

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 18 No. 46

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May 22, 2024

## Local News

### LAURENS TRADITION

#### Memorial Day Program Set at Cemetery By RICK DAVIS

During a professional singer-songwriter career devoted to meshing words and music on paper, Lee Greenwood's singular highlight has been that flag-waving ode "God Bless the USA."

Over time, it has remained his signature song, after being released by his record label 40 years ago,

The loyalist-steeped ballad includes a bridging chorus that sends a clear reminder to every American on every Memorial Day.

"And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me."

A powerful refrain is what it is. And one certain to ring true for many in attendance Monday morning at the Town Cemetery in Laurens when the community adds another chapter to one of the town's most endearing traditions -- the Memorial Day program that honors the hundreds of deceased military veterans who were Laurens

residents at some point in their lives.

This year's program begins at 9 a.m. at the flagpole area of the cemetery and a recorded version of Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" will be included in the musical segment.

Looked at on a broader scale, the Laurens program -- which was first held 130 years ago in 1894-- represents the local version of that national holiday that originated back during the Civil War when it was called Decoration Day. "Decoration Day" was so-named initially because of the practice of decorating (with wreaths, flags and flowers) the graves of Union military service members who had died during the great struggle that pitted the North against the South.

After that, across the first half of the 20th Century, the day of remembrance evolved into "Memorial Day." Finally, it became an official national holiday in 1967 when duly annointed by federal legislation. Memorial Day today honors all American men and women who died while serving in the U.S. armed services.

As for Laurens, limited research indicates the community has held a Memorial Day program most every

*...continued to page 2...*



The quintessential meaning of Memorial Day hits home in this photo, taken at Lorraine American Cemetery, outside Saint Avold, France. The message: Paying a steep price means rows upon rows upon rows of the crosses on the graves of 10,489 American military members killed in the European Theater of World War II. The interred at Lorraine includes Army 1st Lt. James Paton, the father of 1962 Laurens High graduate Sam Chadwick Paton. Laurens' 2024 Memorial Day program is scheduled Monday at 9 a.m. at the Town Cemetery.

*...continued from page 1...*

year since 1894 -- except possibly for some years during World War I and World War II when wartime commitments may have taken precedence.

For the upcoming program on Monday, one of the most anticipated segments will be the reading of the names of more than 680 deceased military veterans who were Laurens residents at some point in their lives. Patricia Bailey, the wife of local VFW post 3533 commander Lee Bailey, will deliver the reading as a solemn tribute likely to stir a lot of memories.

This year's keynote speaker will be Laurens native Samantha Fuchs Cole, a teacher in the Iowa public schools system. Her local tie-in: she's a Laurens native and a 2006 graduate of Laurens-Marathon High School.

Again for this year's program, an added feature will be an avenue of flags display at both the Town Cemetery and the Catholic Cemetery, from Saturday morning through Monday evening.

Monday's program lead-in will be presentation of the colors by a color guard and veterans squad from the local VFW post, marching in formation from the cemetery's south end to the flagpole area.

NOTE: Program officials indicated the backup venue -- in the event of inclement weather -- will be the Old Gym at the Laurens-Marathon School, with the same 9 a.m. starting time.

***The full program schedule:***

***\*\*Parade the colors by color guard***

***and squad from VFW post 3533.***

***\*\*Welcome by Patricia Bailey (wife of local VFW post commander Lee Bailey).***

***\*\*Flag raising and recorded singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by the acapella group Six.***

***\*\*Opening prayer by Pastor David Klappenbach of Bethany Lutheran Church.***

***\*\*Pledge of Allegiance, by all in attendance.***

***\*\*Recorded singing of "God Bless the USA," by singer-songwriter Lee Greenwood; followed by a recorded version of "America The Beautiful" by the acapella group Six.***

***\*\*Memorial Day-themed keynote address by Samantha Fuchs Cole.***

***\*\*Reading of the honor roll of Laurens' deceased military veterans by Patricia Bailey.***

***\*\*Placing of wreaths on selected cemetery graves by Laurens youth members.***

***\*\*Closing prayer by David Klappenbach.***

***\*\*21-gun salute by the rifle squad from VFW post 3533.***

***\*\*Playing of "Taps" by Laurens native Emily Harrold.***

***\*\*Retire the colors by color guard and VFW squad.***

Program officials noted the backup venue -- in the event of inclement weather Monday -- is the Old Gym at the Laurens-Marathon School, with the same 9 a.m. starting time.

*(A Laurens native now living in San Antonio, Texas, and a military veteran who's a retired commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Rick Davis is an occasional contributor to The Paper.)*

## Fairfield Township Cemetery Tour

To celebrate the 125th birthday of Albert City the committee is giving a cemetery tour at the Fairfield Township Cemetery on June 15th from 1:00 until 4:00 pm. You can drive out to the cemetery located about one mile west of Albert City where there is plenty of parking, or you can hop on the bus at the AC-T School.

Did you know there is a Bank Robber buried in this cemetery? Albert City was famous for foiling the escape of three bank robbers who robbed a bank up north. They rode to the Albert City depot where they were met by a posse of men, the Sherriff and deputies.

The early settlement of Albert City will be described, and you will also learn who the town is named after, and how she arrived in northwest Iowa. There will be a man who was interested in labor saving devices, so he and his brothers manufactured many products.

You will learn of the son of Swedish Immigrants who became one the largest employers in the area during WWII and what they made, and also how a farm implement business started in Albert City.

Explore the cemetery and find out about all kinds of history by riding a trolley on June 15, 2024. Just park east of the Cemetery off of C-29. A four-wheeler will pick you up, if necessary, and take you to the Trolley. Or you can take the bus from the AC-T School.

More information can be obtained by calling 712-299-0440. Donations accepted.

## ***Laurens-Marathon Schools Summer Food Service Program***

Laurens-Marathon Community School is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be Grab & Go (No Adult meals, No seconds) and provided, at a first come, first serve basis, at the sites and times as follows:

***Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, June 3 to August 16, 2024***

***10:30 am to 11:00 am – Marathon Community Center, 306 W Attica St, Marathon, IA***

***12:00 pm to 12:45 pm – Laurens-Marathon School Cafeteria, 300 W Garfield St, Laurens, IA***

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement: "It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code section 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office building, 400 E. 14th St. Des Moines, IA 50319-1004; phone number 515-281-4121, 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>."*

## Marathon Party in the Park

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Party In The Park will be held at the Poland Park in Marathon on June 1, 2024. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude around 4:30 p.m. We will provide pulled pork sandwiches and sloppy joes. We will provide hot dogs as well. There will be iced tea, lemonade and water provided.

The remainder of the items are potluck so please plan to bring a dish of your choosing, whether it be a salad, a dessert, chips, ice cream, etc.

We will hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Show with best car voted on by the attendees.

We will have plenty of free time for visiting and catching up with old friends but we will also have a silent auction with a very limited number of items, and a door prize drawing of the silent auction items from last year that didn't sell. Monetary donations will be accepted to continue this event next year!

We will have medals and monetary gifts for the car show winners!

While it is not required to RSVP, please consider letting Roxanne Wilken know if you plan to attend. She can be reached at 515-971-6293 or by email at Rwilken553@aol.com.

If you have any questions regarding the event, please reach out.

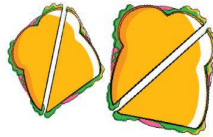
## Artificial Intelligence Marketing Class

Are you interested in learning more innovative ways to market your business?

Here is your chance to register to attend our Artificial Intelligence Marketing Class being held at the Laurens Career Academy on Thursday, May 30th from 1-3 p.m.

Seats are limited, so please scan the QR code or click on the flyer to register and pay.

If you have questions, please reach out to MaryJo at: litwiller@iowacentral.edu.



# FREE MEALS

## FOR ALL KIDS



**\*\*Ages 18 & under which include 2 Breakfast & 2 Lunch Grab & Go meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.**



**\*\*No registration or identification is required**

**\*\*NO ADULT MEALS ~ NO SECONDS\*\***

**\*\*Child must be present for pick up\*\***

**June 3 to August 16, 2024**

**10:30–11:00AM Marathon Community Center  
12:00-12:45PM Laurens-Marathon cafeteria**

Site Contact: Stephanie Weig, Food Service ~ Laurens-Marathon  
712-841-5000 Ext. 119 [stephanieweig@lm.k12.ia.us](mailto:stephanieweig@lm.k12.ia.us)

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## The Paper

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## Iowa USDA is Hiring Ag Leadership Across the State

In my role as the Iowa Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director (SED), I get to speak with farm groups, do radio interviews, and talk to newspaper reporters. Something I've been able to say every time over the past two and a half years is "We're hiring!"

Like most farmers in Iowa, I have a long experience with the team at Iowa USDA. My farm has directly benefited from programs through FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). I'm filled with gratitude daily for the investments by the American public in my family's operations. As a farmer, I appreciate the amazing support the staff provide to help farmers thrive, and in some cases, survive. This includes when my parents got a USDA farm loan in 1985 that allowed us to stay on our farm. I have extended family that have used life changing investments from Rural Development (RD) in housing and rural community development.

Iowa USDA is making historic investments across all of these agencies creating a more hopeful future for rural Iowa. If you're interested in being part of this hopeful future, stop by your county office to make sure you are connecting to these investments that can support your farm, ranch, small business, and community.

Also, look for job announcements and consider becoming part of the Iowa USDA team that is delivering these investments. You can find those at [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov) by searching USDA and Iowa.

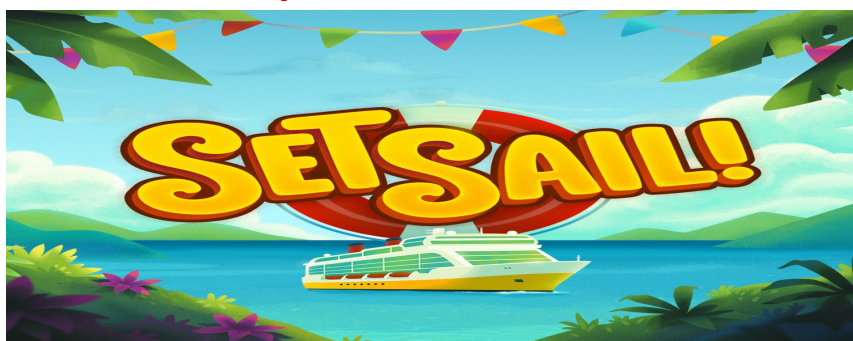
At Iowa Farm Service Agency, we're currently hiring our next class of County Executive Director Trainees (CEDT). When this group successfully completes their training program, they will be hired into our county service centers as County Executive Directors. This is an excellent opportunity for people interested in building a career as an agricultural leader in rural Iowa. You can find that job announcement here, the application period is open until May 28, 2024. We're also hiring county office staff to deliver our safety-net, commodity, conservation, disaster, and farm loan programs.

In addition to taking care of producers, Iowa FSA also takes care of our employees. We enjoy a generous benefits package, matching thrift savings plan contributions, 12-weeks paid parental leave, telework opportunities, flexible work schedules, and 11 paid holidays. A career with Iowa FSA as well as NRCS and RD, also includes opportunities for advancement.

I'm honored to be part of the Biden-Harris Administration. Working with Congress and under the leadership of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, USDA is making historic investments to empower rural Americans to provide the agricultural, energy, and environmental solutions the world needs for a hopeful future.

USDA investments in my family made it possible for us to stay on the land. I'm proud to be serving with over 1000 fellow USDA public servants continuing and expanding those kinds of investments in Iowa's farming and ranching families, small businesses, and rural communities. Stop by your local service center to see how you too can benefit from participating in USDA programs and maybe even become part of the USDA team delivering those life changing programs.

## Community Vacation Bible School



VBS is for children who are

upcoming Preschool age to grade 3

VBS will be June 3-6 from 9:00 - 11:30am at United Methodist Church ~ Program on June 6 at 11:30am

Registration Price: **\$5** per child suggested donation

2024 VBS Committee: Amy Gustafson (United Methodist Church); Allison Price (First Christian Church); MacKenzie Johnsen (Bethany Lutheran Church)

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (just completed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Snack: Please donate either \$2 for snack or provide items (list to come later).

Which area would you be willing to help this year during VBS?

Music      Craft      Snack      Teacher

Please have this registration form & money returned to any committee member or the LM Office by Thursday, May 23, 2024



## **Order of Events For Laurens' Memorial Day 2024**

Start Time: 9:00 AM Monday, **May 27, 2024**

Welcome: Patricia Bailey

The "Star Spangled Banner" will be sung by an Acapella group "SIX"

Opening Prayer: Pastor David Klappenbach, Bethany Lutheran

Pledge of Allegiance-by EVERYONE

America the Beautiful and God Bless the USA will be sung by Lee Greenwood

SPEAKER: Samantha Fuchs Cole, Laurens-Marathon Graduate

Reading of the Honor Roll-Patricia Bailey

Youth from Laurens will place the wreaths

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor David Klappenbach, Bethany Lutheran

The Color Guard is made up of members of our local VFW and American Legion Members.

"TAPS" will be played by Emily Harrold



please join us for a  
BABY SHOWER HONORING

*Alaina Lind*

on June 8, 2024 •

Come and Go from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

At Steve and Karen Lind's home  
4633 200th Ave, Marathon, IA 50565

Baby Registry located at  
<https://www.babylist.com/list/alaina-lind>

## Fonda Arts Center - "Songs of the 70's"

Another opportunity is coming up when friends reunite for an afternoon of music and commradarie at the Fonda Arts Center.

On May 26th, starting at 3:00 p.m., it will be songs that many of us recognize and remember fondly - songs of the 70's which have stood the test of time and are part of our current playlist! Larry Heschke of Fonda, and Dan Keen of Newell will sing hits made popular by artists such as Jim Croce, Elton John, Neil Diamond, James Taylor, the Carpenters, and many more.

All this happening at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main in Fonda. Everyone is welcome! As always, admission and refreshments are free

## At the Library with Glenda Mulder May 22, 2024

Did you know Librarians love three day weekends too? The Library will be closed May 25 – 27 for Memorial Day weekend. Stop in now to be sure you don't run out of reading materials!

Then the Tuesday after Memorial Day, May 28 at 1:30 p.m. Tyler from "Iowa Scenic Views by Foot" will tell us about his quest. He introduces himself on the Facebook page this way, "I am an Iowa City native and have been traveling the state for the last nine years this May. County by county, but just the last five years I have been going to every city on the Iowa road map and other hidden ones along the way. I run at least 1 mile depending on the population. The larger the town, the more I run. I post pictures from my journey and working on writing a poem for every county." Since Tyler also wants to visit the Pocahontas County Historical Society Museum when he's in town, Connie & Dorothy have agreed to open it at 10:30 a.m. You can stop by and see the treasures there before you come to the program at the Library!

New novels this week include: *Think Twice* by Harlan Coben, *Camino Ghosts* by John Grisham, *Look on the Bright Side* by Kristan Higgins, *Summer on Highland Beach* by Sunny Hostin, *Southern Man* by Greg Iles, *First Frost* by Craig Johnson, *You Like it Darker* by Stephen King, *With Each Tomorrow* by Traci Peterson, *Mind Games* by Nora Roberts, *The Last Twelve Miles* by Erika Robuck, *Library Thief* by Kucheng Shenje, *I Hope this Finds You Well* by Natalie Sue, and *One Perfect Couple* by Ruth Ware.

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

May 28 @ 1:30 Iowa Scenic Views by Foot

June 12 @ 6:30 pm Dinosaur Dimensions!

June 19 – August 14 @ 11 am Kids Summer Reading!

June 24 @ 7 pm Book Club The Next Ship Home by Heather Webb

June 26 @ 6:30 pm Garden Fresh Eats with ISU Extension





*This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: May 26, 2024 SERVICE  
TIME CHANGE

Holy Trinity Sunday

9:30 AM ~ Worship

10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

4:00 PM ~ Laurens Care Center

Service

Monday: May 27, 2024  
Memorial Day

Tuesday: May 28, 2024

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Saturday: June 1, 2024

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

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



*This Week at  
Laurens United  
Methodist Church*

Pastor Deb Parkison

Sunday, May 26th:

Peace with Justice Special Offering

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM in

Fellowship Hall

Worship @ 10:30 Laurens UMC

Monday, May 27th:

Memorial Day - Church Office Closed



*This Week at First  
Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, May 23

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Saturday, May 25

10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, May 26

9:30 a.m. Worship followed by Pizza

and Doughnuts (Note time change)



*Resurrection  
of Our Lord  
Catholic Church*

Pocahontas, IA -- Priest:  
Father Paul Nguyen

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

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