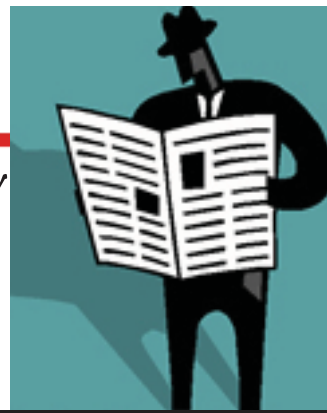


The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!

Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 1 No. 51

www.mylaurens.com

March 26, 2008

Local News

Exchanging Jabs

First on the agenda I would like to announce that The Paper has instituted a new policy as it relates to anonymous submissions. We allowed a letter to be published this past week without a signature and it is apparent that this was an error. Our new policy is a simple one and is printed here on the front page this week. In the future you will find the policy on our website, should you need to review.



Also, we received a suggestion that we offer more balanced “reporting” with respect to the Rose Davis issue. I need to remind our readers that, with a very few exceptions, we are not out there “reporting”. For the most part, our news is submitted by our readers. From what I’ve picked up around town, I think the viewpoint put forth in the paper closely mirrors the feelings of the community.

I believe that within the last few days we’ve seen the resignation, or early retirement, of two well respected educators—teachers that invested many years in our community and our schools. While I

have no firm evidence, I have the feeling that other teachers might be looking for the escape hatch as well. I am not of the opinion that wholesale change is needed, or desired, at L-M Schools. Continued staff defections may mean a complete implosion—a collapse from within.

In looking at the situation and trying to see clear of the rumors and hostilities, this looks like a situation where only one, Mr. Joelson or Mrs. Davis, may be left standing. It appears that one or the other will likely go. You might ask yourself this—who is “vested” in the school system or in this community, for that matter. Which of the principle parties (pardon the pun) has a long-standing interest in this community. And, if the whole thing blows up, who is likely to remain here in Laurens?

This all seems like a championship boxing match. Yet, the two combatants remain seated in their corners while the “seconds” are exchanging jabs from across the ring. Sooner or later someone is going to throw that figurative knock-out punch. And if the board remains solidly in Mr. Joelson’s corner, it would appear that he’s likely to remain standing when the final bell has rung. If that’s not the outcome you’re hoping for, I suggest that you make yourself heard—and soon!

By: Rod Johnson

Check it out!

Look for numerous articles from the students of L-M High School in this issue of The Paper!

New Policy for Letters to the Editor:

1. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number
2. All letters are subject to editing for content and/or length
3. The Paper reserves the right to refuse to print any letter/submission
4. We won’t publish anonymous letters or letters without an address and phone number.

The views expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views of The Paper, the editor or the publisher.

Laurens-Marathon
Community Schools
Board of Directors
Special Board Meeting
March 26, 2008
6:00 PM FCS Room

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Approve Agenda
- III. “Personnel-Probable Closed Session”
 - a. Closed Session, under 21.5 (1)(a).
And / or
 - b. Closed Session, under 21.5 (1)(i).
- IV. Adjourn



Dental Assisting Student

CaLeigh LaBore, dental assisting student from Lakes Area Technical Institute, Watertown, South Dakota, has been working in the dental office of Dr. Bieri and Dr. Christensen for the past three weeks. She will graduate in May and be married to Jeff Olsen, son of Brad and Sara Olsen of Laurens.

Jeff and CaLeigh will be moving to rural Alta where Jeff has a job with Ag Partners as an agronomist. We have enjoyed CaLeigh's pleasant personality and her ability to learn quickly. We thank her for sharing her spring break in Laurens with us.

Kathy Wiley, Postmaster

Submitted by: Bryce Wiley

Every town has a person that everyone knows. One such person in Laurens is Kathy Wiley, our Postmaster.

When asked what she likes best about her job as Postmaster, Kathy Wiley replied, "I feel a sense of accomplishment every day when we finish sorting the mail and know it is on its way to the community. I also have the opportunity to get to know at least one person from each household in town."

Kathy arrived at her present position through perseverance. In 1983 she took the Civil Service Exam. In September of 1992 she got the job of part time clerk in Sioux Rapids. In 1993 Kathy transferred to Rolfe. To get more hours, she was loaned out to

several other offices which provided valuable experience. In 2000 she transferred to Laurens as a city carrier. When the Laurens Postmaster became ill, Mrs. Wiley was offered the position of Officer in Charge. In 2002 Kathy was appointed Postmaster.



Kathy has made Laurens her home with her husband Mike and their four children. This is her home and she knows everyone in it. There are many people in a community who work together to make it a great place to live. Kathy Wiley is one of those people.

2008 Scholarship Announced

Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association is offering a \$500 scholarship, eligible to students graduating in 2008. Entrants must be living in a household where basic telephone service is provided by Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association. Exchanges served include West Bend (887), Havelock (776), Curlew (855) and Plover (857). Entrants must maintain a C average or above. All eligible applications will be considered, however, preference will be given to applicants who show an interest in working in a communications field including telephone, information technology, information systems, programming, networking, cable television or related fields.

Applicants must submit a 300 word written essay entitled, "How I plan to use communications in my future", letters of recommendation and a written application. Students must be attending an accredited 2 or 4 year college or university, or vocational-technical school and may not be related to any Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association employee or board member including son, daughter, niece, nephew, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, first cousin or equivalent in-law relationship.

For more information, look on Northwest Telephone's website at www.northwest.coop or contact Sara Tokheim at 844 Wood Street, Havelock, IA 50546, call 611 from one of Northwest's telephone exchanges or call 712-776-2222. Applications must be received in the Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association office by the end of the day on Wednesday, April 30, 2008.



Engagement Announced

Craig and Kathy Rubel of Plover and Charles Brazel of Truesdale are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Ashlie Brazel, to Kale Joynt, son of Gary & Barb Joynt of Webb and Pat Joynt & Wendy Horsman of Mal-lard. An April 12th Bridal Shower will be held at 1 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Laurens. The couple will be married on June 14th.

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!



Alice McDaniel the Babysitter of Town

Submitted by: Amanda McDaniel

Alice McDaniel, the babysitter of town. About 283 kids had Alice McDaniel as a babysitter. Alice worked as a babysitter for over 30 years, in her little house in Laurens, Iowa.

Alice started babysitting when she moved to Laurens in 1970. She started out just babysitting a few kids here and there and by the time she retired, she babysat at least half of Laurens. Every-day of the week she had at least 5 or 6 kids that she babysat at a time. Many say "Alice's Mac and Cheese and Hot Dogs" was her best meal." Many talk about what she called "juice break" which consist of Kool-Aid and crackers. Everyone had their own cup when they went there. One thing people remember about Alice's house was her play room. She had a couch and a little table that many people played on and "made dinner" on. Unfortunately, several remember "the naughty chair". At first, she had it by her in the living room, then she ended up moving it because Jeff Wenell told her once "he liked sitting in the naughty chair because he got to watch T.V."

Many also know Alice as the lady that sits up in the same place in the gym for every game. Alice goes to the games to watch the kids she babysat and kids that she has seen in the community.

Local Farmer Raises Exotic Birds

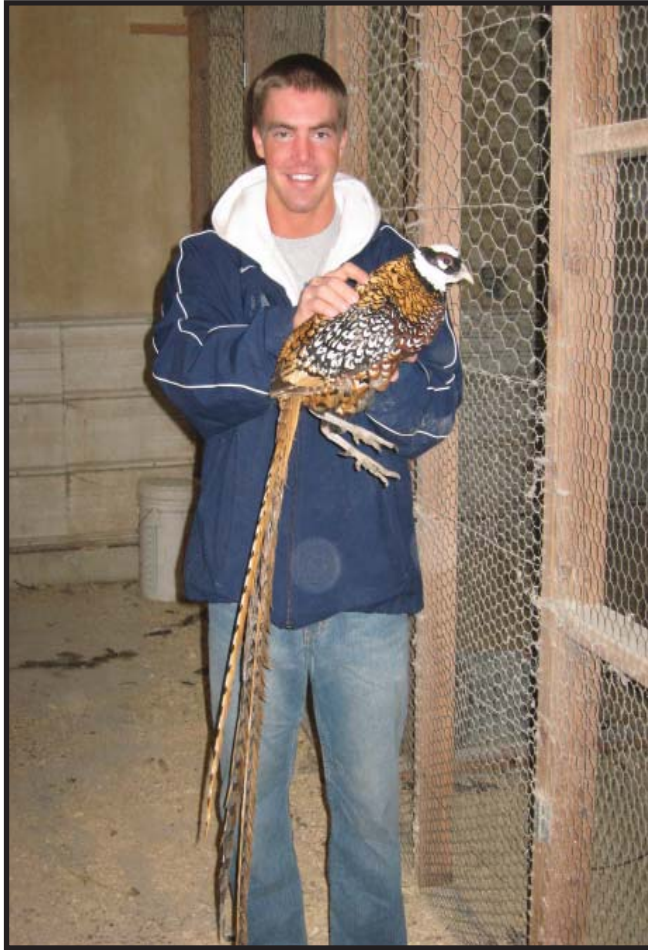
*Submitted by: John
Gustafson*

Jason Gustafson from Laurens has been raising exotic poultry and waterfowl for the past nine years. What started out as a hobby has now become a unique form of income for Jason.

Jason started this unique hobby by raising only a few fancy pigeons in a small hut. He and his family eventually converted a hog confinement building into 16 different pens housing an assortment of poultry and waterfowl. This assortment, over the years, has included: five different breeds of ornamental pheasants, ten different exotic breeds of ducks and geese, several breeds of fancy chickens, and an assortment of pigeons, quail, guineas, turkeys, and peacocks.

The young from these birds are sold yearly at an exotic bird sale. After many years of experience, Jason has turned these hobby birds into a valuable income. Jason commented, "Yes, I plan on continuing my project that I started, as long as I can continue making a profit." Jason also commented, "I enjoy raising these unique birds that are not found on an average farm."

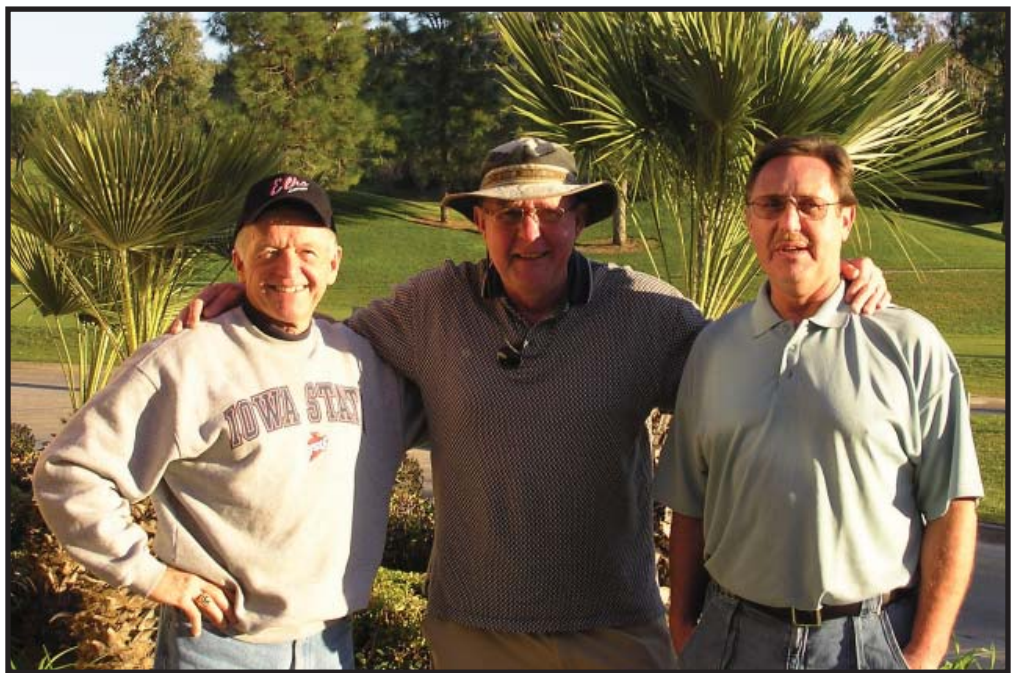
Jason enjoys showing off his prize collection. If you are interested in exotic birds, give the Randy Gustafson farm a call, and someone would be glad to give you a tour.



**The
Paper**
*Subscribe and
Submit today at:
www.mylarens.com*

Rush Lake Road Gang

Back in the 1950s, they were just three kids growing up in Laurens as part of the so-called Rush Lake Road gang -- along with Keith Hoffman, and Bill and Mike Kemp. And last month was reunion time for that trio of (from left) Rick Davis, Gary Bellinghausen and Roger Bellinghausen. They got together at a golf course in suburban San Diego. Gary (who lives in the Seattle area) and Roger (who lives in Newell), along with their wives and their sister, Diana (who lives in Minneapolis), were vacationing there. Rick drove down from Temecula (50 miles north of San Diego).

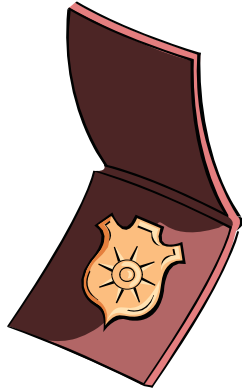


The Police: Officer Attitudes By Tom Shaw, Chief of Police

A positive and empathetic demeanor is vital in the performance of an officer's duties.

However, it is very easy for an officer to become cynical and develop an "us against them" mentality. This is mostly due to the pressures and stress of the job. Other considerations include officers often dealing with people who are uncooperative, verbally abusive and may become physically combative. It can be quite a challenge to forget the stresses from the previous call while responding to your next call. For example, the officer may have just dealt with a domestic violence situation just prior to showing up to unlock your car. Through our training and experience, we learn how to cope with the effects of having to almost instantaneously shift our focus from guarding ourselves against a physical assault to that of performing a simple public service task.

There are a myriad of calls and situations that an officer must deal with on their shift, and several "bad" calls can come back to back. It is the human side of us that expects that when we call for help, an officer will arrive quickly and with a smile on his face. But your expectations may not be met if he arrives later than you



think he should have and if he's a real "grouch". Other than the officer having the proverbial "bad hair day", there may be many other reasons for his less than cheerful disposition.

There are days when we officers answer a domestic disturbance, then deal with an unattended death, then respond to an ambulance call, and then deal with a mentally unstable/suicidal individual. So, by the time we show up at your doorstep, the events of the day have left their marks on us.

By the way, the men and women of our Fire Department and Ambulance Service face many of the same stresses as police. The next time you see someone wearing a Firefighter or Ambulance Service jacket, walk up and thank them for keeping us safe.

I am glad to say that I have received positive feedback on my previous letters. If there is a particular subject that you would like to know more about, please email me at lzpd@laurens-ia.com.

The Greatest Things Come in Small Packages

Submitted by: Nathan Kirsch

Communities like Laurens are blessed to have many people that give of themselves without expecting much in return. Sue Hanson is one of these people. Sue has three sons and a husband who all live in Laurens.

In addition to being a mother and wife, she also holds a job. In addition to these responsibilities, she generously dedicates her time to many community efforts. Often she can be spotted up bright and early preparing something for a school function.

One of her main school focuses is the Laurens-Marathon Booster Club concession stand. She has been working at and operating the concession stand for four years running now. She runs the concession stand at basketball games, football games, speech contests, wrestling meets, volleyball games, and track meets. Her duties include moving food and drink between the two concession stands, cooking the food served, supervising the workers, keeping everything stocked, ordering food and drink weekly, and even working at the stand counter herself. On average, Sue spends eight to twenty-six hours per week working with the concession stand.

In addition to her school efforts, Sue has helped out with many other community organizations over the years. Many less fortunate people recognize her as a grace of God, as she consistently delivers food for the "meals on wheels" program, and she delivers communion to "shut-ins". Sue seems to be tirelessly working for the betterment of all living in our area.

When interviewed, it was hard to even keep up with notes while she listed her services to the community. From listening to Sue, I have come to the conclusion that if any of her boys become involved in something new, she, and many times her husband, also become involved by raising money for the organization or sometimes by teaching classes, as was the case with CCD and Pack 99 of the Boy Scouts.

Sue is fairly small in stature, but big in work ethic, sense of giving back to the community, and responsibility. My figurative hat is off to Sue for all that she has done.

Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny read stories to the kids at the Library Saturday Morning at a celebration sponsored by the Laurens Chamber and the Laurens Public Library.



Bunny Hop

The Easter Bunny (aka Connie Dallenbach) leads the kids as they Bunny Hop over to the tables to make their bunny masks and frost Easter egg cookies. The Chamber & Library sponsored this fun event.



At the Library with Glenda Mulder

March 26, 2008

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

I'm enjoying the sights and sounds of spring. I especially like to see that dirty snow disappearing more every day! My walks to work have been perked up by the sight of robins and the sound of migrating geese honking.

Even though I see more signs of spring every day, I think even my determined Grandpa would have had a hard time getting his potatoes planted in the garden on Good Friday this year!

To perk up your springtime reading, you might like to try one of these new novels.

- . *Deep Dish* by Mary Kay Andrews
- . *The Unraveling of Violetta Bell* by C.R. Corwin
- . *The Killer's Wife* by Bill Floyd
- . *Souvenir* by Therese Fowler
- . *Lost Souls* by Lisa Jackson
- . *Murder Melts in Your Mouth* by Nancy Martin
- . *The Law of Second Chances* by James Sheehan
- . *Standing Still* by Kelly Simmons
- . *The Cure for Modern Life* by Lisa Tucker
- . *The Spa* by Fay Weldon

Stop in and check it out!

Following in My Mom's Footsteps

Many years have passed since I have seen my name in the headlines of the newspaper. Now it is my son's name that I can be proud of. Marcus Leitzen, along with his sister Keelee, son and daughter of Amber Leitzen (Schmidt) ran the 27th Annual Gaelic Gallop in Dyersville on March 15th. What a proud moment to see a father/son duo take the titles - Chad in the 8K road race and Marcus in the Leprechaun Leap. Keelee also finished behind Marcus. Marcus and Keelee are the grandchildren of Kathy and Mike Sangwin, and Ed and Rita Schmidt.

Picture: Marcus Leitzen, of Dubuque, races in the 4-and-under Leprechaun Leap. Above his right arm you can see Keelee (her legs) racing in behind her big brother.



Nurses in Our Little Town of Laurens

Submitted by: Carol Catala

Nurses are all over the world, we even have a few in our little town of Laurens. Laura Todd is one of those nurses. She lives in Laurens, and she works as a nurse at the Good Samaritan Center here in Laurens.

Laura Todd was born in Oceanside, California. She was only eighteen years old when she received her LVN, which is equivalent of today's certified nursing assistant. Laura commented "Nursing was a career that I could get a job anywhere in the world, and I enjoy science." She took the job at the nursing home because she lived here in town.

At the Good Samaritan Center, Laura is responsible for the Medicare program, and she also oversees the rehab dept. She is also responsible for the medical records of the residents who come to live at the nursing home. Laura enjoys working at the Good Samaritan Center because many of them are people she got to know while growing up and living here in town with her grandmother.

Laura feels that being a nurse can be stressful because you never know what is going to happen, but she likes the idea that most people do respect nurses for the job they have to do. She said, "I have new experiences everyday; sometimes it's just sitting beside someone who is lonely and visiting with them." In addition, Laura helps out the community by being on the swim team board and the Kids Korner board. Laura is a woman who has a lot of character, and she is a very caring person and an asset to our community.

Online Acreage Living Newsletter Provides Timely Topics for Rural Residents

Iowa State University Extension is bringing back its Acreage Living newsletter. The online newsletter provides timely research-based information for the new rural Iowa. One third of Iowa's residents are considered rural non-farm and live in either the country or in communities of less than 2,500.

The March issue of Acreage Living features articles on Iowa's changing rural population, pasture management and how to use downed tree branches to your benefit.

Winter storms have left downed branches and trees as well as those old Christmas trees. An article on discarded trees and branches explains how they can be beneficial rather than a burden. Learn about alternatives to burn piles. Create a habitat for birds, reptiles or small mammals. Improve your pond structure with discarded evergreen trees.

Spring is coming so it's time to think about increasing the productivity of pastures with proper fertilization management. Learn more about what fertilizer works best for grass-dominant pastures and how to encourage the growth of legumes in Pasture Management and Forage Production, the first article in a three-part series.

Iowa State sociologists provide information on how Iowa's rural non-farm population is increasing. Find out how that growth impacts local economic and social dynamics.

Each month the Acreage Living newsletter will provide timely research-based information. Topics will include neighbor relations, pet and horse care, small farm enterprises, rural residence maintenance, water quality and management, wildlife management, recreation and safety, landscape plantings and ponds. Read the March newsletter today at www.extension.iastate.edu/acreage/.

The City Council

Within the state of Iowa, there are several forms of city government. The City of Laurens has what is known as a Mayor-Council. That is, the council consists of a mayor and five councilmen. In order for a council meeting to be official, a quorum of councilmen must be present. A quorum is present when the majority of councilmen are present. This means at least 3 councilmen must be present to have a council meeting. The mayor appoints one of the councilmen to be the mayor pro tem. The mayor pro tem presides when the mayor is not present. Only the councilmen vote at council meetings. The mayor appoints a chief of police with the consent of the majority of councilmen.

The city council appoints a city clerk for the purpose of maintaining records and performing other duties as prescribed by state and city law. The council also appoints other city officials and employees

as well as prescribes duties, compensation, and terms of employment. The council initiates and approves ordinances, resolutions, and the budget.

The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city. When a city has a city manager, many of the supervisor duties of the mayor are delegated to the city manager. The mayor does supervise all city officers and departments.

A proposed ordinance or amendment must be considered and voted on for passage at two council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed, unless this requirement is suspended by a recorded vote of not less than three-fourths of all of the members of the council. This rule is extremely important because it gives us, the citizens, a chance to attend a council meeting and express our concurrence or opposition to the proposed ordinance or amendment. Believe it or not, people do attend council meetings and do just that. I have seen proposed ordinances changed as a result.

When an ordinance is passed or amended by the council, what does the mayor do? The mayor may sign, veto, or take no action on an ordinance, amendment, or resolution passed by the council. Normally the mayor does sign the ordinance, unless the mayor believes that the proposed ordinance or amendment is not in the best interest of the citizens. The citizens should take special interest when a mayor chooses to veto or take no action on an ordinance or amendment passed by the council to insure that the mayor's motive was truly focused on the best interest of the citizens or to some special interest.

Attending council meetings, expressing your opinion on proposed ordinances or amendments is called getting involved. If you like or dislike what the council or mayor is doing, let them know. These people want and need your feedback. If they do not want your feedback, then they are not representing you.

By: Kent Radford

From the Heart

It is getting to be that time of year that we are looking for change. We start to open windows to let fresh air in, add a little color to our walls, and change what we have on our walls. Especially all of those mothers of seniors, the graduation experience has begun. The next few weeks we are going to tackle a few decorating basics.

An average home has 42 walls...that is 42 challenges that we each face.

There are many styles of decorating, whether on the walls or on our endtables.

One style is called FORMAL BALANCE. Formal balance is when the focal point is in the center of the area. Whether it is on a mantel, above a couch, or even an entertainment center. Each side of the main focus is identical. Imagine a large mirror above a fireplace with two topiaries on each side. People who decorate this style are usually organized. They are on time for events. Sometimes certain rooms are organized this way while the rest of the house is a little more casual.

Next style is INFORMAL BALANCE. It is very similar to the above way of decorating. The focal point is in the center, but each side is balanced but not identical. Take that same fireplace with the mirror. Now on one side is a topiary and the other side is a large plate on an easel with a few candles in front of it. It takes up the same space as the topiary to "balance it", but they aren't identical.

Last way of decorating is INFORMAL OFFBALANCE. This is when the focal point is in the upper left hand side with the grouping flowing to the right in a rainbow effect. You would take the mirror on the fireplace and move it to the left with the topiary to the right of that and then at the very end would be your plate laying down with the candles on it.

When hanging pictures and such on the walls you should hang your items between 3" to 11" above the furniture. No furniture underneath? Then sit down across from the wall, see where you eye "naturally" rests on the wall and put the center of the picture no more than 11" above the "sitting eye".

You decorate 1/3 to 1/2 of all of the space from the ends of the furniture on

the wall. Average sizes of furniture is sofa 85" (picture would be about 40" across); loveseat is 65" (picture would be about 30" across) and a queen size bed about 60" (about 27" across).

If grouping small pictures together and you would like to "see" them as one large picture...simply hang them no more than a hand's width apart. It fools your eye into seeing it as a large picture.

One little hint that I use all the time: when hanging ANYTHING, I use a wooden ruler with a screw in one end. Place your picture on the screw and hold it up to the wall. When you decide where you want it simply press into the wall and it will leave a small indent where your nail should go. This trick works great when hanging shelves. Have one end of the shelf already on a nail...take the loose end and place on your wooden ruler. Have a small level on the shelf. When your level measures "level"...press in and you will know exactly where to put your screw/nail!

If you have any tips on decorating; e-mail me at julie@heartnhomeonline.com.
From the decorating heart,
Julie Wurr

Dear Roxer

Time for a new pet??

The United States has the largest pet dog and pet cat population in the world. Obviously, Americans love their dogs and cats! According to the Pet Food Institute, over half of Americans share their household with at least one dog or cat. These owners obviously seek companionship and enjoy caring for their pet(s). It is also rather evident that Americans are willing to spend money on their loving pets. Just look around at major chain stores, along with the pet section in any grocery or big box store.

So are you ready to add a pet to your household? Will a cat or dog suit you best? Purebred or mixed breed? Your lifestyle and size of the pet will be an important factor to consider. If you are on the go, like to travel or have a job that demands time away from home, perhaps a cat is best suited to your lifestyle. Cats can be more independent, although some breeds are very much like a dog in personality. Cats are also typically nocturnal; ideal for those that work late hours!

But if you are ready for a dog, do consider the obligation involved with a dog. Care for the dog can run, on average, \$600 to \$1,000 per year. The initial cost, vet bills, spaying or neutering, food, grooming, etc. can add up. Plus you must consider time to train and socialize the dog. This is of the utmost importance, especially if you live in an urban setting. Dogs also can live, on average for twelve years; smaller breeds live longer than

large breeds. Are you ready for these years of commitment?

So do you want a purebred or a mixed breed? We all know that there are too many unwanted pets in our shelters. A shelter is a good place to start for either a mixed breed or a purebred. There are rescue groups for the purebreds also. And of course, breeders. Keep in mind that just like people, dogs have many different personalities. A purebred may serve your lifestyle, as you can be surer of what your dog will be like when it is an adult. Also, do not believe the old adage that mutts are healthier than purebreds, "because purebreds are inbred". Most backyard breeders do not know what inbred, linebred, etc. even mean. As the head veterinary technician for many years, at a large vet clinic, we treated as many mixed breeds as we did purebreds.

The purebred dog breeder should be conscientious, screening for potential health problems. Every breed has its Achilles heel. Mixed breeds will carry those genetics also. For instance, as a Rottweiler exhibitor, we stress temperaments. We also screen for inherited eye problems, hip and elbow dysplasia and any heart problems. The screening should be performed by board certified veterinarians. The cost to the breeder is part of what you pay for when looking for a puppy bred by a reputable breeder as opposed to the "backyard breeder" who breeds simply for money and not to better the breed.

Also, a reputable breeder will ask you, the buyer, as many questions as you ask them. When we were actively showing and on occasion, did breed a litter, it was so that we could improve the breed. We asked the potential buyer why they wanted this

particular breed. Are they aware of the power and protective instinct and activity level? It is not a breed for everybody and often, we would steer the person to another breed.

Ann Katona has a BS (how appropriate) in Agriculture/animal Science from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). Training dogs since 1981 (geez, must be old!) Our dogs have been ranked in the top ten Rottweilers in the U.S. Competing and training in Conformation, agility, obedience, herding, tracking and draft dog. Teaching dog obedience classes for over 20 years at various dog training clubs and also the prestigious Kanosak dog training <http://www.kanosak.com> in Sycamore, Illinois.

Also taught classes in equine science at Kishwaukee Jr. college in Malta IL.

Spent twelve years as the head Veterinary Technician and did behavioral consultations at the animal hospital. And of course part of the marvelous HorseTech team!!

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

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

New Arrival!!

Laura and Greg Sangwin of Peterson are the happy parents of a baby boy born March 18th in Cherokee, Iowa. His name is Zane Gregory and he weighed in at 7 pounds and 3 ounces and is 21 inches long. He joins his two year old sister, Laina Ann. Grandparents are Mary Ann and Larry Northway, Kathy and Mike Sangwin and Marilyn Hansen, all of Laurens.

Laurens Genies to Meet

The Laurens Genies will meet Friday, March 28 at 9:30 a.m. at the Homestead Cooperative with Bonnie Heetland serving at hostess. The program will be "Railroads in Iowa" presented by Grace Hertz. Roll call will be: "Have you ever had a ride on a train?" Anyone who is interested in family research and genealogy is cordially invited to attend.

A recent research request was received asking for information about Oliver Perry Phillips (1815-1905) and his wife, Elizabeth/Betsy (Dutton) Phillips (1823-1904). Both of them are buried in the Laurens Cemetery. If anyone has more information about this family, please contact Grace Hertz, (712) 845-2231.

Happy 55th Anniversary

The family of Pete and Norma Hansen would like to surprise them with a card shower in honor of their 55th anniversary April 8th. Cards may be sent to: Ruthven CCC Villa, Box 430, # 112, Ruthven, Iowa 51358.
We Love You!

Our Town Our Paper!

Services Held Recently for Ruby Ellison

Ruby C. Ellison, age 97 of New Brighton, Minnesota, formerly of Willmar, Minnesota and Laurens, Iowa passed away on March 21, 2008.

Ruby was born on July 9, 1910. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Gordon Kimpling, husband, Ruben, son, Milton. Survivors are daughters, Roberta Collier and Virginia Roman; grandsons, Steven S. Collier, Ross R. Collier and Jay Roman; nephews, other family and friends.

Funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at the funeral home, with visitation starting at 9:00 a.m. Interment, Leentrop Cemetery, Maynard, Minnesota.

Miller-Brighton Chapel
(651) 636-9821
706 4th Ave. NW
New Brighton, MN
www.methven-taylor.com

Class of 1998 10 Year Class Reunion

Laurens-Marathon High School Class of 1998, 10 year class reunion is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th, at the Marathon Park Shelter Center.

Please forward Class of '98 contact information including: email address and mailing address to Jeremy Kelley at jkelly@smunet.net.

Reunion details will be sent via email at a later date.

Local & School Calendar

March 25-Spring Break, no school.

March 26-Classes resume.

March 27-FFA Banquet at 6:15 p.m. at the Expo Center in Pocahontas; Preschool & K-5th Elementary Spring Concert and Elementary Art Show at 7:00 p.m.

March 28-Jump Rope for Heart for 3rd-5th grades in the new gym from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

March 31-All State Individual Speech Festival in Cedar Falls; Boys track, Wunderly Relays in Lake City at 5:00 p.m.; Girls track, Ryan Relays at Gowrie at 5:00 p.m.



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!*



Marathon Fireman's Ball
April 19, 2008
Marathon Community Center
 Hog Roast and Music by The Expressions
 Dinner From 6 p.m. Until Gone
 \$6 for Food and Band
 Band Starts at 8:00 p.m.
 Raffles Throughout the Night

Laurens United Methodist Church

Wed. March 26
7:30 p.m. ~ Sr.
UMYF

Fri. March 28
7:00 a.m. ~ Men's
Bible Study



Sun. March 30
9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday School
9:30 a.m. ~ Fellowship Coffee
10:30 a.m. ~ Worship
7:00 p.m. ~ Choir Practice

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

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

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

This Week at Bethany



Living in God's amazing grace

Wednesday, March 26th
4-5:30 PM: Affirmation of
Baptism Classes
7 PM: High School Bible
Study @ Clevelands

Sunday, March 30th
9 AM: Worship
10 AM: Coffee Fellowship

10:15 AM: Sunday School Hour
4 PM: Worship @ Good Sam. Cen-
ter

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

This Week at Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday, March 26:
9:00 AM MOPS
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study
Adventure Club
7-Up (Jr. High)

Thursday, March 27:
6:00 AM Leadership Team
1:00 PM FISH
6:30 PM CE Board Meeting

Friday, March 28:
1:30 PM Music & Worship Com-
mittee

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

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

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

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

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Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Keep Rose

Now, I am a graduate of the Laurens-Marathon School system, and I had the honor of having Rose Davis as a principal. I found her to be a wonderful person who was always energetic and equally excited to see the students. To get rid of her would be an outright travesty! As others have said, her record more than speaks for itself in saying, "Keep Rose!"

Parker Sones

Any School Board

One of the most thankless jobs anywhere would be to volunteer for a non-paying position and have to make difficult decisions on facts you cannot discuss with the public. That is a school board! Do people really believe they make decisions without merit? Do these same people think the board enjoys making these tough decisions? The district is projected to be cash short next year--who of you want to decide where the money should be spent and what or who should be cut?

In any organization--be it a school or business--there has to be a chain of command. If one cannot abide by this, I know what would happen in a business.

"A Concerned Citizen"

Keith Hoffman

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Our Town Our Paper!

Letter to the Editor

The March 19 edition of this publication included an anonymous letter to the editor headlined "We Have a Problem". The letter accuses the school board of causing our school to deteriorate.

Since the board can hardly defend itself in personnel matters, and since most of us are in the dark about the facts of this dispute, it is premature to judge the board in such a cavalier manner.

I know only one member of the board personally, but I know some other things. All board members are volunteers. All of them were elected to their current terms without opposition. Most of them are in their second terms. One is a doctor and one a legal secretary. Such jobs require some discretion. One is a public employee by day and a public

Questions

As a citizen of the Laurens-Marathon School District, I am very concerned about what is currently taking place in our school district.

I would like to ask a couple of questions to the members of the Laurens-Marathon School Board. I realize as board members you cannot talk publicly about school issues, even though the people of this school district elected you as public officials. I am not asking to publicly respond, only to think about the following questions.

As school board members, did you check references of our current Superintendent prior to offering him a contract? I would be interested to know what the people of the Chariton School District had to say about his time spent there. It strikes me as odd that he did not stay at South Page Schools very long. And why, when he did take the job at Laurens Marathon, did the Eagle Grove School District terminate his contract in February of his final contract year? I would

servant by night when he serves on the board. One runs a cattle feeding business, the riskiest of farm enterprises. The board president, an agronomist at First Co-op, advises area farmers every day on decisions that involve thousands of dollars. This requires careful judgment.

Hinting that board members should have their heads on the chopping block is ironic. We'll see how many people want board seats when the September election draws near. Let's hope we don't get candidates who just want their names in the paper, or selfishly try to keep their own taxes down, or try to advance their social views through the curriculum.

It's time to call off the TV cameras and big city reporters, the anonymous attack letters and the inflammatory headlines. Let the parties deliberate.

Jerry Depew

find it difficult to believe that as school board members, these were not questions that you asked this applicant prior to offering such an important position to this person.

I think the community deserves a better explanation as to why our school board and our superintendent abruptly ended all conversations regarding the Regional High School. Why was there not more information shared with the public? Please help me understand the explanation of our superintendent in his published Quarterly Newsletter... I could not follow what he was saying, could you? If so, please explain to the community his position of the subject.

The final question that I would like to ask is, as board members, are you sure that you are asking the right person to resign and/or retire early? It would seem to me that this should be the easiest question of all to answer.

Sincerely,

Matthew Ashton

Laurens Athlete Signs Letter of Intent

Submitted by: Tatum Luchsinger

Monday, March 10, 2008
Travis Leuer, son of Vicky Leuer, signed a letter of intent to accept a scholarship to UNI to compete for them intercollegiately in track and field. The signing was held at the Laurens-Marathon school.

Travis commented, "I'm really excited about it. I looked at a few other schools, but I really liked the coaches and track team at UNI. It is a good school and I am looking forward to attending."

Travis Leuer is a senior at Laurens-Marathon High School. He did not start

participating in track and field until his sophomore year. He started that year when his coach, John Jamison, convinced him he could be a good high jumper. He participates in other events as well, but he has specialized in high jump since day one. A few of his accomplishments include placing 4th at state

his sophomore year and 2nd his junior year. He has also participated in the Drake Relays. In addition, he received a special invitation to attend the Kangaroo Track Club Festival in Minnesota in the summer of 2007, which he participated in and won by jumping and clearing 6'10".

"This is a great opportunity for Travis. It is a great compliment to all the work he has put in to his athletic career." Coach Jamison stated.

Travis and Coach Jamison are looking forward to another exciting track and field season here at Laurens-Marathon before he goes off to college. The first outdoor competition for the Laurens-Marathon boys' track and field team will take place at Lake City on March 31st. The team will compete here, in Laurens, on May 5th when they host the Charger Relays.



Easter P.I.E.!!

Iowa Trust & Savings Bank visited their Partners In Education - Mrs. Herbers 1st grade class, Monday afternoon. After reading a book called "The Story of the Easter Bunny", the kids received some bunnies of their own filled with Easter treats.

The kids are great listeners when it comes to books, and the staff at Iowa Trust love to listen to the kids read also. They are always impressed by how much the kids improve on their reading skills from the beginning of the school year to the end.

**HONOR ROLL
LAURENS-MARATHON MIDDLE SCHOOL
THIRD QUARTER
2007-2008**

To qualify for the Honor Roll, a student must maintain a “B” average in the core academic subject areas, with no D’s or F’s on his/her Report Card in any subject. To be listed on the “A” Honor Roll, a student must earn an “A” or “A-“ in ALL classes/subjects taken. (*) indicates that the student in on the “A” Honor Roll.

6th

Jeff Auld
Levi Bechtel
Thomas Erickson
Maranda Hill
Brittany Jones
Ben Kenobbie*
Ann Lovig
Madyson Main*
Chase Oehlertz
Courtney Post*
Rachel Potter*
Tiffani Reese
Jason Tinajero
Justin Valentine
Blake Willer

7th

Kristen Alstott
Brady Bailey
Matt Cleveland*
Will Cleveland
Justin DaSilva
Angela Dawson
Ben Fuchs
Cameron Graff
Ciri Gunnarson
Seth Hersom
Caitlyn Heuton*
Rebecca Hubbard
Taylor Jensen
Ivy Johnson
Alex Jordan
Carly Lampe
Dalton Lappegard
Collin Lind
Danielle Mahoney
Tyler Stockwell
Kylie Sundblad

8th

Ashley Dvorak
Megan Dvorak
Katie Evans
Trisha Griffin
Regan Grossnickle
Laura Hansen
Austin Hanson
Luke Hersom
Ryan Lovig
Jon McDaniel
Alex Runneberg
Janae Smith

**HONOR ROLL
LAURENS-MARATHON HIGH SCHOOL
THIRD QUARTER
2007-2008**

To qualify for the B Honor Roll the student must have a 3.00 average, with nothing lower than a C. (*) Indicates those students receiving all A's in all subjects. (A Honor Roll)

9th

Ashley Anderson
Katie Arnburg
Riley Bell
*Case Bieri
Melissa Cleveland
Brady Ellis
*Megan Hertz
Cara Jamison
*Connor Johnson
*Kayla Josephson
Kelsey Kautz
Jill Kinney
Chad Kischer
Trent Kischer
Devin Lind
Bryce Maschino
Paige Potter
Austin Stumbo
Kelli Willer

10th

Grace Christensen
*Kelsey Fredricks
*Kelsey Frerichs
Shelby Heuton
Holly Hofmaster
Chelsea Musgjerd
Andrew Olson
Josh Sernett
Phillip Thomas
Amanda Zylstra

11th

*Chelsey Anderson
Hollyann Anderson
Gary Brechler
*Nicole Cox
*Justin Depew
John Gustafson
Trisha Jordan
*Becky Josephson
Colton Lampe
Andy Larson
*Haley Lind
Zach Lovin
Tatum Luchsinger
Katrine Madsen
Amanda McDaniel
*Will Shimon
Tyler Smith
*Ryan Stumbo
Javier Tinajero
Adam Woodin

12th

*Natalie Bailey
Kelsey Bell
Carol Catala
Megan Cleveland
Elizabeth Erritt
Kyle Finley
*Krista Fredricks
Katie Fuchs
Hilary Goedert
Andrew Hanson
*Heather Herrig
Megan Hofmaster
*Diana Johnsen
Adrian Johnson
Michael Jordan
Keton Joynt
Taryn Kay
Nathan Kirsch
Brent Leuer
Travis Leuer
Spencer Lind
Ryan Lovin
Ethan Perry
*Jessica Philp
Ryan Sernett
TJ Stuart
*Kacie Woodley
*Kylie Woodley

L-M Boys' Basketball Team has a Great Season

Submitted by: Mason Slattery

The Laurens-Marathon boys' basketball team finished the season with a record of 17-6, placed 2nd in the Northwest Conference, and earned the District 4 championship with wins over Newell-Fonda, 4th ranked Alta, and Ar-We-Va before being defeated by 5th ranked George-Little Rock in the Sub-state final.

As a result of the team's efforts, Charger coach Matt Winter won the Pilot Tribune Coach of the Year.

L-M is a junior led squad with the exception of seniors Travis Leuer and Ryan Lovin.

"I felt that we had a good year, and I'm looking forward to next year!" says junior forward Tyler Sandvig. Next year looks very promising with four of the five starters returning (Stumbo, Woodin, Smith, and Z. Lovin).

Juniors Caleb Jamison, Gary Brechler, and Tyler Sandvig will have important roles next year. Sophomore Josh Sernett and freshmen Austin Stumbo, Case Bieri, and Bryce Maschino will need to step up in their roles as well if the boys want to get over the hump and advance to the state tournament for the first time in about 50 years.

8 Man Madness

Submitted by: Tyler Sandvig

This coming year, the Charger football season will be changing from 11 man to 8 man. The declining enrollment of the high school has given us the opportunity to choose to play 8 man football.

You may ask how 8 man is going to make things better for the school and the community? "Well, with a new district and schedule, the games will be closer. This will make it easier for fans to get to games," said head coach Mike Ehn. He also commented, "With fewer kids in the school, this style football will give us a better chance to

Our Town Our Paper!

National Honor Society Holds Induction

The Laurens-Marathon Chapter of National Honor Society held its annual induction on Tuesday, February 26, in the school media center. Eight students were inducted into the chapter.

The ceremony began with a welcome by President Diana Johnsen. Mr. Matt Winter, high school social studies teacher, gave a very entertaining and inspirational speech. Kacie Woodley, Hilary Goedert, Megan Cleveland, and Kylie Woodley talked about character,

leadership, scholarship, and service. The new members participated in the candlelight services.

New members are Chelsey Anderson, daughter of Julie Schossow and Brad and Candy Anderson; Ryan Sernett, son of Mark and Kathy Sernett; Jessica Philp, daughter of Darryl and Ronda Philp; Ryan Stumbo, son of Brett and Danelle Stumbo; Becky Josephson, daughter of Dan and Kathy Josephson; Haley Lind, daughter of Steve and Karen Lind; Nicole Cox, daughter of Kevin Cox; and Tyler Smith, son of Steve and Marla Smith.

Current members are Diana Johnsen, Hilary Goedert, Kacie Woodley, Krista Fredricks, Natalie Bailey, Kylie Woodley, and Megan Cleveland.

A reception was held afterwards.



Front Row Left to Right: Diana Johnsen, Kacie Woodley, Hilary Goedert, Megan Cleveland, Kylie Woodley, Natalie Bailey, Krista Fredricks
Back Row Left to Right: Ryan Stumbo, Ryan Sernett, Tyler Smith, Haley Lind, Jessica Philp, Nicole Cox, Chelsey Anderson, Becky Josephson

compete. It will also allow us to continue to let kids develop at a normal pace. Recently, as our numbers have gone down, we have been forced to play younger kids at the varsity level. If you have to play kids before they are ready for that level of competition, it's not a good thing. We could continue to field an 11 man team, but it may require us to stretch thin. 8 man football will allow us more leadway to play kids at the level that they are ready to play rather than where they have to play in order to keep a team on the field. I, really think this will be a good move in the long run."

The all around game will be faster paced and spread out. "The fans next year will be seeing more offense and high scoring games," says coach Ehn.

It will be a challenge to us at first, but with the kids we have, it should take no time for us to pick it up. "The main thing is that we still get to do the things we love-- hit and tackle," says coach Ehn.

This football year will be a good chance for the fans to learn, and see how football is played with 8 men rather than 11 men. Next year is going to be a great football season, so come out and support the L-M Chargers.

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March 28 - Pocahontas Area Middle School Play - 7:00 PM

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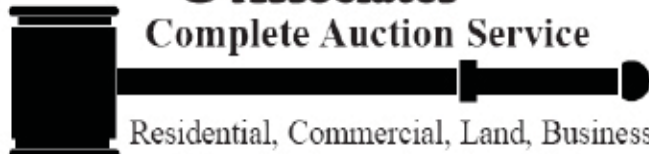
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Wanted

Wanted: Used Sony Playstation 2. In good condition with controller. Please call 712-841-6507.

Announcements

New Willow Trees at JH Design Anniversary, Healing Grace, Two Together, Brothers, Brother & Sister, Cake Topper, Guest Book and Photo Album. JH Design, 217 W. Veterans Rd., Laurens. (712) 841-4585.

Country Club Thursday Night Special. The special for March 27th will be a smoked pork chop dinner. *Public Welcome!*

New Floorcoverings See new floorcovering styles and colors from Market to brighten your home for Spring. JH Design, 217 W. Veterans Rd., Laurens. (712) 841-4585.

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

Announcements

Free to a Good Home. When my sister passed away in February one of the things she left behind was a 15 year old female house cat. It is balack with white markings and is very healthy. If you would like to give this cat a good home, please call Roger Nuehring at the First Coop at 841-4566.

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

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

The Paper

For Sale

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

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