

# The Paper

*Our Town, Our Paper.*

*Laurens, Iowa*



*Vol. 1 No. 34*

www.mylaurens.com

*November 27, 2007*

## Local News

### Kiwanis donate Money to Park Board

*By Kent Radford*

On Tuesday morning, November 21, at the regular Kiwanis Club meeting, Kenny Gisch and William Edmonds handed over a

\$2,000 check from the Laurens Kiwanis Club to the Laurens City Park Board. John Jamison, Chairman of the Park Board, received the check. The \$2,000 was obtained from the proceeds of the Kiwanis annual golf ball drop. This \$2,000 check, along with matching funds from the Laurens Industrial Foundation will, be part of the funding necessary to restore the tennis courts to working condition. The planned restoration has been tentatively planned for next spring.



### Club House Special Saturday, November 29th

**Chicken or Beef  
Chimichangas,  
with Refried Beans**

Serving is from 5 to 9 pm.  
*Public Welcome.*



West Hwy 10  
Laurens, Iowa  
(712) 841-2287



*The band at the concert being taped by IPTV*

### Diana Johnsen Attends Iowa All-State Festival in Ames

Diana Johnsen attended the Iowa All-State Festival in Ames on November 15-17. The festival was a success with a wonderful concluding concert at the Hilton Coliseum.



*Closeup of Diana playing her alto clarinet at the concert*



*Diana Johnsen, left, with band director, Meredith Allen*

*Submit . . .*

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*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

### Birth Announcement

Aubrey Mae Taylor weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. She was born November 13, 2007, at St. Lukes Regional Medical Center in Sioux City. Grandparents are Bill and Cheryl Bush of Laurens and Kevin and Cathi Taylor of Ida Grove. Great grandparents are Edward Fischer of Humboldt, and Lester and Marjorie Paulsen of Hartley.

Great great grandmother is Viola Spieker of Manning. She was welcomed home by, Kaleb 16 months.



### At the Library

with Glenda Mulder

The Women's Club presentation of "Voices from the Past: a Laurens Anthology" was a big success. It drew a nice crowd who enjoyed the visit from historic residents of Laurens. The program was followed by coffee, goodies, and time to chat with the guests of honor.

In fiction we received *Lord John and the Hand of Devils* by Diana Gabalon, *The Florist's Daughter* by Patricia Hampl, *The Darkest Evening of the Year* by Dean Koontz, *Hokus Pokus* by Fern Michaels, *Morcai Battalion* by Diana Palmer, and the large print version of *Double Cross* by James Patterson.

There are still some canvas library totes available. These will make great stocking stuffers, so stop in and get yours today!

December's book of choice is John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas*. This is the book on which the movie *Christmas with the Kranks* is based. As is usually the case, the book is even better than the movie. (In my opinion!) It's a nice, short, lighthearted book that's a perfect holiday read. Join us as we talk about this book and our own family traditions on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

Check it out at the Laurens Public Library!

Our Town Our Paper!

### College Financial Aid Meeting

The Laurens-Marathon guidance office has invited a representative from the Iowa Student Loan College Access Network (ICAN) to provide a free financial aid presentation at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 29 in the high school media center. The presentation is geared to high school seniors and their parents. High school juniors and their parents are also welcome to attend. Topics will include: Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), electronic processing, deadlines, overview of the financial aid process, types of financial assistance available, scholarships and scams, helpful tips, and where to go for help.



### Thanks!

Thank you to NAPA for the Turkey that I won. *Esther Hackett*

### Lost!

8 year old male, neutered cat. He is a dark gray tiger-striped cat with green eyes. He weighs about 12 lbs. His name is Comet and he knows his name. He has a medical condition and needs his medicine. He is a child's pet. If found, call 712-841-2149.



### Thanks

In this season of thanks, we would like to thank both Denny Waters and Joy Waters for everything that they gave to our children, Brandon, Taryn, and Sydney. Denny, through his interest in the students, innovative techniques of communicating science, and rapport with the middle school students, exhibited the best a teacher can be. Joy was caring and interested in each individual elementary student who passed through her door and made a positive difference with every student. While each is replaced with very competent individuals who genuinely care about students, both are greatly missed. So thank you for the many years that you both gave to Laurens-Marathon students.

*Todd and Marcia Kay*



## *Spectacular Performance by Laurens-Marathon Drama Students*

"Bravo...or should we say Brava!" Congratulations to the cast and crew of "Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress or... Let's Give the Villain the Slip". Their performance was amazing Friday night, as the cast of this production played to a large audience in the Laurens-Marathon school gym. Forty-four Laurens-Marathon students were a part of the cast and crew. The play was directed by Nancy Kunickis, Connie Dallenbach, Judy Boettcher, and Ken Kunickis. A special thank you to everyone who supported the Laurens-Marathon Drama department by attending the performance Friday evening and those that donated props. Everyone is so proud of all the students that were a part of this production! The audience too was wonderful! The cast, crew, and directors are very grateful to the community for your support and allowing them to share their talents. It truly was an evening of fine entertainment, but most of all, an evening of fun.



## Good Samaritan Receives Safety Achievement Award

The Good Samaritan Society: Hovenden of Laurens was recently honored for reaching the goal of one year without any staff member losing work time to care for residents due to injury. "Our center has fervently been working towards this goal for some time now," stated Administrator Jennifer Myers. "One of our team members, Kim Whitlock, even went as far as making a count-down board for the final 30 days (to reach a year). We got staff excited about it and then celebrated with a pizza party and award presentation." Jeff Herried, Risk Management Consultant from

the Good Samaritan Society's National Campus in Sioux Falls, presented the award during a formal ceremony to Chester Miller (Environmental Services Supervisor), the Center's Safety Coordinator. Along with the award, the Center also received a Safety Achievement flag and \$126 for the pizza party. Dean Mertz, Vice President for Human Resources at National Campus, congratulated them by saying, "This is quite an accomplishment that benefits everyone. Each day that goes by without lost time contains worker's compensation costs, ensures a safe work environment for staff and benefits the residents greatly. The

team spirit and hard work that goes into such an achievement are to be commended and admired. We are proud of you and see your center as an example for others to follow."



# Pocahontas County 4-H Awards

4-H'ers in Pocahontas County were honored at an Awards Matinee Sunday, November 18 at the Rialto Theatre in Pocahontas. The Pocahontas County Youth Council planned the event and presented the awards to the 4-H'ers. Special honors were given to Megan Jorgenson for the Pocahontas County Hall of Fame Leadership Award and Kelsey Fey for the Pocahontas County Hall of Fame Achievement Award. Janice Halder was honored for serving 20 years as a 4-H leader and Amy Dunkerly, Lola DeWall, Deb Ekstrand for 10 years and Marilee Kleespies and JoAnn Peters for 5 years of service to the 4-H program. Jean Trimble, Judy Krips, and Bonnie Wood were given the Distinguished Service Award for their contributions to the Pocahontas County 4-H Program. Bonnie has helped with the 4-H quilt for the past 7 years and Jean and Judy have run the 4-H food stand during the fair for several years.

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Megan Jorgenson & Kelsey Fey - Hall of Fame Award



Janice Halder - 20  
Year Leader



From left to right; Bonnie Wood, Judy Krips, &  
Jean Trimble - Distinguished Service Awards



From left to right; JoAnn Peters, Amy Dunkerly, Marilee Kleespies, and Deb Ekstrand

## Local & School Calendar

Nov. 27-

Basketball with Schaller/Crestland at Laurens, girls & boys at 6:30 p.m.;  
JH Basketball with Newell/Fonda at 4:00 p.m., 7th & 8th girls at Laurens, 7th & 8th boys at Fonda

Nov. 29-

Wrestling with Pocahontas Area & Storm Lake at Storm Lake, JV & V at 6:00 p.m.;  
JV Basketball with West Bend/Mallard at Laurens, girls & boys at 6:00 p.m.;  
JH Basketball with West Bend/Mallard at Laurens, 7th & 8th boys at 4:00 p.m.;  
12th Grade Parent Meeting (College Financial Aid), 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

Nov. 30-Basketball with St. Mary's at Laurens, girls & boys at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 1-Hugh Linn Wrestling Invitational at Gilmore City, V at 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 3-Basketball with Southern Cal at Laurens, girls & boys at 6:30 p.m.;  
JH Basketball with Pocahontas Area at Laurens, 7th & 8th girls at 4:00 p.m.

## Food Pantry Update

The Food Pantry has become very depleted this last month or so. I anticipate increased activity due to higher grocery and gas prices so I am asking for your help! The following items are greatly needed: Sacked cereal, sugar, peanut butter, flour, jelly, cleaning products, hamburger helper, kleenex, box potatoes, toilet paper, canned pasta, laundry detergent, pancake mix, shampoo, syrup, ketchup, cream of chicken soup, cream of celery soup, macaroni and cheese.

Cash donations are very much appreciated for perishable items from the grocery store. Please bring donations to the Laurens United Methodist Church. Thank you for your generosity. *Linda Olson*

## The Laurens Federated Women's Club Presented

"Voices from the Past: a Laurens Anthology" at the Laurens Public Library

Monday evening. The audience was entertained by past residents of Laurens as portrayed by members of the Women's Club. Pictured is Grace Hertz as the first president of the Laurens Women's club, Etta Mae Crowder.

Pat Frantz certainly captured the essence of Bidly Sundberg, a local community activist and Eastern Star member. The remaining special guests are shown resting as their counterparts told about their lives in Laurens.

*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

## Laurens United Methodist Church

Wed. Nov. 28

Fri. Nov. 30

Sun. Dec. 2

Mon. Dec. 3

Wed. Dec. 5

Thur. Dec. 6

Fri. Dec. 7

Sat. Dec. 8

12:00 p.m. ~ Leadership

7:00 p.m. ~ Finance

7:00 p.m. ~ Worship

7:30 p.m. ~ Sr. UMYF

8:15 p.m. ~ Ad Council

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

Study

9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday School

9:30 a.m. ~ Fellowship

Coffee

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship

11:30 a.m. ~ Consecration Meal/Saddle bag return

4:00 p.m. ~ Pastor Larry leads nursing home service

7:00 p.m. ~ Choir practice

7:00 p.m. ~ Quilt Club

4:00 p.m. ~ Confirmation

4:30 p.m. ~ Town Christmas Party Soup Supper

7:30 p.m. ~ Seekers

2:00 p.m. ~ UMW Exec

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

7:00 a.m. ~ UM Men

Festival of Trees opens



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# The Paper!



Thanks for giving us Laurensians a reason to look forward to Tuesdays!!



# Rumors PUB

Every Friday  
Twofers - 5-6 p.m.

## Happy Holidays!

841-6986

Downtown Laurens

## Remembering Jennifer Ferguson

Jennifer Rae Ferguson, 48, of Ames, died unexpectedly Sunday, Nov. 11 at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. Services were Wednesday, Nov. 14, at St. James Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids. Burial was in the Ames Municipal Cemetery.

Jennifer Rae Ferguson was born March 6, 1959 in Cedar Rapids, the daughter of Arthur and Jeanette Reusch. She received a bachelors degree in nursing from Mount Mercy College. She married Kerry Ferguson April 30, 1983, at St. James Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids. She attended Collegiate United Methodist Church in Ames. Her chosen profession was as a board-certified neonatal RN. She excelled in this field and took great pride in handling the toughest cases.

She enjoyed scrapbooking, cooking, cross-stitching, quilting, snow skiing and going to the lake. Her family will miss her dearly.

She is survived by her husband, Kerry; three children, Stephanie, Kurtis and Rebecca, all of Ames and attending Iowa State University; her parents, Arthur Sr. and Jeanette Reusch, of Cedar Rapids; two brothers, Arthur (Diane) Reusch Jr., of St. Louis, Mo., and Allen (Evie) Reusch, of Macomb, Il.; one sister Jolynn (Randy)Limkemman of East Lyme, Conn.; one brother-in-law, Kevin (Vicky) Ferguson, of Elmhurst, Il.; her father- and mother-in-law Robert and Phyllis Ferguson, of Ames; and many nieces and nephews. Both Robert and Phyllis (Wenell) Ferguson graduated from Laurens High School in 1951.

## Cody Pierce Earns Honors

Cody Pierce, a senior at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, received the following honors in his 4 years of playing football for the Beavers:

- \*\*A team captain for the past two years
- \*\*Leading tackler for BV the past three years, with total tackles of 364
- \*\*1st Team All Conference for 2 years
- \*\*Defensive MVP - 3 years
- \*\*1st Team All Region - 2006
- \*\*Second Team All- American - 2006
- \*\*Pre-Season 1st Team All American - 2007
- \*\*Scored 3 touchdowns

Cody is the son of Alan and Carol Pierce of Spencer, former Laurens residents.



Cody is shown with his father, Alan, one of the coaches at BVU.

## Holiday Lighting and Collections at the Grotto

West Bend, IA - Beginning November 23 through January 13, the Grotto of the Redemption will be aglow with thousands of Christmas lights each evening. The holiday lights emphasize the magnificent structure of the Grotto, which covers more than one city block and includes stones and semi-precious stones from around the world. It tells the beautiful story of Christ's life and our Redemption in stone. In addition

to the lights, Father Verne Stapenhorst will have his Santa, snowman, village and crèche collections on display in the Grotto Café and museum. "To display my Christmas collection is a special gift that can be shared with the community. I pray that the decorations will renew the joy of Christmas for young and old during the season. I believe the crèches teach that

the Christ Child is the true reason for the celebration of Christmas." states Fr. Verne. His collections in the Cafe can be viewed Monday-Friday from 10am-3pm and from 1pm-3pm on Saturdays through December. The Grotto of the

Redemption, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is open for visitation year round. Guided tours are offered from May through October or by appointment. A DVD tour featuring Father Greving is available for viewing in the Grotto Museum or can be purchased in the Grotto Gift Shop, open daily. For more information, call 515-887-2371 or email [info@westbendgrotto.com](mailto:info@westbendgrotto.com).



Father Verne Stapenhorst with his Santa, snowman, village and crèche collections on display in the Grotto Café and museum.

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# SCT Playhouse Cabaret Presents "A Christmas Survival Guide"

SPENCER, IA - Spencer Community Theatre announces its fifth annual Cabaret fundraising production! This year's Christmas Cabaret features the comedic musical revue "A Christmas Survival Guide" followed by a festive holiday hors d'oeuvres buffet. The Christmas Cabaret has a limited run of two performances on December 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m.

The evening will be chock-full of songs, vignettes, advice, and enough messages about the "true meaning of Christmas" to get everyone through the holidays. The evening is a fun, festive road map to holiday sanity aimed at anyone who's ever experienced the stress of the holidays as well as the joy.

As perfect for a company Christmas party as it is for a special night out with a loved one, "A Christmas Survival Guide" is a welcome addition to SCT's long history of top-notch revues. New York Press raved, "Ho-Ho-Hilarious! By far the funniest Christmas revue around. A clever and irresistible bon-bon that serves up the holiday with a mischievous wink. The perfect antidote to seasonal stress!"

This fast-paced evening of sketch comedy and song features an on-stage band and many performers from Spencer and the surrounding community. The songs showcase a mix of original and traditional holiday tunes. "The

Happy New Year Blues" is a singles lament; "Santa Claus is Back in Town" an Elvis-inspired rock-n-roll number, featuring Laurens-Marathon graduate Mike Slattery as Santa Elvis. Comedy-lovers won't be disappointed with "The Twelve Steps of Christmas" or the winter wonderland experience gone awry in a very unique version of "Sleigh Ride."

This year's Christmas Cabaret marks the fifth fundraising performance for Spencer Community Theatre. The funds raised by these performances are vital to the programming offered by Spencer Community Theatre, which includes two fully-staged Children's Theatre productions yearly, classes for children and adults, a touring improvisational troupe, and at least four mainstage productions every year. All proceeds raised by the Cabaret are essential in continuing SCT's 48-year history of excellence in the arts.

Tickets for the Christmas Cabaret go on sale Nov. 12 for SCT Contributing Members and Nov. 19 for the public. To reserve tickets call the SCT Box Office at (712) 262-7336. The Christmas Cabaret has a limited two-night run at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8. Included in the \$25 ticket price is a seat for the musical comedy revue "A Christmas Survival Guide" and a festive hors d'oeuvres and beverage buffet following the performance.



SCT Playhouse is located one block off Grand Avenue in downtown Spencer at 518 1st Ave. E. SCT Playhouse is accessible to the physically challenged. Reserved parking stalls are located east of the facility. SCT's Christmas Cabaret is made possible with the help of a generous sponsorship from Evertex. For more information call Spencer Community Theatre at (712) 262-7336 or go to [www.spencercommunitytheatre.com](http://www.spencercommunitytheatre.com).

**Holiday Savings Shop Early.**




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Contact authorized agent Laurens Municipal Power & Communications at 712-841-4610 for details.



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## Toys For Tots

We are happy to again sponsor Toys for Tots Annual Drive For Children

*Tis the Season for Giving*

Join us in collecting new or like new toys, children's mittens, gloves, hats, coats & clothing.

**Donations will be accepted until December 14.**

All items should be unwrapped

Your Gift Will Allow Area Children To Enjoy The Christmas Season.

### Laurens State Bank

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712-845-2627

Hours: Mon-Fri. 9-4; Sat. 9-12

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## Classifieds

**Winter Riding @ Arena 54!** Horse training, lessons, open riding, Christmas gift certificates and punch cards available. Lighted INDOOR ARENA! Marathon (712)260-4929

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

**Help Wanted:** Part-time production/customer service position available; flexible work schedule. Attention to detail and computer experience required. Embroidery or screen printing experience is a plus. Stop in at B & K Embroidery for an application.

**FOR RENT:** Lawn & garden, and construction equipment. Also many trailers from enclosed to a car dolly. I will also assemble Christmas gifts or other items. Call Darrell at 841-2886 or 450-2886. ABC SALES & SERVICES Located at 208 N. East St. in Laurens

**Thank You** to those who helped me celebrate my 60th birthday at the "Senders" dance in Marathon. I hope you had as good a time as I did. - Lee Bailey

**FOR RENT:** Nice two bedroom apartment - appliances, garage, heat included. Call (712) 841-4735

**For Sale:** 60 gallon propane/gas water heater, used only since May of 2007. Also, 2 swivel high back bar stools. Call 289-4005 and leave a message

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