. Back row specialists Megan Cleveland and Diana Johnsen were excellent last season and return in those positions this year. Jordan Sundblad played right side/middle last season and should see time on the left side this year. Letterwinners Shelby Heuton and Amanda Zylstra saw limited action on Varsity but gained much experience on JV. Both should play a big part in our lineup. Chelsey Anderson, Kim Kenobbie, Holly Hofmaster, Taryn Kay, Katie Fuchs, and Hilary Goedert should contribute to the varsity.

The challenge in front of us is to play tough each time this season. We have the potential to be as good as a year ago. We have gained valuable experience and should be able to play with anyone. The keys for us are to stay healthy, play as a team, and keep focused. If we put that with desire and teamwork we will have a great team. We have very good players all through our line-up. Coach Feekes is looking forward to an exciting season.

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**Tuesday - Buffet (Kids Night)
8 & Under Eat Free
(One per paying adult)**

Wednesday - Any Large \$10.99

**Thursday - All you can eat Buffet
841-2658**

Pre-Season Sports Photos

Photos submitted by Virginia Smart



Football:

1st row: Devin Lind, Reuben Wenell, Tory Mohr, Bryce Maschino, Zach Lovin, Gary Brechler, Brent Leuer, Tyler Smith, Keyton Joynt, 2nd row: Andrew Olsen, Carlton Tapley, Ryan Hudson, Phillip Thomas, John Gustafson, Kolby Joynt, Ryan Sernett, Jake Frye 3rd row: Ben Zylstra, Evan Johnson, Kyle Rasach, Jarrod Reese, Blake Wiley Tyler Sandvig, Ryan Lovin, Cody Simpson, Cody Hubbell 4th row: Austin Stumbo, Andy Larson, Caleb Jamison, Travis Leuer, Ryan Stumbo, Travis Frerk, Andrew Hanson, Marcus Frerk

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Cross Country

1st row: Chad Kisher, Megan Hofmaster, Case Bieri, Chelsea Musjgerd, Destiny Wiley, Megan Hertz 2nd row: Damion Wilson, Luke Sundblad, Bennett Barglof, Brandon Johnson, Kelsey Fredericks 3rd row: Justin Depew, David Jones, Krista Fredricks, Kolsea Herrig, Nicole Cox, Trent Kisher

Announcements

Everyone is Welcome at the Christian Church

Wednesday, Aug. 29 - 1:00 p.m. Willing Workers meet at the church

Sunday, Sept. 2 - 9:30 a.m. Worship: Labor Sunday - wear your work clothes to church; 10:30 a.m. - Last Snack-n-Yack fellowship for the season

Sunday, Sept. 9 will be the Kick-off of the fall and winter schedule. Church School classes will meet at 9:30 a.m. There are classes for ALL ages, 3 years through adults. Worship moves to 10:30 a.m. for the school year. After church on the 9th we will celebrate with a "cook out." Everyone is invited to enjoy grilled hamburgers & hot dogs, chips, beans, and dessert. If you have been thinking about coming to church, Sept. 9th is a week of new beginnings and a great time to start!

Also, all interested women are invited to the first meetings for Christian Women's Fellowship for the 2007-08 year. CWF is a women's service, fellowship and study group. General meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month at 2 p.m., beginning Sept. 6. An evening group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. Their first fall meeting will be Sept. 12.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 324 W. Section Line Rd., Laurens, Iowa Ph. 841-2455 Website: www.forministry.com/USIACCDOCFCC1

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Who are the Bacardi girls?

More details each week, join us at Rumors Pub, Friday, September 21st!

We love to see you smile!

Linda Olson Bieri, D.D.S.

Steven W. Christensen, D.D.S.

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Classifieds

ATTENTION: Beginning June 5 Stoner's Prime Produce and Luetta's Baked Goods will be at Highway 10 Hardware on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom home in Laurens with garage/ refr. stove and air conditioner-new paint and carpet, has fireplace. Close to library. Daryl Long (712) 841-4735

AKC Golden Retriever Puppies For Sale: Excellent hunters, farm raised, good blood lines. Ready Sept. 27th. Call John Sobotka (712) 358-0567.

9/18

Horse Training, lessons, consulting and open riding at Arena 54. Located south of Marathon on M54
New indoor and outdoor arenas!
Call BJ Berry at (712)260-4929

Bridal Registry at Heart 'n Home!
Free gift wrapping and local deliveries!
Check out the couple's registry at www.heartnhomeonline.com

ATTENTION: It's time to start thinking about winter snow removal!
Call Brian Slama at (712) 848-3329 or (515) 201-8349-cell.

For Sale: Twin bunk beds-full size bunk on the bottom; twin size bunk on the top. Full mattress included. \$275 OBO. 841-2333



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