

# The Paper

*Our Town, Our Paper.*

*Laurens, Iowa*



*Vol. 1 No. 40*

www.mylarens.com

*January 8, 2008*

## Local News

### Kaere Trunte !!

Du oenskes et stort tillykke med foedselsdagen og de 17 aar !!

Haeber at du faar en dejlig dag "over-there" - vi vil taenke pa dig hele dagen.

Tusindvis af foedselsdagshilser fra.



In English it says:

*We wish you a happy 17th birthday. We hope you will have a wonderful day over there - we will think of you the whole day. Best birthday wishes from*

Marie & Lone, Moster & familie, Mom-serne, Famserne, Rasmus, Far & Mor

Katrine is our Foreign Exchange Student and is spending this school year with the Jim & Kelly Van Sickle Family. The Birthday wishes come from her family back home in Denmark!

We appreciate the fact that Katrine's family chose to use The Paper as a way to send Birthday wishes from Denmark--I think this sort of news really enriches the community. I think that everyone here in Laurens would love to hear more from our friends living in other parts of the country, or world. Birthday wishes, job promotions, anniversaries, school, college or sports news--whatever it is, we'd love to print it. Happy Birthday, Katrine! *Rod*

*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

### 100 Degrees to -5 in One Day

Bete and Marcello Martins, from Sao Paulo, Brazil arrived in Laurens on New Year's Eve to visit their son Calil Neme. Bete and Marcello have been staying in the home of Nancy and Ken Kunickis who were host parents to Calil during his senior year at Laurens-Marathon. Calil is currently a student at SDSU in Brookings, South Dakota. Bete and Marcello left Brazil in 100 degree temperatures carrying winter coats and boots, to arrive in Laurens where the temperatures were at -5 degrees. Bete and Marcello experienced snow for the first time while visiting in Laurens.



Bete and Marcello Martins

### Ron Paul Wins in Laurens

It was a full house at the Republican caucus this past Wednesday with over 100 people cramming into the north room in the City Hall basement. Dick Main presided over the event which lasted a bit more than an hour. Mr. Main thanked the crowd for participating and noted that this year's crowd was significantly larger than in previous years.

After a short discussion period during which participants were allowed two minutes to speak in support of their candidate, a vote was called for. In the Republican caucuses, this is handled by se-

cret ballot. Rod Johnson and Bill Mather were selected to count the vote with Dale Roewe and Brad Olsen electing to witness the tally.

With all votes counted it was Ron Paul finishing in 1st place with a total of 28 votes out of a total of 90 votes cast. Mike Huckabee, who received the most votes in Pocahontas County and the state, came in second in the local balloting with Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson both receiving significant support. A quick look at the statewide voting showed that every county in Iowa was won by either Huckabee or Romney.

After the balloting was completed the group discussed possible suggestions for party platform planks.

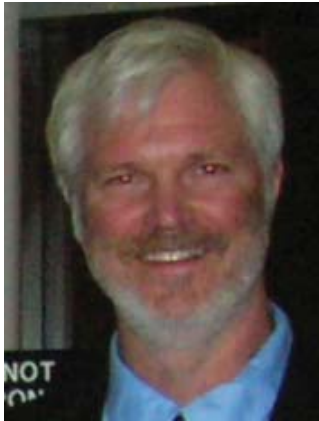
## Sale Date Claimed

**Saturday, January 26, 11:00 a.m.**

Veterinary inventory, household and antiques auction. Located at Marathon Community Center in Marathon, Iowa. Dr. Dwight Van Genderen and Flo Endersbee. Auctioneers: Joe Sobotka and Pete Peterson.

## Happy Jan. 8th Birthday Ken!

Help all the gang at Rumors Pub celebrate Ken's 53rd birthday on Friday, Jan. 11. Stop in for \$1.00 Honeyweiss draws for my "honey" and wish this special guy a Happy Birthday.



## Celebration of Life!

Don Woodin will celebrate his 80th Birthday Friday, January 11. Please help us celebrate by sending a card to 410 West Section Line Rd, Laurens, IA 50554. Happy Birthday, Dad!!  
*Love, Dan & Dave*

## High School Advisor/Advisee program Thanks the local VFW!

This holiday season the High School Advisor/Advisee program sponsored military men from several different units with holiday boxes filled with a lot of wonderful items. The High School students brought in items such as magazines, books, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and candy. Fifteen (15) boxes total were sent. A big THANK YOU goes out to our local VFW for sponsoring this project and letting us fill all 15 boxes. We couldn't have done it without your support!

## Amy Turns 35!!!

Happy 35th Birthday Aunt Amy!!!  
*Love, Olivia*



## Thank You!

We want to say thank you to the Laurens-Marathon FFA for delivering such wonderful fruit to our home. We were very happy to receive this surprise, and we appreciate it very much! Thank you again!

*Millie and Harvey Burnham*

## Thank You

Thank you to Fit Exercise Studio for the free month of exercise I won.

*Gail Marshall*

## Red Snow

What caused the red snow (left) this week? Acid rain? Global warming? Some strange Rudolph effect? Or is it a warning that Valentine's Day is just around the corner?



photo submitted by Anon E. Mouse

## Stitchers Club

*Please note that "Stitchers" will not meet in January. The next meeting will be February 13.*

## *Schools Vital to Rural Communities*

As a 1999 graduate of Laurens-Marathon High School I have watched the proposal for a regional high school with great interest. I am relieved to hear that the plans will not be moving forward at this time.

As rural communities struggle to stay alive amidst a declining rural population, our social infrastructure is one of our most crucial resources. Communities with grocery stores, drug stores and schools will be the ones to survive to host another generation. Once these critical components of a community begin to fade away, young adults looking for a place to raise a family skip by your community in search of one where the school is within walking distance, not a long bus ride away.

By meeting the challenges of operating a rural school in new and innovative ways, rather than going down the road of yet more consolidation, leaders in Laurens can help ensure that the town remains the Busiest Little Town In Iowa.

*Submitted by Brian Depew - Lyons, Nebraska*

## *Advertise Here!*

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*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

## **Local & School Calendar**

Jan. 8-Basketball with St. Mary's at Storm Lake, V girls & boys at 6:30 p.m.; wrestling with East Sac, Pomeroy/Palmer & Manson NWW at Wall Lake, JV & V at 6:00 p.m.

Jan. 10-Basketball with PAC at Pocahontas, V girls & boys at 6:00 p.m.; JV basketball with PAC at Pocahontas, girls & boys at 3:45 p.m.; wrestling with Sioux Central & Pomeroy/Palmer at Sioux Rapids at 6:30 p.m.; JH Basketball with Sioux Central at 4:00 p.m., 7th & 8th girls at Sioux Rapids, 7th & 8th boys at Laurens; Year Book Group pictures at 8:30 a.m.

Jan. 11-Basketball with Aurelia at Laurens at 6:30 p.m. V girls & boys; JV basketball with Aurelia at Laurens at, girls & boys at 4:00 p.m.; JH basketball with Newell/Fonda at 4:00 p.m., 7th & 8th girls at Fonda, 7th & 8th boys at Laurens.

Jan. 12-Wrestling, NW Conference meet at Cedar Valley at 10:30 a.m.; Junior Drill Team Clinic, 6th - 8th grades-8:30 a.m. to noon, 3rd-5th grades, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Ktgn-2nd grades, 9:30 a.m. to noon; IHSMA State Jazz Band Festival; Dorian Vocal Festival at Decorah. Dec. 14-JV basketball with Alta at Laurens, girls & boys at 6:00 p.m.; JV wrestling at Storm Lake at 5:00 p.m.; Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m.

## *LM Boys JV Basketball Team is 5-0*

The LM boys JV basketball team picked up wins over Schaller-Crestland and Rockwell City-Lytton prior to the holiday break. The Schaller-Crestland game on December 10th was a close contest throughout the first half. The halftime score was LM 18 and Schaller-Crestland 16. In the third quarter the Chargers took command and led 31 to 20 at the end of the quarter. A good fourth quarter gave the Chargers a 38 to 28 win. The scoring attack included Ben Zylstra-10, Case Bieri-9, Josh Sernett-8, Austin Stumbo-6, Ryan Hudson-2, Travis Frerk-2 and Bryce Maschino-1. Sernett led the team with 7 rebounds followed by Stumbo and Zylstra each

with 4, and Hudson with 2. Bieri had 5 assists followed by Maschino with 4. The team traveled to Rockwell City December 17th to play Rockwell City-Lytton. The Chargers got off to a fast start and never looked back. At halftime the Chargers led 32 to 7. The final score had the Chargers on top 41 to 20. Maschino led the team in scoring with 12. All his points came from behind the 3 point line. Other scorers included Bieri-11, Hudson-10, Zylstra-6 and Stumbo-2. Stumbo and Hudson led the rebounders with 6 each and Sernett not far behind with 5. Rounding out the rebounding Zylstra-3, Bieri and Maschino each had 2.

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# Iowa's Greatest Gift

Iowa has birthed many famous personalities in its short history: John Wayne, Herbert Hoover, Johnny Carson, Donna Reed, Buffalo Bill and Aldo Leopold. Aldo Leopold?

It's true, this man never had his own TV show, not even a bit part in a movie, but what Aldo Leopold did do was write and teach. Despite not having a best-seller to his name - in fact, most people have never heard of his greatest work - Leopold in the end had more influence on how we see ourselves and our place in the world than any Hollywood hero ever has or ever will have. Friday, January 11th marks the birthday of this important Iowa native. Leopold was born in 1887 in Burlington, Iowa and had a busy childhood exploring the wide Mississippi River valley. He graduated from Yale in 1909 with a degree in forestry and accepted a job in the Southwest with the newly created National Forest Service.

Leopold soon became deeply involved in his field and the political and ethical issues that are inseparable from it. He became a national forest supervisor in New Mexico, in 1924 transferred to Wisconsin, and in 1933 was hired as a professor of Game Management at the University of Wisconsin, a position he held for the rest of his life.

Although he lived in Wisconsin, Leopold continued to give back to Iowa. Two years after his university appointment he became leader of a commission whose recommendations led to the creation of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It was Leopold's wide range of work from local environmental issues to international politics that eventually cemented his position as one of the most respected conservationists in the United States.

In 1935, in order to retreat from city life and to put into practice what he believed and taught, Aldo Leopold and

his family purchased a badly degraded farm on the Wisconsin River north of Madison. The Leopolds would spend every weekend on their farm, living in a refurbished chicken coop they lovingly called the Shack, while they restored the land around them to a healthy and diverse condition. The Shack still stands as a monument to Leopold's accomplishments.

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question of whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech." - Aldo Leopold, March 4, 1948.

It was during his years of teaching in Madison that Leopold wrote most prolifically. His greatest work to come out of this time was *A Sand County Almanac*, a collection of essays published in 1949, a year after he died of a heart attack fighting a neighbor's grass fire.

One of a handful of the most influential books of its kind, *A Sand County Almanac* went on to impact the next several generations of conservationists and continues to do so to this day. Part memoir, part natural history and part philosophy, the book has one repeating theme - that of our need to develop a conservation or land ethic, an 'ecological conscience.

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot." - A.L.

According to Merriam-Webster, ethics are one's set of moral principles regarding duty and obligation. A good example of this is the idea of a human ethic. Leopold noted that in the 1800's society began to treat humans as they morally should be treated, not just as was most profitable. It may be more cost-effective to enslave a person rather than pay them for labor, but it is not considered right nor ethical by our society.



Clay Steele

It did not escape Leopold's notice that our view of the natural world had not yet reached the level of a moral ethic. We, as a society, don't yet interact with nature in a way that would be considered sustainable. We use the world around us in the most profitable way, or in a way that brings us the most pleasure.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." --A.L.

Many people are unable to make the connection between human and environmental health and as a result it is socially acceptable to violate human ethics as long as nature serves as an intermediary. In other words, while it may not be morally right to harm a person directly, as long as your actions affect people far enough down the line you can choose to not be aware of them.

*continued on next page...*

*Greatest Gift... continued from previous page*

It is this attitude that Aldo Leopold believed we needed to rethink. While we follow a human ethic because we see ourselves as a community of beings, Leopold felt we lacked a land ethic for the opposite reason: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man." Leopold saw the need to teach that the earth is not merely an object we live on and take from, but a system we live in and work with for the mutual benefit of all.

Each of us must begin to understand the tension between economic value and consumption and what the earth can sustain. Ultimately, we must have an ethic guiding all of our interactions with others, with the land and its plants and animals, and with the planet as a whole. We must, as Aldo Leopold put it, become 'biotic citizens' of the world. If not for us, then for our children's children's children. They'll have to live here, too.

For more information on Aldo Leopold visit the Aldo Leopold Foundation at <http://www.aldoleopold.org/> Clay Steele serves Pocahontas County and surrounding communities as a naturalist with the Pocahontas County Conservation Board. He can be reached at (712) 335-4395 or at [pokyccb-nat@evertek.net](mailto:pokyccb-nat@evertek.net).

## All You Can Eat Fish Fry & Karaoke

Laurens Golf & Country Club

January 19th.

Serving: 5:00-8:00

Chef Harry Reese will be frying the fish.

Karaoke with Nathan Brazel  
8:00-12:00



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# From The Heart

This week I would like to tackle the question, "How do I perk up my house after the Christmas decorations go away?"

After the glimmer and glitter of the Holiday season goes back into our attics, basements, and closets...our house seems a little "dull". Isn't it amazing what we do to our home during Christmas? We add twinkle lights, lots of greenery, gorgeous colors of reds, greens, creams, silver, and glitter. We decorate areas of our home that for 10 months that we usually ignore! What insanity is this?!

I often find it amazing that we are willing to spend \$80 on a wreath that we may have up for 40 days; and question a \$25 wreath that we will put up for the rest of the year. I am sure there is a grad research psych paper on that analysis!

So what to do? First of all; consider putting greens into your home. Whether it be trees, plants, ivy garlands, or bushes. They can be on top of entertainment center (it helps to make the other items on the center "pop"); on top of a hutch; curtains...anywhere.

To replace the soft glow that our miniature "twinkle" lights gave us; consider small accent lights. They can act like candles do...and much safer. Lighting is very important to a room. Or put your overhead/wall sconces on dimmer

switches. They are very easy to install (I have done it myself) and you can buy them in town. This allows you control of the amount of light that you want in the room. A soft, romantic light during "relaxing" hours in the evening is terrific!

And don't be afraid to put a dab of color into your rooms. You don't have to have only 2 colors in your rooms. Experiment and place 3 items of a different color or metal. Did you like the way your red Santas looked in the bookcase? Replace them with red pillar candles or red roses.

If you are fortunate enough to own the small alpine trees (evergreen trees that you see the bark); don't put them away yet! Add Valentine's day decor on them. Have kids cut out valentines and hang them those hearts. Then in March we have both St. Patrick's Day and Easter within 6 days of each other! Again ~ add pastel lights to the tree and get busy decorating.

One last hint; when putting your regular day items back out...don't put them back where they were before. This makes everything look new and fresh.

If you have a question you would like answered; please send an e-mail to [heart@laurens-ia.com](mailto:heart@laurens-ia.com). *Keep it from the heart, Julie Wurr*

## Join us at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

324 W. Section Line Rd., Laurens, Iowa  
Ph. 841-2455

Website: [www.forministry.com/USI-ACCDOCFCC1](http://www.forministry.com/USI-ACCDOCFCC1)

Wednesday, Jan. 9 -  
1:00 p.m. Willing Workers meet at the church  
3:30 p.m. Chi Rho Kids & Friends  
7:30 p.m. Lydia Circle meeting at the Church

Thursday, Jan. 10 - 2:00 p.m. CWF  
General Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 13 -  
9:30 a.m. Church School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. Worship - Special music by our Kid's Choir



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# Laurens United Methodist Church

Wed. Jan. 9  
4:00 p.m. - Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. - Christian Ed  
7:30 p.m. - Sr. UMYF

Fri. Jan. 11  
7:00 a.m. - Men's Bible Study

Sat. Jan. 12  
7:00 a.m. - UM Men  
2-4 p.m. - Baby Shower for  
Natashia Dvorak & twins

Sun. Jan. 13  
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Coffee  
10:30 a.m. - Worship

Wed. Jan. 16  
12:00 p.m. - Leadership  
7:00 p.m. - Worship  
7:30 p.m. - Sr. UMYF  
8:15 p.m. - Ad Council

Fri. Jan. 18  
7:00 a.m. - Men's Bible Study



## Country Club Special

The special at the Laurens Golf and Country Club on Jan 10th will be a jumbo tenderloin with a tossed salad or french fries.

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



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## At the Library

with Glenda Mulder  
January 8, 2008

Great news! We're getting a Pocahontas County Foundation Grant for \$1215 to start "Read a Great Movie." This will be a collection of books and the movies that are based on them. I've got a list started, but probably should wait to go shopping until I have the money in hand! The grants will be awarded the afternoon of January 16<sup>th</sup> at a ceremony at the Rialto Theater.

In years past, the Pocahontas County Foundation has funded several other fun projects that would not have been possible within our regular budget constraints.

If you haven't had a chance to check out the Runneberg's gingerbread creations, you better stop in soon. They are amazing works of art. What a fun family project! I'm thinking it would be fun to do at Easter. That way maybe I wouldn't eat all the candy!

We've got some new choices for your January reading. We received Charles Schulz's biography, **Schulz and Peanuts** by David Michaelis. New fiction includes **Then We Came to the End** by Joshua Ferris, **Tree of Smoke** by Denis Johnson, **Version of the Truth** by Jennifer Kaufman, **Risk of Infidelity** by Christopher Moore,

**Diablerie** by Walter Mosley, **Black Widow** by E. Duke Vincent, **The Last Cowgirl** by Jana Richman and **Chameleon's Shadow**

by Minette Walters. If you're a Simpson's fan, stop in and check out **The Simpson's Movie** on DVD.

Dennis LeHane's **Shutter Island** is the book of choice for January. We have lots of extra copies. We'd love to hear your thoughts on it Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> when we get together to talk about it. I am looking forward to reading this book again!

**Check it out at the Laurens Public Library!**



# Joe Roewe 1922-2008

Joe Roewe, Urbandale, Joseph Earl Roewe died peacefully January 5, 2008 at Timberland Health Center, Urbandale, Iowa after a five-year struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. Until his move to Urbandale in 2006, Joe was a life-long resident of Laurens in Pocahontas County, Iowa.

Born January 16, 1922 on the Roewe family farm east of Laurens, Joe attended Iowa State University, studying agronomy until his brother's service in World War II required him to leave the university to help with the farm operation. He was a member of Farmhouse fraternity.

Joe married Lois Field of Hawarden on March 25, 1945. They were active members of the Laurens United Methodist Church and the Laurens Golf and Country Club. Joe was a district lecturer and a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge and Past Patron of Eastern Star. For many years he served as leader of the Swan Lake Huskies 4-H Club and many positions, including chairman, of the Pocahontas County Democrats.

Farming was Joe's passion and career. The Roewe farm was established

125 years ago and is under current management by the fourth and fifth generations - Joe's son Dale Roewe and his grandson Taylor.

Joe Roewe was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Mae Roewe and his brothers, Henry and August Roewe. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Lois Field Roewe, his sister Rachel Morgan (Harry) of Glenview, IL, and four children, Gary Roewe of Pleasant Hill, Marcia Roewe Wubben (Alan) of Forest City, Janet Roewe Piller (Dan) of Urbandale and Dale Roewe of Laurens and former son-in-law Norm Farrington of Council Bluffs. Joe will be lovingly remembered by his eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



A short memorial service will be held Sunday, January 6th at Deerfield Retirement Community at 2 pm. Masonic and memorial services will be held Saturday, January 12, 10:30 am. at the Laurens United Methodist Church. A luncheon will follow with family visitation. In lieu of flowers, the family is establishing memorial gifts for Alzheimer research, the Iowa 4-H Foundation and the Laurens United Methodist Church.

# James Carlson Funeral

Memorial services were held for James "Jim" Carlson of Spencer at 10:30A.M., Thursday, January 3, 2008 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Spencer. Visitation with the family was held Wednesday evening at the Warner Funeral Home in Spencer. James is the father of Shelley Ahlers and son-in-law of Janice Fuchs both of Laurens. Online condolences may be sent on [www.warnerfuneral-home.com](http://www.warnerfuneral-home.com).

## Misc.

# Free Snowshoeing Friday, Jan. 11

Did you miss the first snowshoeing class? Join the Pocahontas County Naturalist on Fri., Jan. 11 at 9 a.m. at the Sportsman's Park picnic shelter in Laurens to experience this unique sport first-hand. Snowshoeing is a wonderful excuse to get out of the house this time of year and is great exercise.

Attendees of this all-age event will be given a quick introduction to snowshoeing before setting off on a tour around the park. You will quickly warm up on our traditional wooden snowshoes hand-built in Canada but in case you don't, hot beverages will be provided before and after your tromp through the fluffy white stuff. There are no restrooms at Sportsman's this time of year so plan accordingly.

Pre-registration is required for this free event. Contact the Pocahontas County Naturalist with any questions or to register at (712) 335-4395 or [pokycbnat@evertek.net](mailto:pokycbnat@evertek.net).



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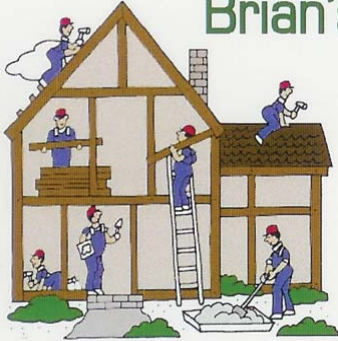
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maintenance, mechanical repairs, and troubleshooting at its feed manufacturing facilities. Person must be capable of lifting 50# and not adverse to heights.

Skills needed: Weld (stick and wire), strong mechanical, electrical and troubleshooting aptitude as well as a being a reliable self starter.

Experience/Education: Min. of 3 years experience and 2 yrs trade school preferred.

Competitive wages and benefit package including health insurance for employee and family, generous 401(k) plan, clothing allowance, paid holidays, birthday off with pay, profit sharing plan, life insurance, disability insurance, and cafeteria plan.

DFS, Inc.

Attn: Human Resources

PO Box 3 ~ 167 West 1st St ~ Newell, Iowa 50568

## Classifieds

**GOLF BALL DROP:** Win one of five \$100 cash prizes! January 11th at the boys' basketball half-time. Tickets \$5 available now from any Jr. Class parent. Proceeds for After-Prom.

### Laurens-Marathon Sophomore Pancake Supper Fundraiser

Tuesday, January 15 - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
school lunchroom--

Adults: \$4.00, Children under 12:  
\$3.00 Preschool and under: \$1.00

For Sale-Homedics Shiatsu massaging cushion with moving massage mechanism. Lightly used. \$50.00.  
712-841-2255.

**ATTENTION:** Winter snow removal!  
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