The Paper



Our Town, Our Paper! Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 17 No. 24

www.thepapernow.com

September 28,

Local News

An Extraordinary Story

This is a story about very special times, in an incredibly special town, with exceptionally special people.

Growing up in Laurens, Iowa in the summer of 1966, was akin to gazing at a Norman Rockwell painting just long enough to be captured by the idyllic tranquility so artistically portrayed. Suddenly, I found myself transported in time to a place where only memories dwell. Allow me to take your imagination on that journey, back in time, ten...twenty... thirty...forty..., and finally arriving fifty-six years ago, and introduce to you the children and young adults discovering for the first time, unrealized courage, fortitude, and perseverance to imagine a dream, and pursue it.

One afternoon on that lazy summer day in 1966, while lounging inside the pool house during a break from "lifeguarding" (all the kids were "benched" for a rest), Phyllis (Cookie) Peterson, a fellow lifeguard, proposed an idea..."Craig, why don't we start a swimming team?" Silence ensued for a moment, then I replied, "That's not a bad idea...let's discuss it." It wasn't long until we realized this is a real possibility, we both love the kids, we are both competitive...we both... oh, why not...let's do it! That was the end of any spare time that summer! We dedicated countless hours to reading and studying everything about College and Olympic swimming and diving competition. Events were categorized, age groups established and efforts to manage all the logistics required to define and run a conference successfully were

carefully considered.

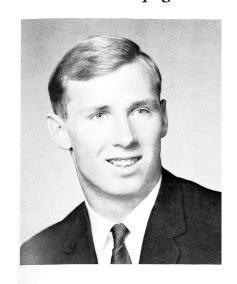
At last, we felt confident the plan was ready for launch. Now, we had to go public and convince the children and teenagers in town, most of whom were at the pool every day, to join. Word spread fast as did the excitement... the making of a swim team was taking shape. While circulating the word in Laurens, time was fast approaching to convince pool managers of other towns to establish their own swimming team and join the proposed conference. We concluded the conference should consist of teams from six to eight communities, including Laurens. Of course, the towns we considered, ie, Cherokee, Spencer, Algona, Humboldt, Odeboldt, Storm Lake, Emmetsburg, Pocahontas, and other's that escape my memory, must have existing swimming pools. We were in virgin territory...a swimming conference never existed in the history of Northwest Iowa. All summer we traveled to potentially competing municipalities, explaining our intention, assessing their interest, and offering encouragement, help and advice. Cookie and I were greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm at all the towns we visited. Our goal was to launch the conference the following summer, 1967. At last, towards the end of the season, we had firm commitments from many...the Swimming Conference was rapidly becoming a reality!

Now, as a young 17-year-old, I had to summon the courage to convince our own "town fathers" to make an investment. Up to this point efforts depended upon "a wing and a prayer." Soon after submitting a request, the city councilmen granted a forum. I explained our proposal in detail, describing the discussions we held with the various towns and their commitment to participate. I also submitted a roster of the youngsters in Laurens who had enthusiastically joined the team during

recruitment. In effect, the number of them giving commitments filled all the age groups for a complete swimming team. I requested funds to be allocated for painting swimming lanes, purchasing lane ropes, and moving the high diving board to the side for safety. After my presentation silence filled the room for a moment. I kept my "crossed" fingers hidden below the table! At last, the city councilmen broke the silence, and our proposal was granted complete approval...the Laurens Swimming Team was a go!

Growing up in Laurens, when I was not mowing lawns or attending to other chores, I spent all my spare time at the municipal swimming pool devoted to diving practice. At that time John Hinn, a lifeguard and pool manager, seemed to take a special

... continued to page 2...



CRAIG JOLLIFFE

Vice-President

...continued from page 1...

interest in my diving. He was always my encouragement while I experimented with new dives. One time while attempting a two and a half somersault off the springboard, I misjudged the timing, and after completing two turns, landed flat on my stomach... splat! The wind was knocked out of me... the sting paralyzed my muscles. I was struggling for breath and was not sure I could make it to the ladder. John quickly descended from his life-guard chair and shouted encouragement, "you can make it... come on...don't quit." I was trying hard but was not sure I still possessed the stamina to succeed. It was John's encouragement that brought me to "shore". After recovering for a few moments John insisted I get "back on the horse" and try it again. "Don't quit... you almost had it! Well, I didn't quit, and finally mastered the dive. John's trust and encouragement gave me the strength to succeed that day. John, if you are looking down upon us now, you'll see the Laurens Swimming Team still competing, after more than 56 years. It is because you instilled in a young man the perseverance to never relent, and he passed your wisdom along to another generation of competitors and all the following generations as well continued your legacy.

I became manager and swimming team coach from 1967 through 1969. The first year of competition in the swimming conference was a disaster... we came in last! But that didn't put a damper on the excitement of the young swimmers or the public. The following year the team was determined to do better. I trained the swimmers relentlessly, sometimes to the point of exhaustion. I pushed them to their limits of endurance. These kids were special...they would do whatever was asked of them...they wanted to win... they were the "best of the best". I was excited to see their progress and came to know each one's strengths and weaknesses. Finally, we were put to the test for the second summer swimming competition. We did well and earned respect from the competing towns. The last competition of

the season was especially exhilarating. The popularity and success of the winning swim team had energized the town's enthusiasm. Extra bleachers were found and brought in to support the crowd. The competition was close, the atmosphere electrifying as the crowd competed with the swimmers in shouting support. Ultimately, the Laurens swimmers prevailed and brought home the gold, winning the conference title! The Laurens Swimming Team, a small community among giants, not unlike the 1962 Boys Basketball Team who forged their way to the state finals, defining the true meaning of tenacity. Congratulations to the winning Laurens Swimming Team of 1968...Bill Fitzgerald, Dale Stucky, Roger Halterman, Julie Mohler, Lisa Strampe, Kathy Heetland, Mary Grove, Wanda Essick, Sue Brackey, Sharon Fitzgerald, Vicky Ford, Doreen White, Barb Nelson, Kim Schmidt, Greg Edmundson, Mark Wilson, David Solem, Bob Edmundson, Clayton Mackie, Kevin Rigby, Danny White, Mark Loxterkamp, Terri Mackie, Jane Nelson, and Richard Hakes. If I missed anyone, please forgive me.

Memories of those youngsters continue to warm my heart, and I find solace by the shimmering fire in my Library, contemplating the events of over a half century ago. I feel a special connection to all who gave everything they had to chase and achieve a dream...to never give up. I trust it awarded them the courage, strength, and perseverance to overcome any obstacles encountered later in life. I also must acknowledge the participating towns, the parents of these heroic children, and wonderful people in our conference who also embraced our vision, establishing their teams and training their participants. And lastly, but not least, thank you "Cookie" for your idea, foresight, inspiration, and unwavering dedication and support.

To the residents of Laurens and surrounding communities who contributed swimmers in pursuit of that vision started 56 years ago, and to the fans who supported them, I urge you to pause, and reflect on the generations of youth that benefited throughout their lives

because of their experience on the swim team. They learned so many things... "Individuality", discovering their personal bar can always be raised, and "Respect" for each other and their adversaries. While embracing "Comradery", they discovered that "Teamwork" had the power to lift spirits and energize morale. They learned "Humility" and "Grace" in both victory and defeat. And most of all they discovered "Perseverance", the will to go beyond their imagination, achieving the well-deserved honor of knowing they gave their best. It is for these reasons I entreat those of us who hold dear the value of future generations, to contribute in any way possible, a donation to the Laurens Pool project. This will afford the next generation of youth the opportunity to travel the same path of values and equip them with the fortitude to face obstacles in their lives. And lastly, hats off to members of the fund drive who are giving their time and energy to focus on a dream envisioned so many years ago. A new pool will ensure the opportunity will still exist for all the young people of Laurens to carry-on the inspiration of a dream that they can call their own. It may seem like a small thing, but it's not...it's a big thing!

I also wish to encourage all the Laurens Swimming Team participants from 1966 through 2022 to take a moment of reflection out of your busy schedule and share your memories of training, competition, the "thrill of victory" and "the agony of defeat" with each other and the Laurens Community. If you wish, you can Email me your recollections to Cljolliffe@verizon.net. I will ensure they are categorized and made a permanent record of the Laurens Swimming Team. You also can send your stories to the Laurens Sun, or the online newspaper.

Craig L. Jolliffe Co-Founder and Coach Laurens Swimming Team (1967-1969)

At the Library with Glenda Mulder September 28, 2022

This week is "Banned Books Week" as proclaimed by the American Library Association. We made a display of books from our collection that are on the banned and challenged list. A book "challenge" is when someone requests a book be removed from a library's collection. It is considered a "ban" if that book is actually removed. I'm rather proud to say that our Library has 47 of the 100 most banned and challenged books of the last decade. Come look at our display; we put a note with the reason on each book. Maybe you'll decide to read one and decide for yourself! I have read 31 so far, and have a couple in my bag to take home. My goal is to have read at least a third, so I'm close!

I've been talking to the kids when they come in after school, and for Brown Bag lunches about this topic also. I read one of these books to the fifth graders and not one of them could tell me anything they objected to in Todd Parr's "The Family Book," which describes different kinds of families in a picture book. FYI the book challenge was because one page says, "some families have two moms or two dads." They seemed to understand the idea that if you don't like something in a library book, you don't have to read it, but that doesn't mean no one else should be able to read it. Smart kids. Side note: one student checked out the "Where's Waldo" book from our display and promised to let me know if he finds any nudity (the reason for the challenge) in it!

I also think I should tell you that our library has a policy in place, should any patron wish to challenge anything in our collection. This policy states that the patron first talk to the library director using a form they filled out that details specifics about the material. If not satisfied, the patron can request to be on the agenda of the next Board meeting. Then the Board would hear the objection and make a final decision. I'd be happy to show you the documents, if you are interested!

Last week we found out the City of Laurens has set Trick or Treat on Saturday, October 29 from 5-7 p.m. This made us question if we should move our annual Halloween Magician to that night, too. After polling a bunch of Library patrons, on Facebook & in person, we decided to leave it on Halloween, so there is something fun to do on the actual holiday. We did move it to 6 p.m., an hour earlier than usual. A group of teens suggested we have a costume contest, because part of the fun of the program is seeing all your friends in their costumes. These kids even volunteered to be the judges. You can believe I took them up on that offer! Then we decided they should dress up too, and the little kids will be the judges of the teens. So leave us on your calendars as the place to be on Halloween night!

After all those books last week, just two to tell you about this week. *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora and *Clive Cussler's Hellburner* by Mike Maden. I'd tell you what I think of an author's heirs selling the character rights to another author and the series continuing, but I'm fully aware that I've been a little "rantish" lately, so I won't! LOL

Dates to Remember

September 27 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cardmaking
October 4 @ 3:30 p.m. - Kids' Make & Take Pumpkin Craft
October 4 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take-it-Tuesday – Wine Glass painting
October 19 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time
October 20 Foundation Fundraiser Supper 5-7 p.m.
October 20 @ 7 p.m. - Celtic Guitarist Jerry Barlow
October 24 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club A Single Thread by Tracy Chevalier
October 31 at 6 p.m. - Halloween Magician Larry Dunbar and costume contest.

The Paper

Published weekly by My Laurens, Inc. 112 Walnut St. Laurens, IA 50554

Phone: (712) 841-2684

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Biggest Little Paper In Town!

Laurens Area Food Pantry Located at Laurens UMC at 201 W. Main St. Drive up to the west alley door.

September 2022 Food Pantry Hours

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	e e			4–6 p.m.	2	3
4	5	6	7	4–6 p.m.	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 4–6 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21	4–6 p.m.	23	24
25	26 11–1p.m.	27	28	29 4–6 p.m.	30	Oct. 1

October 2022 Food Pantry Hours

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	4–6 p.m.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 4–6 p.m.	14	15
16	17	18	19	4–6 p.m.	21	22
23	24	25	26	4–6 p.m.	28	29
30	31 11–1p.m.					

New 4-H Year Begins September 1

All members of Pocahontas County 4-H need to re-enroll in their v2.4honline.com account as soon as possible.

All youth in 4th through 12th grade are welcome and encouraged to join Pocahontas County 4-H. Due to the generous support of our 4-H Endowment and local businesses enrollment in Pocahontas County, 4-H is free of charge to all!

Clover Kids is our K-3rd grade program and is open to all youth in K-3rd grade. Please enroll in v2.4honline.com. If you need help with this process, please feel free to contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas county at 712-335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu. Clover Kids meet one time per month on Saturday mornings, a complete schedule will be given to youth who sign up for this club.

Make Friends, Have Fun, Join 4-H!



we're WILD with excitement

because HIP HIP HOORAY, a baby is on the way!

Please join us for a Come and Go

BABY SHOWER



Friday, October 14th From 5:00 – 7:00PM West Iowa Bank – Laurens

Registered at Amazon, Target, and William & Wesley

Did You Know?

Did you know it would take approximately 14,000 bushels of corn to fill the new pool? That's 14 semi loads! I know this because we sent the approximate dimensions of the new pool to a local math whiz and this was the result.

Laurens Pool Project is soliciting "Waves of Grain" from area farmers. This type of donation can mean a tax savings of up to 44% on federal, state and self-employment taxes, while supporting our swim team, with swimmers from all areas of the county, and the Laurens Pool Project!

Farmers are encouraged to contact their local grain handler for details of how to donate.

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Minimum deposit \$1000

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



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* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 09/21/2022. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category, Please visit www.Mici.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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Webinars Address Food Safety for Food Entrepreneurs

Beginning in October, food entrepreneurs can learn about best practices related to food safety, food labeling, and cleaning and sanitation of food contact surfaces during a free webinar series.

The series features extension food safety specialists from several land-grant universities and is made possible through a food safety outreach grant supported by USDA and the North Central Region Food Safety Extension Network. Register online to participate in one, two or all three webinars.

Dates, times, topics. Oct. 12, 12 p.m. CDT: Food Safety Basics. Planning for food safety helps to ensure the safety of your food products. Emily Marrison, Ohio State University, Betty Feng, Purdue University, and Morrine Omolo, University of Minnesota, will discuss how to protect your consumers and your business.

Oct. 26, 12 p.m. CDT: Cleaning and Sanitation Basics. Learn about the definition of cleaning and sanitization, and methods to clean and sanitize food contact surfaces from Shannon Coleman, Iowa State University, and Karen Fifield, Michigan State University.

Nov. 9, 12 p.m. CST: Food Labeling Basics. Learn about labeling your food products and FDA's food package labeling requirements, including nutrition, ingredients, allergens and more from Julie Garden-Robinson, North Dakota State University, and Karen Blakeslee, Kansas State University.

For more information about the webinar series, contact Shannon Coleman, scoleman@iastate.edu, or Karen Fifield, fifield@msu.edu.

Laurens Volunteer Firefighter Association to Hold Annual Pancake Breakfast

Dear Friends:

October 9th through the 15th is Fire Prevention Week this year. This is the time of the year to remember to check your homes and business establishments for possible fire hazards. Also please take time to check your smoke detectors to make sure they work and to change the batteries in the detectors. This should be done twice a year to ensure that they work should you need them. Do you own a fire extinguisher? These also need to be checked at least once a year to keep them in working order. If you are unsure how to check them, just ask any firefighter and we will either explain how to check them or if you prefer, check them for you. These are such simple things but could become very important in an emergency.

The Laurens Volunteer Firefighter Association would like to invite you and your family to visit the Fire Station on Sunday, October 9. We will be serving pancakes and sausages and biscuits and gravy from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. or later, if need be. While you are visiting with us, please take a look at the equipment that has been purchased with your tremendous support over the years. I am sure you will find it very interesting.

We are once again asking for your help. As with all things, from time to time our equipment needs to be updated. Many of the things used by the Fire Department were purchased by your generous donations and we are very proud of the equipment we have. We are asking that you place your donations, whether large or small, in the enclosed envelope and mail it to the Fire Department or better yet, bring it with you on Oct. 9th and spend a little time with us.

Our annual pancake breakfast has always been a great success thanks to the wonderful support of our community. It is great to live in a community where people respect and care about each other, making it much easier to be a volunteer. Thank you for your continued support and thank you in advance for your contribution.

Jake Graff Fire Chief

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: October 2, 2022 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS 9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion 4:00 PM ~ Laurens Care Center Service

Monday: October 3, 2022 4:00 PM ~ W/M Mtg.

Tuesday: October 4, 2022

8:30 AM - Prayer Group 9:30 AM - Tuesday coffee at Bethany 6:30 PM - Discipleship Class

> Worship, Love, Accept-Together in Christ's Name



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wed., Sept. 26 through Oct. 3 Pastor Deb out of the office

Fri., Sept. 30:

AA meeting 7 p.m.-8 p.m. in Wesley Room

Sat., Oct. 1:

United Methodist Men's Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. at the church

Sun., Oct. 2:

Sunday School (Cherubs-Adult) @ 9:10 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m. Worship @ 10:30 a.m. - Jean Murray filling the pulpit

Mon., Oct. 3:

Quilt Club @ 2 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 5:

Worship Committee @ 7 p.m. at the church



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Sunday, October 2

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Worship

Wednesday, October 5

11:30 a.m. - Ladies Lunch followed by CWF



Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church

Pocahontas, IA -- Pastor: Very Rev. Craig Collison, VF

MASS TIMES:

Daily Mass as scheduled in the weekly bulletin Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM

Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm at Resurrection

City Council Minutes

September 19th, 2022

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 19th, 2022. Senior Council Member Aaron Christenson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra by phone, Loren Booth, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and Public Works Director Julian Johnsen. Mayor Rod Johnson and councilmember John Jamison were absent.

Booth moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the September 6th, meeting, and the list of claims. Swanson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 09/19/22

CLAIMS 09/19/22		
A&M SERVICES, INC.	RUGS, RAGS, MOPS	122.25
AFLAC	GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
AGSTATE	CHEMICAL SPRAYING	417.75
AMAZON	BOOKS & DVDS	89.04
BADGER METER	BEACON HOSTING	48.37
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS & DVDS	885.87
BOLTON & MENK	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	305.00
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	180.68
VISUAL EDGE IT, INC.	MONTHLY COPIES	46.03
DELTA DENTAL	MONHTLY DENTAL INSURANCE	1,024.76
DEMCO	LAMINATE	317.32
DOLLAR GENERAL	SUPPLIES	6.33
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	1,905.25
HILARY REED	MEALS	18.24
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	5,367.58
IOWA BANRS	BOOKS & DVDS	29.95
IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES	MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,025.00
JACKS UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT	OFFICER CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	1,315.17
JCL SOLUTIONS	PAPER TOWELS	94.11
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SHOPOIL	1,330.41
JULIAN JOHNSEN	TRAINING	149.87
KEVIN SHANNON	TRAINING	153.29
KRUDICO, INC.	EQUIPMENT MAINT.	1,395.23
LAURENS FOOD PRIDE	POOL SUPPLIES	11.50
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET	155.96
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	370.12
LAURENS SUN	ADS & LEGALS	572.22
MARTIN PEST CONTROL	MOSQUITO SPRAYING	820.00
THE MESSENGER	ANNUAL RENEWAL	260.00
POCAHONTAS CO TREASURER	DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT	7,755.19
POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE	LANDFILL FEES	5,968.99
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	939.91
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY FUEL	2,961.56
RICHARDSON SERVICE	STREET TRUCK REPAIRS	403.99
SHAMROCK RECYCLE, INC.	CURBSIDE RECYCLING	1,840.00
STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA	CATALOGING RECORDS	61.46
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELLPHONE FEES	409.11
WAYNE PEASLEE	NUISANCE MWOING	650.00
WEX BANKS	POLICE DEPT. MONTHLY FUEL	1,173.46

City Council Minutes

	TOTAL		40,785.35
001 210 600 610 670	GENERAL ROAD USE TAX WATER SEWER GARBAGE	9/6/2022 TOTAL PAYROLL TOTAL	5,358.36 1,541.05 2,900.34 2,542.06 2,672.71 15,014.52 15,014.52
001 110 112 600 610 670	GENERAL ROAD USE TAX EMPLOYEE BENEFITS WATER SEWER GARBAGE	PAID TOTAL TOTAL BY FUND	55,799.87 23,952.22 5,009.44 756.62 6,943.29 6,440.76 12,697.54 55,799.87

Les Stewart approached the council on behalf of Laurens Hometown Pride. They would like to repurpose the sand volleyball court out at Sportsman's Park for Sand Volleyball/Tennis. They would be applying for a grant for this process. The council encouraged Hometown Pride to move forward with this project.

After much discussion, Booth moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 09-22 – ROW Trees. Swanson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Swanson, Booth, Christenson. Nays: None. Absent: Jamison. Motion carried.

Booth moved to approve the Flexible Farm Lease with \$250 minimum and \$400 maximum / acre. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the agreement with Pocahontas Community Hospital and on call pay. Swanson moved to approve adjusting for on call pay. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

During council member reports Halloween was discussed. The council would like to set trick-or-treat for Saturday, October 29th.

Swanson moved to adjourn at 5:31 p.m. Booth seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Aaron Christenson, Senior Council Member	Hilary Reed, City Clerk