

# The Paper

*Our Town, Our Paper!*

*Laurens, Iowa*



*Vol. 1 No. 44*

www.mylarens.com

*February 5 2008*

## Local News

# Pocahontas County Foundation Awards

The Pocahontas County Foundation awarded grants to benefit 17 non profit groups and organizations in Pocahontas County. Projects totaling \$40,125 were supported by the Foundation for 2008. Over \$140,000 has been awarded in the past 3 years to Pocahontas County projects. Those pictured include, left to right:

Row 1: Gregg White (City of Pocahontas, electronic message sign, \$5000); Glenda Mulder (Laurens Public Library, Read a great movie/book, \$1215); Lola DeWall, (Pocahontas Public Library,

Copy Machine, \$4740); Sally Butcher (Palmer Public Library, copy machine, \$408), Andrea Christians (Pocahontas Area School and Fine Arts, Concert for students, \$1000), Anne Reiff and Mary Mohr (Fonda Arts Center, Lights and sound, \$500);

Row 2: Amy Ford (Gilmore City Playground equipment); Jodi Merideth (Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc., Educational materials and supplies for Head Start, \$750) Michelle Sandvig (Kids Korner, drinking fountains, \$2500); Darla Johnson (Plover Public Library, Drop box and handicapped ramp, \$2,800); Connie Schachtner (Pocahontas Community Healthcare foundation, power assisted cot for EMT's, \$5700); Carla Pitstick (Fonda Public Library, shelving, kiosk and tables, \$1500); Clay Steele (Pocahontas County Conservation, composting systems for education, \$1900);

- Row 3: Richard and Darlene Jergens (City of Gilmore City, playground equipment, \$5000), Jill Conlon (Pocahontas County Home Care Aide, Educational kits for clients, \$1000); Diane Ferguson (Pocahontas County Health Department, Equipment, wheelchair and walkers, \$1612); Wendy Kirchhoff and Sonya Orwig (Rolfe Rodeo and Saddle Club, Arena panels, \$3000); Al Sroufe (RAM Event Center, tables, chairs, sport equipment, \$1500)



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## 2nd & Main

Demolition continues on the corner of 2nd and Main Street, Laurens. The community of Laurens is watching the past being removed, but anxious to see the future built. Iowa Trust & Savings Bank revealed the new building plans January 31st at Rumors Pub in Laurens. The building will be located at 2nd & Main Street, Laurens. Customers, business associates and community members were impressed by the plans. Iowa Trust & Savings Bank will provide a community room, which will be available to the public free of charge. The bank will also have a community message board located on the corner of Main & Second Street. A drive-thru window, ATM, night drop and lock boxes will be added services with the new building. Everyone is welcome to stop at our current location, 104 N 3rd Street, Laurens to see the new building plans.

## Thanks

Thanks for this neat little paper. Read your article about the skating rink and I remember a rink on Main Street. If my memory is correct, there was one south of where the bank is now, west side of the street. If I am wrong, someone correct me. This was back in the late 30's--early 40's. Submitted by June Richardson

## Date Change for Parent Meetings & National Honor Society Induction

The 10th grade parent meeting originally scheduled for February 7 has been changed to February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center.

Also, the National Honor Society Induction and 11th grade parent meeting originally scheduled for February 19 have been changed to February 26 at 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. respectively, in the high school media center.

## Engagement

Briana Marie Finley of Laurens and Jason J Foster of Marathon are happy to announce their engagement. Briana is currently studying nursing at Iowa Central Community College. Jason is employed with Mediacom. Jason and Briana currently reside in Storm Lake, Iowa. The couple will marry May 31, 2008 at the Laurens United Methodist Church.



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## Engagement

Leslie Ann Halligan and Brian Gregory Hector are pleased to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding. Leslie is the daughter of Barb Halligan of Laurens and granddaughter of Lester and Ina Schultz, also of Laurens. Brian is the son of Dennis and Marilyn Hector of Kansas City, MO. An October wedding will be held in Omaha, NE. The bride is a 2002 graduate of Laurens-Marathon High School and a 2006 graduate of Dana College in Blair, NE. She is currently working as a social worker for Hospice with Heart in Council Bluffs, IA. The groom is a 2004 graduate of St. Pius X in Kansas City, MO and will be a 2008 graduate of Dana College in Blair, NE. He is currently employed at Dick's Sporting Goods in Omaha, NE. The couple plans to reside in Omaha, NE.



## Thank You

I recently read this quote by Kay Andrew. "Happy times and by gone days are never lost. In truth, they grow more wonderful within the heart that keeps them." Thank you very much for the cards, flowers, gifts, balloons, and phone calls. Thank you for making my birthday so special. Fondly, LaDonna DeYoung

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# The Paper!

# Where Do Cities Get Their Revenue?

By Kent Radford

All cities require revenue to operate. It takes a lot of money to provide the essential services that city residents require. So what are the essential services? While the definition of essential services may vary from one individual to another, most people will agree they cannot live without water, sewer, roads, garbage collection and safety (police, fire, and ambulance). In addition to these essential services, there are quality of life services, such as parks, recreation, library, and museums.

Where does the money come from to pay for these services? The revenue comes from property taxes, local option tax, road use taxes, fines, fees, and donations. The state legislature determines what the mill rate for property taxes will be. The property taxes each land owner pays is based on a percentage of the assessed value of the property. The county assessor determines what the assessed value of the property will be. The assessed value of property is not the same as the actual value of the property. Property taxes are divided up between the state, county, school and city. There are some limited provisions in the state law that permits the county, school or city some flexibility when it comes to funding employee benefits.

The money derived from property taxes does not even come close to covering the costs of operating a city. The costs associated with replacing roads and the underground infrastructure is extremely expensive. The road use tax that each of us pays when we purchase

fuel for our vehicles is designed to serve this purpose. The state determines what portion of the road use tax is allocated to the state, county, and city. Road use taxes can only be used for roads and their associated support equipment. Each year the state retains a higher percentage of the road use tax to cover their shortfalls, leaving the cities to make up the deficit from the general fund, bonds, or assessments.

The local option tax is a 1 cent sales tax. The City of Laurens must use ½ of the revenue collected through this tax for tax relief. The other ½ can be used for any project the city council designates it for.

Fees are charged for water, sewer and garbage utilities. These fees are set by the City Council by resolution. A public hearing is required when the ordinances are revised and the fee structure is changed. The fees should cover the costs associated with running these utilities as well as a certain amount going into reserve for future projects or equipment purchases. Fees are also charged for the use of city equipment, and ambulance and fire services. Fees are also charged for licenses and permits.

A fine is charged to an individual who violates laws and ordinances that have associated fines specified within that legislation. Examples are traffic violations, violations regarding pet ownership and licensing, and etc.

Most large projects that a city wants to undertake, such as digging a well, replacing streets, other infrastructure

changes or installing a new swimming pool, cost more than a city receives from revenue sources during a given year. When this is the case, it is necessary for the city to look for external sources of funds. These external sources of funds include grants, loans, the issuance of bonds, and donations. There is also a legal instrument called Tax Increment Financing or (TIF). TIF was developed to allow cities to encourage economic growth within their boundaries. One example of how TIF works is as follows: The city requests that a TIF district be established. If an individual or company within that district wants to update or build a new facility, an assessment is made before the update or construction is initiated. Once the construction is completed, the property is reassessed. The difference in value from the initial assessment and the reassessment is the increment. Based on that increment, the city receives all the property tax revenue associated with that increment for a given period of time (10 years). Therefore, if the city was to provide new infrastructure (roads, water, and sewer) to support the construction of the facility, it can use the TIF money to pay off any money borrowed. This means the city does not have to use money out of its general fund or road use funds to pay for the improvements. It also means that it has a source of money, provided by the very people who benefit most from the improvements, to pay off any loans associated with the improvements. This is a win-win situation for the city and the taxpayers.

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## CWF Participants

These fifteen 4-Her's have been working diligently to raise funds for the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) trip to Washington D.C. this summer. They sold purse key finders and delivered phone books to area towns over Christmas vacation. They are also very thankful to all the area businesses, organizations and individuals that donated towards their trip. They are still raising money to reach their goal, so if anyone would still like to donate to help send them to DC, please contact one of them. Angie Point and the Pizza Ranch have graciously offered to donate a percentage of the Pizza Ranch sales on their Buffet Night, Tuesday, February 12th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. A percentage of all buffet, menu and to go orders will be donated towards the 4-Her's CWF trip. The 4-Her's going to D.C. will be working at the Pizza Ranch that night to help earn this generous donation. The 4-Her's will also be selling Pizza Ranch coupon cards in the very near future for \$5.00 each, worth 9 punches of savings towards your pizza purchases. They appreciate any support you can give them.



Front L-R: Leah Behrendsen, Christina Rittgers, Angie Herman, Allie Kleespies Middle L-R: Andrea Stoullil, Jessica Wasko, Jessica DeWall, Brittany Behrendsen, Nikki Seehusen Back L-R: Hope Elbert, Joshua Kerns, Ben Butcher, James DeWolf, Nathan Martin

Absent from photo: Kelsey Fey

## Come and Go Bridal Shower

A come and go bridal shower will be held for Briana Finley, bride elect of Jason Foster on Saturday, March 8th from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Room at the Laurens United Methodist Church.

The couple is registered at JH Design in Laurens and on the online bridal/gift registries at bedbathandbeyond.com and target.com.

Please bring your favorite recipe to share with the bride-to-be.

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# Leap Year

## Champagne & Auction

# Celebration!

Laurens Golf & Country Club

**When:** Friday, February 29th, 2008

**What:** "Hoppy Hour" - 5:00-7:00  
with Champagne and Hor Dourves.  
Auction - 7:00pm

**Where:** Laurens Golf & Country Club

Watch for upcoming details on entertainment

All proceeds from the auction will go to the Country Club. We hope to see you all there!



## *Services Held Recently For Jack K. W. Toiberg*

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 31, for Jack K. W. Toiberg, age 81, of Laurens. Rev. Sara Galindo officiated at the services, which were held at the Smith-Loterbour-Powers Funeral Home in Laurens. Military rites were performed by the Laurens V.F.W. and the American Legion. Burial was in the Laurens Cemetery near Laurens.

Jack passed away on Saturday, January 26 at Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Jack Kai W. Toiberg was born February 8, 1926, at Kenosha, Wisconsin, the son of Thomas Edward and Marie Sophie (Truesdale) Toiberg. He was educated in Wisconsin schools. Following his education, he began working in the roofing business with his father.

He served in the U.S. Army with the 82nd and 101st Airborne during WW II and in Korea.

In 1957, Jack married Marilyn Rooker in Des Moines. The couple lived in Des Moines where Jack worked as a roofer.

In 1971, Jack married Phyllis Spooner at Blue Earth, MN. The couple settled in Laurens where Jack worked as a roofer for several companies, including O.K. Roofing. He retired in the late 1980s.

Jack entered the Laurens Good Samaritan Center in 2007.

Jack enjoyed hunting, fishing and collecting items.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis, of Rembrandt; children, Jacklynn Richardson of Gonzales, LA, Tom

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(Donna) Toiberg of Coppel, TX, Steve Toiberg of Portland, OR, and Teresa (Ray) Oliver of Santa Ana, CA; 7 step-children; 13 grandchildren; 30 step-grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents.

## *Challand Memorial Services to be Held*

Richard "Dick" Challand, age 61 of Laurens, passed away on January 30th at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Des Moines.

Memorial Service will be held at a later date. The Smith-Loterbour-Powers Funeral Home in Laurens is in charge of arrangements.

## *McCann on Dean's Honor List*

Andrew McCann, son of Danial and Jane (Johnson) McCann, and grandson of Bud and Jeanette Hawley was named to the Dean's Honor List, College of Engineering at New Mexico State University for Fall Semester 2007. Andrew received a 4.0 and was in the top 15 percent of the student body in the College of Engineering. Congratulations, Andrew and keep up the good work!



Don't forget to come out and support our Charger Athletes as they begin district play!

District Wrestling on Saturday, February 9th at 12 noon in Manson. Reuben Wenell - 125 pounds and Jamie Hertz - 130 pounds.

Girls District Basketball on Thursday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. in Laurens. L-M Chargers vs. Ruthven Ayrshire.

Boy District Basketball on Thursday, February 14th in Laurens. The first game begins at 6:30 PM with the L-M Chargers vs. Newell/Fonda game to follow.

# INSURANCE INSIGHT

## With Woodley Insurance & Real Estate

Insurance doesn't have to be confusing! Look for us here each week as we briefly outline general insurance topics that will help shed light on some frequently asked insurance questions. If you have a specific question, give us a call!

### Do I Qualify For A Discount: Good Grades Aren't Just for College Anymore!

Now that your child is driving, you have probably seen an increase in your auto insurance premiums. Many companies now offer a GOOD STUDENT DISCOUNT to help offset some of this increase.

Students must be enrolled as full-time according to the guidelines of the school they attend. High school students as well as college students up to age 24 are normally eligible. Students obtaining Masters or Doctorate degrees may also qualify up to the age of 29.

Although discount requirements

vary by company, if your child is in the top 20% of their class scholastically, maintains a "B" average or it's equivalent, OR is included on a "Dean's List" or "Honor Roll" indicating scholastic achievement, you may be entitled to receive this discount.

Certification is normally required by submitting a verification form signed by a representative of the school, a copy of the child's most recent report card, OR a copy of the "Dean's List" or "Honor Roll" verifying your child's name. Re-certification may be required at each renewal to verify eligibility for the discount.

By maintaining good grades, a clean driving record, and alert driving skills, your child can help to minimize the impact of increased premiums on your auto insurance.

Next week's topic:

EFT: Convenience and Savings all in One

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# Laurens United Methodist Church

## Wed. Feb. 6

Ash Wednesday -11:30 a.m. ~  
Lenten Lunch @ nursing home  
4:00 p.m. ~ Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. ~ Ash Wednesday Service  
7:30 p.m. ~ Sr. UMYF

## Thur. Feb. 7

12:00 p.m. ~ UMW General  
3:30 - 6 p.m. ~ Kid's Club Registration @ Christian Church

## Fri. Feb. 8

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

## Sat. Feb. 9

7:00 a.m. ~ UM Men

## Sun. Feb. 10

9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. ~ Fellowship Coffee  
10:30 a.m. ~ Worship  
2:00 p.m. ~ Video Arcade

## Wed. Feb. 13

11:30 a.m. ~ Lenten Lunch @ Sacred Heart  
4:00 p.m. ~ Confirmation  
6:30 p.m. ~ Rebekah Circle  
7:00 p.m. ~ Christian Ed  
7:30 p.m. ~ Sr. UMYF Fri. Feb. 15  
7:00 a.m. ~ Men's Bible Study



# Local 4-H'ers use GPS/GIS to map Barn Quilts of Sac County

Geospatial technologies captured the attention of 22 Northwest Iowa 4-H Technology Team youth grades 8th through 12th and adults Saturday, January 26, 2008 using their new found Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and GIS skills to map Sac County's historic Barn Quilts. Cody Clausen of Havelock was a member of the 4-H Technology Team's Community Mapping Project.

The technology-savvy 4-H'ers used Garmin eTrex GPS receivers collecting the latitude and longitude positions of over 50 historic barns with colorful painted wooden quilt blocks. A Barn Quilt Driving team guided the youth in collecting GPS data points both at the road sign and at the barn. The 4-H'ers and Barn Quilt Drivers returned to a computer lab to download the valuable data into Google Earth files. The 4-H'ers refined their computer skills with an introductory GIS lesson that required using their field notes of barn locations and quilt names.

"This is an example of a terrific community partnership and a win-win situation for everyone. The county's new tourist attraction needed help with data gathering and processing. The 4-H youth benefit from learning about geospatial technologies and careers in a real-world project, and the county's communities benefit from having these

historic barns mapped for tourists using GPS technology."

According to NW 4-H Youth Field Specialist, Carol Ehlers, "The 4-H Technology Team's goal was to develop a Geospatial technologies project that

would provide useful information for a community that might impact economic growth.

Communication with the Barn Quilt committee in July, 2007 made them

aware that the project needed accurate GPS information about the county's unique tourist attraction. In November, 2007 the 4-H'ers began discussing the project through utilizing webcast meetings with ISU Extension GIS Specialist, Alan Jensen and GIS Volunteer of Des Moines Newcom Technologies, Inc., Brandon Haas. Two months later all of the needed equipment and volunteers were in place. The 4-H'ers also received technical support from ISU Women In Science and Engineering students attending the event from Ames.



Photo: Cody Clausen, son of Kevin and Leesa Clausen, Havelock

Ehlers said 4-H families and volunteers have already collectively invested over 180 hours in preparing and using GPS technology to secure each barn's data point. The technology savvy youth were also instructed in using GIS software to develop an internet based driving tour of the historic barns. Because of the 4-H Technology Team's work, the paper map will soon come to life on the project's web site: <http://www.barn-quilts.com/>.

The NW 4-H Technology Team project is made possible with the help of Iowa State University's Extension Community and Economic Development Unit; Extension, Science, Engineering and Technology (E-SET) program and 4-H Operation Military Kids, which makes GPS hand-helds and computer labs available to ISU Extension 4-H Technology projects. E-SET, a 4-H Youth Development program, specializes in science and technology education for youth.

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*1818 Subscribers as of January 28th, another good reason to advertise and submit articles!!!!*

## From the Heart

I have been asked to discuss how to change the look of your home during the off-season. If you don't wish to decorate for Valentine's Day or Easter (and don't forget the very important St. Patrick's Day)...there are ways to add some "zest" with using snowmen.

We want to forget right now that we are living in a freezer! A great punch is to add the color yellow to a room. Not much...but some. It is such a happy color; like the sun. Plus it can go with almost any color combination. Add some fresh lemons to a glass bowl on your coffee table or dining room table. Change your pillar candles to yellow. Drape a sheer yellow ribbon behind a picture or mirror and "tack" it up. Place some yellow plates on stands and use them as background. And you can always go buy fresh daisies with yellow centers. They are a very inexpensive flower and last a long time. Once they are starting to look "past their prime"... pluck the heads off the stems and float them in a low bowl in water. They should last another week.

When stuck in the house because of winter storms, bring out your board games and puzzles. Gather an old wicker laundry basket or a large basket and place your games in there. Hopefully, it could start an impromptu family time. On your coffee table, open up a checkers game...ready when you are! Or even Candy Land game open could make you turn off the tv!

Hopefully, this will help you "perk up" your home. And on days that might reach 30 degrees...crack a window for 5 minutes to get fresh air in. That should help...or put on a great "ocean" cd and have a tropical drink! *Keep it from the heart, Julie Wurr*

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Mallard, 602 Inman, 712-425-3436



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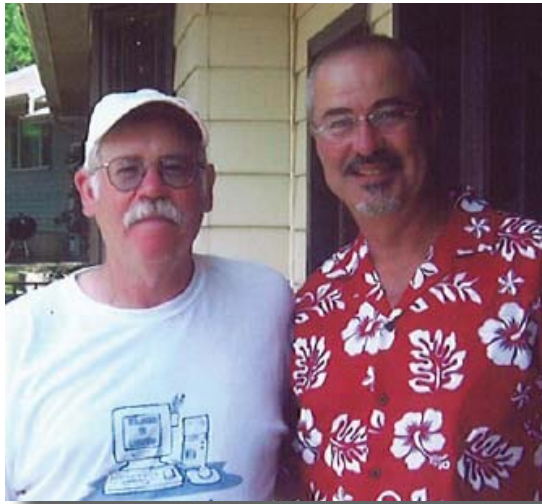
# Being A Host Family Was A Wonderful Experience

Les and I had the privilege of hosting one of the French delegation in our home this summer. When Annette Hong first called and asked if we would be a host family, we were hesitant. We told her to call back if she couldn't find anyone else. Having someone in our home who probably didn't speak English was somewhat intimidating. Well, Annette called back. We were to have Jean-Luc Bonnin stay with us. AND HE SPOKE ENGLISH. We were very happy about that.

Jean-Luc didn't travel with the rest of the group so he didn't experience the travel woes they did. He arrived at 1 a.m. on Thursday morning. Jean-Luc had been up for approximately 26 hours, so we made some brief introductions and he went to bed. The next morning, we had to decide what to do since the rest of his group wasn't going to be in Laurens until later that afternoon. We decided to go for a bike ride and explore the town. Jean-Luc's English was actually very good but we still had some miscommunication. We were going to borrow a bike from a neighbor but the seat was too high for Jean-Luc. He asked me if the neighbor was a "tool" man. I said no, he taught at the high school. I wasn't sure what he meant. After further explanation from Jean-Luc, I realized that he had asked if the neighbor was a "tall" man.

We rode around town and Jean-Luc was impressed with the large lots and straight streets. We stopped at Pro Coop and John Reese and Ron Reese showed him some Indian artifacts that they had found locally. The French people seemed to be especially interested in Indian artifacts. We rode on the bike trail south of town and got up close and personal with a corn field which Jean-

Luc found very interesting since he had heard so much about Iowa and corn. On the way back to town, we rode



through one of the cemeteries. Jean-Luc was very surprised that there were no walls and we could freely ride through. Apparently, in France, cemeteries are off limits unless you have business there.

During the afternoon, Jean-Luc and I drove around the country. We stopped at a hog confinement building and Jean-Luc took several pictures. He commented that the Midwest was the "real" America. He also was impressed with our big back yard. Jean-Luc's yard is small, fenced, and private.

That evening, we attended the reception at Buena Vista University and had a wonderful time. Jean-Luc works in public relations for the wine industry in France and he and Julie Wurr were busy presenting the wines for each course. Les and I were impressed when the mayor of Laurens, France, (who didn't speak much English) gave his speech in English. He must have practiced very hard.

The rest of the activities were very well organized and Jean-Luc was busy with one activity after another. He



particularly liked the wine festival and was very impressed with the friendliness of everyone there. Jean-Luc wasn't able to stay as long as the rest of the group and left on Monday, the day of RAGBRAI. He was able to get downtown for a short time and see many of the riders.

Jean-Luc was impressed with the friendliness and generosity of everyone associated with the French delegation's visit. Les and I were impressed with how well the entire visit was organized—down to the last detail. Laurens, Iowa, is very fortunate that Laurens, France, would send a group of people half-way across the world to visit. And, I think Les and I learned a valuable lesson. Next time, instead of thinking of reasons why we shouldn't do something, we will look at the situation as an opportunity and a challenge. It was a privilege and a pleasure to act as a host family. We are so very glad we did.  
*Submitted by Peggy Milton*

What a good time everyone had!  
And we have the pictures to prove it!  
**The Sister City Commission**  
Presents The  
**2007 CELEBRATION REVIEW**

FEATURING:

-Former Laurens coach  
Floyd Winters'  
enthusiastic reflections on  
Laurens, Iowa and  
"The Rest of the  
Straight Story"

Sunday, Feb 17th, 2008  
Laurens Methodist Church  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Refreshments will be served after.  
**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## L-M Impulse Earns Division I Rating

I wish you could have been there! If you didn't already know, our school has a pretty awesome show choir. Every year, L-M Impulse (our show choir's official name) attends a local State Festival where three certified judges critique our group's performance based on the State's guidelines for a superior show choir. Each show choir is given a rating: either a I, II, III, IV or V.

A 'I' is considered the best, and on Monday, January 28, L-M Impulse received their fourth consecutive Division I rating! This is a huge accomplishment in the world of show choir, and the communities of Laurens and Marathon have reason to be very proud of what these students have accomplished so far this year. The music department has a Division I State plaque, and a bar is added for each year a music group receives a Division I rating. Now that State is finished, L-M Impulse has two competitions to look forward to.

At these competitions they will compete against other class IA schools for first and second place trophies. Last year, L-M Impulse competed in two festivals and placed second in each. I'm sure you can guess what our goal is this year! If you are a competitive person, you might wonder who our biggest rival is: it's Boyden-Hull. L-M Impulse will compete at the Emmetsburg Festival on March 1, and the Hinton Festival on March 15.

Is anyone out there curious to see L-M Impulse perform? Well, you are all invited to attend our annual Swing Show, which will feature L-M Impulse, our brand new JV show choir (currently without an official name), and our school's fantastic Jazz Band. Please mark your calanders so you can attend this very entertaining event, which will be held on Friday, April 4, at 7p.m. Congratulations, students, on your State Division I rating!

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## On To Districts!

Congratulations to the L-M FFA Chapter's Parli Pro team, Conduct team, and Mike Hertz for Greenhand quiz, for advancing on to the District FFA Contest! Also, congratulations to the POA team for placing a silver, and being named as alternate to the district contest.

Good Job to you all, and Good Luck at Districts!!



Pictured; back row left to right: Mike Hertz, Connor Johnson, Evan Johnson, Carlton Tapley. Front row left to right: Chad Kischer, Schuyler Bechtel, Celeste Rameriz.



Pictured; back row from left to right: Travis Frerk, Destiny Wiley, Bennett Barglof, Philip Thomas. Front row left to right: Kizzy Johnson, Kim Kenobbie, Cory Bailey.



Pictured; back row from left to right: Tyler Smith, Gary Brechler, Jared Reese. Front row from left to right: Becky Josephson, Nicole Cox.

## Buena Vista Honor Band

The 27th Annual Buena Vista University Honor Band Festival will be held on February 23, 2008. The following students from Laurens-Marathon have been selected to perform in the festival: Diana Johnsen-Senior, Alto Clarinet, Chelsey Anderson-Junior, Bb Clarinet, Becky Josephson-Junior, Flute/Piccolo, Blake Wiley-Junior, Bari Sax, Kayla Josephson-Freshman, Bb Clarinet, Laura Hansen-8th grade, Bb Clarinet, Ashley Dvorak-8th grade, Flute, and Rebekah Erritt-7th grade, Trumpet. These students are directed by Meredith Allen.

Membership to the 100 plus-member middle school band (grades 7 and 8) and the 100 plus-member honor band (grades 9-12) were selected on the basis of nominations submitted by their school band directors. Over twenty-five school districts are participating in this year's festival and include schools from Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. Students will gather on the Buena Vista University campus on Saturday, February 23 for two, 3 hour rehearsals with the guest conductors. Both bands will perform a grand finale concert at Schaller Memorial Chapel on the BVU campus at 6:30pm. The concert is free and open to the public.

Guest conductors for the 2008 Honor Band Festival will be: Leon Kuehner for the high school honor band and Bard Mackey for the middle school honor band. The finale concert is open to the public and admission is free.

The guest conductor of the high school honor band is Leon Kuehner. Leon Kuehner has been a music educator in Iowa for 33 years. He is the instrumental music director at Hampton-Dumont High School in Hampton, Iowa. He received both his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa. He has been president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, state chair of the American School Band Directors Association and

is the current chair of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. He is also the instrumental music representative on the executive board of the Iowa High School Music Association. He was named an "Outstanding Music Educator" for the state of Iowa by IMEA in 2001. He was also the 2003 recipient of the Karl King Distinguished Service for active IBA members. Concert bands under his direction have been selected to perform at the Iowa Bandmasters Conference six times, and have won the "Best in Class" award at the Drake University/Adventureland Band Festival eleven times. The music department at Hampton-Dumont was named the "Exemplary Music Program" for the state of Iowa by IMEA in 2001.

The guest conductor for the Middle School Honor Band is Bard Mackey. Bard Mackey is currently in his 11th year of teaching elementary band in the Cedar Falls School district. Prior to this position, he taught elementary and junior high school band in Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools and also taught grade 5-12 band in Britt, Iowa. He also is bass trombonist in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and performs in many area ensembles. He is married to wife Nadine, a para-educator at the Bremwood School in Waverly and has two sons; Jim, a graphic designer for Compass Publications in Mankato, Minnesota and Ian, a computer animator in Orlando, Florida. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, motorcycling, and "growing a terrific salsa garden."

## Local & School Calendar

Feb. 7-JH wrestling, Charger Invitational at Laurens at 4:00 p.m.; 10th Grade ASVAB testing from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Media Center; Girls District Basketball at Laurens at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 8-Basketball with East Sac County in Laurens, boys JV & V at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 9-District Wrestling at 12:00 noon at Manson; Y-Teen Winter Formal at 8:00 p.m. in the Old Gym.

Feb. 11-Boys District Basketball at Laurens; Board of Education will meet at 7:00 p.m.

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## At the Library

with Glenda Mulder  
February 5, 2008

February's book of choice is *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler. This novel follows two families, one traditional American the other Iranian-Americans, who adopt Korean babies. It has been chosen by the All Iowa Reads Committee of the State Library as their book for 2008. The purpose of All Iowa Reads is to encourage Iowans statewide to read and talk about a single title in the same year. Please join us when we discuss this book Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

For those of you who prefer nonfiction we received *Heaven is Real: Lessons on Earthly Joy* by Don Piper and *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* by Donald Kraybill. For our fiction readers we purchased:

- *Primal Threat* by Earl Emerson
- *There's No Place Like Here* by Cecilia Ahern
- *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks
- *20th Century Ghosts* by Joe Hill



- *Antony and Cleopatra* by Colleen McCullough
- *Stranger in Paradise* by Robert Parker
- *L.A. Outlaws* by T. Jefferson Parker
- *The Appeal* by John Grisham
- *Light of the Moon* by Luanne Rice
- *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers
- *7th Heaven* by James Patterson

Mark your calendars for 7 pm Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Laurens Police Chief Tom Shaw and LM Technology Coordinator Matt Vanderpool will be presenting a program about Internet Safety. This will be a good informational program for all ages. Please plan to join us in learning to stay safe while accessing all the great features of the Internet.

We have received some memorial money that once again has been spent to enhance our Large Print collection. *Drifter's Revenge* was donated by Ron and Pat Harms in memory of Joe Roewe. Ann Younggreen Sullivan donated *The Lawman's Choice*, *Ralph Compton: By the Horns*, *Shootout at Picture Rock*, *Single Action*, and *Beautiful Dreamer* in memory of Arnie Hersom. Ann also gave *Arthur & George*, *The Wings That Fly Us Home*, *The Owl & Moon Café*, *the Karma of Love* and *A Rainbow in Heaven* in memory of Fern Holland.

Check it out at the Laurens Public Library!

## Partners In Education

Dr. Bieri and Dr. Christensen's dental office are Partners In Education with Mrs. Noonan's 5th grade class for 2008. On Tuesday, January 22nd, they enjoyed making homemade ice cream together. The children used coffee cans to hold a ziploc freezer bag filled with the ice cream mixture and layered rock salt around the bag. They sealed the lid with duct tape. Then the children divided up into groups and rolled the cans back and forth for about 10 minutes. It really works! Then everyone enjoyed a treat of homemade ice cream.



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## *Iowa Alumni Magazine*

*The following was an article published in the Iowa Alumni Magazine dated April, 2007.*

Some of Mark Sandvig's friends may think he's a little weird. After all, when you can go shoot hoops with your buddies any time, why would you want to play against women? Of course, these aren't just any women. These players are members of the Iowa women's basketball team, and they know their way around a court.

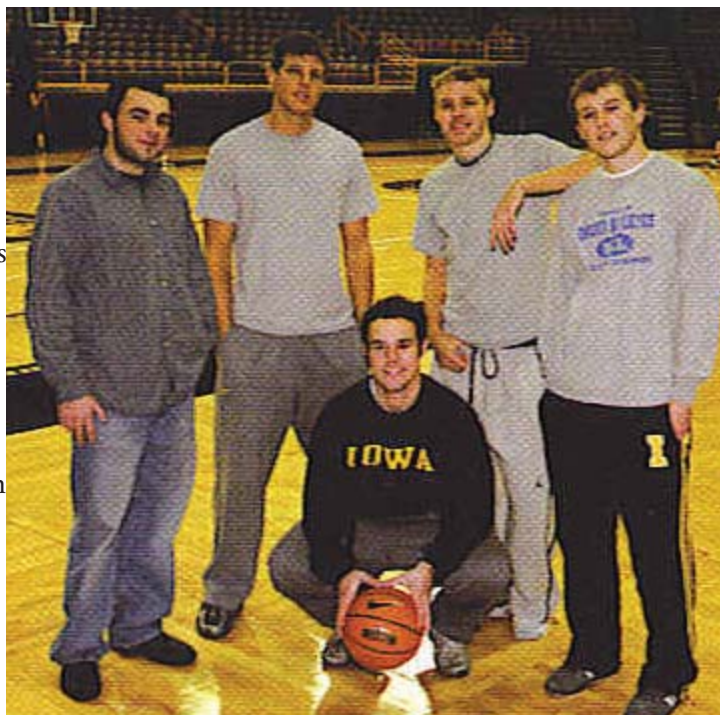
Sandvig is one of several U of I students who play on a men's practice squad known as the Gray Squad, which has been in place since Coach Lisa Bluder took over the program in 2000. For about ten hours a week, they scrimmage against the Hawkeye women, taking on the role of Iowa opponents. The Hawkeye coaches supply the plays expected to be run by the opponent in a real-life upcoming game, and the Gray Squad shows up about 45 minutes before practice to learn the plays. "We need to make sure the women are on top of their game and that they know what to expect from the other teams," says squad member Mark Sandvig.

Anonymous to most fans, members of the Gray Squad don't share in the game day limelight. Still, they get to play a game they love - and

they have the satisfaction of knowing their behind-the-scenes contributions to the Hawkeyes. "When you go to the women's games and see them win, you feel like you've contributed," Aaron Lamaak says.

For their efforts, the men also receive free shorts and shoes - plus an intense workout. "We play full court for about an hour-and-a-half with only six or seven guys," Lamaak explains.

Sandvig and Lamaak both found their way onto the team through their relationship with manager Ethan Jacobsen. Most of the players have been connected to a team member in some way and have a background in organized basketball. With the benefit of superior height, strength, and speed, the Gray Squad often beats the women's team in practice - but it's hardly a walkover. Noting the women's shooting skills, Sandvig says, "Playing with them, I get a real sense of how these women can compete." - written by Rob



Members of the Gray Squad prepare for another practice. Left to right, Colin Dangelo-Kempt, Mark Sandvig, Justin Fickbohm, Charlie Massopust, and Robby Armstrong. Not pictured are Pete Van Sickle and Aaron Lamaak.

Howe for the Iowa Alumni Magazine.

Mark Sandvig is the son of Al and Theresa Sandvig of Laurens and is in his second year on the Gray Squad. He is in his fifth year at the University of Iowa and will graduate in May. Mark also dates a member of the Iowa women's basketball team, #51 - Senior, Forward Krista Vandeventer of Osseo, MN. You can find Mark sitting along the sidelines of every home basketball game cheering on the team.

## *Laura Bieri Named To U of I President's List*

Laura Bieri, a 2005 graduate of Laurens Marathon High School, received notice that she was named for the second time to the President's List at The University of Iowa. To be named to the President's List, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student, earn a grade point average of 4.0, and maintain that average for two semesters in a row. Ms. Bieri is a second semester junior in the College of Business at The University of Iowa.

## *LM Boys JV Basketball Team Beats Newell-Fonda 54 – 50*

The LM boys played a great game at Newell January 28th, defeating the Mustangs 54 to 50. Both teams battled hard throughout the first half. When the halftime buzzer sounded, the score was tied 26 to 26. The 3rd period saw the Chargers take control of the game as they built a 46 to 39 lead to end the period. The 4th period the Chargers kept the Mustangs corralled to win the game 54 to 50. The Chargers were led in scoring by Case Bieri who had a career high 22 points. Other scorers included Ben Zylstra 10, Josh Sernett 6, Bryce Maschino 6, Ryan Hudson 5, Austin Stumbo 4, and Carleton Tapley 1. Sernett led the rebounding with 7, followed by Stumbo 6, Hudson 4, Bieri 1, Zylstra 1, Tapley 1, Travis Frerk 1, and Kolby Joynt 1. The LM boys JV record stands at 8 wins and 4 losses.

## *Charger Wrestlers Travel to Pomeroy*

The Charger Wrestlers traveled to Pomeroy on Thursday, January 24th to face off against Pomeroy-Palmer and Rockwell City-Lytton/Southern Cal.

The Chargers defeated Pomeroy-Palmer by an end score of 36-18 for the fifth time this season.

The Chargers were out numbered by the large Rockwell City-Lytton/Southern Cal team 60-18. The Chargers won all the matches wrestled against RCL/SCAL, so they had nothing to hang their heads about.

## *Charger Wrestlers Host Annual Charger Invitational*

The annual Charger Invitational was held on Saturday, January 26th beginning at 11:00 a.m. Graettinger Terril, Twin River Valley, Alta, Sioux Central, Pomeroy Palmer, East Sac, and Pocahontas Area were the participating teams. The Chargers placed 5th for the day, and individual placings were as follows: Reuben Wenell - 2nd, David Jones - 2nd, Jamie Hertz - 3rd, Mike Hertz - 4th, Damion Wilson - 5th, Trent Kischer - 5th, Mark Griffin - 6th and Cody Simpson - 5th.

## *Sectional Wrestling Held on February 2nd*

Sectional Wrestling was held on Saturday, February 2nd at Laurens beginning at 12 noon. Manson Northwest Webster, Fort Dodge St. Edmond, Pocachontas Area, Prairie Valley, Graettinger Terril, Sioux Central, Pomeroy Palmer and Laurens Marathon were all on the mats that day. Laurens Marathon placed 6th. Reuben Wenell and Jamie Hertz both placed 2nd and both advance to district wrestling which will be held on Saturday, February 9th in Manson, beginning at 12 noon. Other team placings were as follows: Cody Simpson - 4th, Mark Griffin - 5th, David Jones - 3rd, Damion Wilson - 6th, Mike Hertz - 5th and Trent Kischer - 6th.

Come out on Saturday, February 9th and help cheer on Reuben and Jamie as they compete for a ticket to the state tournament.

Reuben Wenell will be wrestling at 125 pounds and will be wrestling against Skyler Rice of Manson Northwest Webster, Sam Halverson of Twin River Valley and Ethan Kroneman of West Hancock.

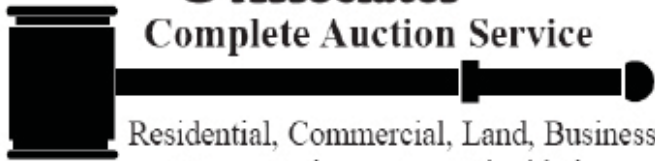
Jamie Hertz will be wrestling at 130 pounds and will be wrestling against Shay Taylor of Prairie Valley, Levi Peters of Twin River Valley and Austin David of Ogden.

These two men would appreciate all the support they can get on Saturday on the path that they are hoping will lead to Wells Fargo Arena!



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All clothing 25 cents to \$2.00. All other merchandise 1/2 price. Something for Everyone at the "Treasure Chest" located in downtown Laurens.

### Announcements

**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Friday,** February 15, 2008 at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Serving from 5:00-7:30. Adults: \$8.00; Children 12 & Under: \$4.00. Tickets are available from KC Members and at the door.

### 2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Co-

**median,** After Prom Fund Raiser Saturday, February 16, 2008 Laurens Golf & Country Club, Dinner served from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Entertainment @ 8:00 p.m. Ticket price: \$20 (required at door). For tickets, contact any junior class parent or: Jayne Woodin: (712) 450-2411 Brett Stumbo: (712) 41-2051 or purchase at Jayne's Headquarters

### Thursday Night Special

The Country Club's special for Thursday, February 7th will be small shrimp dinner with potato and salad. *Public Welcome!*

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