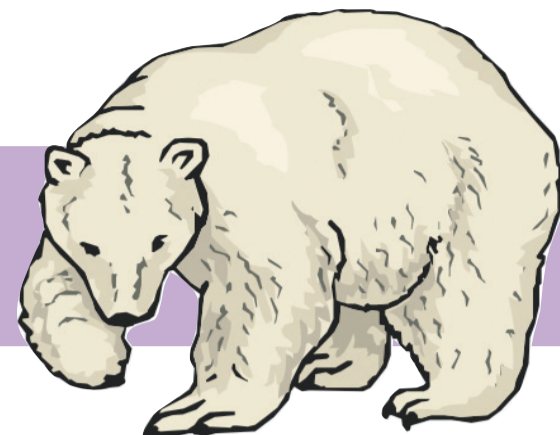


# LifeStyles

SECTION C • THE DILLSBURG BANNER • JANUARY 12, 2012

## Northern High School Alumni

# Where Are They Now?



By **Steven M. Nesbit**  
Feature Writer/Dillsburg Banner

## Lauren J. Harbold - Marine Corps Musician

I visited with Lauren just two days before Christmas, when she was home for the holidays. I was anxious to meet her and find out about her life as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. I arrived at her mother's apartment mid-morning and was ushered into the kitchen. Lauren was the most recent Northern High School (NHS) alumna I interviewed to date. As usual, we began our conversation about elementary school.

Lauren went to Northern Elementary and what she remembered most from those early years was beginning her music career at the end of the third grade, when she received her French horn from Mr. Riley. The instrument quickly became her best friend - except for Katelynn Keffer during Lauren's middle school years.

English and science were her favorite subjects in middle school. She also played field hockey and ran track, but nothing compared to her music.

"Mr. Zeiders was my band director," she said, "and I started playing for the York Junior Symphony Orchestra while in middle school." She also added that she "tried to avoid the drama of middle school."

In high school, Lauren sang in the choir for one year, though she was quick to add, "I liked playing an instrument much better than singing." During high school, she participated in marching band, played in the pit band for the school musicals and was also a member of the pep band for basketball games. As a senior, she was chosen to play in the York Youth Symphony.

Lauren was fortunate to be chosen her senior year for both the Susquehanna University Honors Band and the Lebanon Valley College

Honors Band. "Our band director would recommend students for the honors bands," she said. "The honors band director would then send the music to our band director and, of course, we had to practice the music and be prepared to play it for the audition."

The marching band participated in more competitions than parades, with one hometown exception. "We only marched in the Farmers Fair parade. We participated in competitions," she said. "If I remember correctly, bands were grouped according to size. I believe we were in Group 4 because we had more than 80 band members. In the competitions, the bands would perform their field show and the judges would evaluate their performance."

"At the Atlantic Coast Championships my senior year, we finished third. The groups were much more competitive at the championships, probably 20 to 30 bands in each group," she said.

Soon after, the marching band began practicing for the annual spring concert. For the seniors, the spring concert meant that they would soon be finishing their tenure at NHS. Graduation was right around the corner. Lauren thought about being a dental hygienist, but that's as far as it got.

Like many high school seniors, Lauren was late to apply for college admission. "I wasn't sure how far away I wanted to be. I wanted to stay in the area but go to a big school. I was accepted at IUP (Indiana University of Pennsylvania). It was about three hours away and that was a big adjustment for me. I got homesick and came home some weekends."

In college, she practiced her French horn and went to



### Up Close and Personal Lauren J. Harbold - Class of '05

- 1. Would you rather work with information or people?** People
- 2. How do you handle conflict?** I stress.
- 3. How much money would it take to make you happy?** Money can't make you happy.
- 4. How does the economy of today affect your job?** It provides job security.
- 5. What frustrated you recently?** During my combat training, I had an injury: shin splints.
- 6. Identify a childhood memory.** Being picked on by my brother
- 7. What's your idea of relaxation?** Shopping
- 8. Clothes, shoes or jewelry?** Clothes
- 9. What's something people would be surprised to find out about you?** That I can cook
- 10. What talent would you like to have?** To be able to crochet and knit
- 11. Rock, pop or country?** Country
- 12. Your favorite performers?** "American Idol" Scotty McCreery, Katy Perry and Lady Gaga
- 13. Social networking?** Facebook
- 14. Who would you like to be stuck in an elevator with?** Somebody funny
- 15. Who makes you laugh?** My husband

classes. Lauren majored in music performance. She played in some ensembles and soon found out there was a steep learning curve from high school to college.

"Things like music theory, sight singing, ear training, writing music and figuring out chords were new for me," she said. "The hardest part was the horn performance itself. I had to keep improving at playing the horn. I hoped I didn't peak too soon and could still get better. Soon, I realized that with a performance major, you either played or you didn't after graduation."

Lauren was second semester junior when the student loans starting coming due. "They just killed me," she said. "So, I asked myself, 'What am I going to do?'"

As luck would have it, Lauren's boyfriend at the time had a brother who was finishing his basic training. "We went to his graduation and I saw the Marine Corps band perform, and I started thinking again," she said. "I didn't know Marine Corps musicians were considered professionals. I thought maybe I could join the Marine Corps and if those band members could do it, so could I. So, I called a recruiter and set up an audition."

Lauren first auditioned by playing her French horn over the telephone. "The recruiter wanted to hear me play before he traveled here to meet me. So I put on the speaker phone, sat across the room and played toward the direction of the phone. He would say, 'Play this scale,' or, 'Play this piece.'"

A few days later, the recruiter came to Mechanicsburg, where Lauren had her face-to-face audition. He liked what he heard. Soon, there were security checks, physical testing

and another audition.

"The physical training was the hardest for me," she said. "Running is not my favorite thing to do."

But Lauren made it. She was going to be a U.S. Marine.

Lauren's basic training took place during the summer of 2008 at Parris Island, S.C. "After five months of basic training, there's a big event that covers everything we're supposed to learn. There's an obstacle course, and when you finish it, you have to hike back," she said. "When you complete the course, you've earned your 'Eagle, Globe and Anchor' pin. That's when you become a Marine, and about a week later, there's a graduation ceremony. I was afraid I wouldn't make it through boot camp, but I did."

After her induction, Lauren went to North Carolina for one month of Marine combat training (MCT). Then it was off to the School of Music in Norfolk, Va., for six months. "I graduated on a Friday, and the following Saturday, I drove to Cherry Point, N.C., where I am now stationed."

*Continued on 5C.  
See Where are they now.*



# Animal control is hot topic everywhere

Deana Weaver

Animal control is a public service riddled with controversy, not only in our state capital, but here in Northern York County, as well. An increasing number of strays has placed huge financial burdens on such organizations as the Harrisburg Humane Society, York County SPCA, and the Helen O. Krause Foundation.

Recently, Dillsburg Borough manager Karen Deibler has come under fire, receiving angry phone calls by *Dillsburg Banner* readers from Steelton to Washington, D.C., regarding a proposed ordinance to prevent the feeding of stray cats. Two locations in the borough have become overpopulated with stray cats, causing residents to file nuisance complaints.

"Municipalities are responsible to ensure the stray cat issue does not become a public health and safety issue," Deibler said. "Unfortunately, local governments get mistaken as the bad guys."

Dillsburg Borough, as well as Carroll and Monaghan Townships each follow a similar protocol,

using the same resources for animal control. Falling under the jurisdiction of the Carroll Township police, residents are asked to first contact the police.

According to Police Chief Sean Kapfhammer, "There were about a half dozen animal control incidents reported to Carroll Police in 2011. Mostly, repeat customers." Dogs are the primary reported animal. "No one calls us for cats," said Kapfhammer, "We've had the random sheep or horse on occasion." For wild animal complaints, residents should call the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Kapfhammer understands that many residents are told to contact the animal-control officer directly, but expressed an interest in taking a greater role in the process. He suggested that if the animals or owners are recognized, the police force could save on collection fees and might be able to return some animals faster.

In Dillsburg, Deibler said dogs had been a bigger problem than cats. In Monaghan, the secretary cited cats as their No. 1 stray animal problem. In Carroll, Manager

Connie Flasher said the stray issue has not flared up as in the neighboring municipalities. SPCA records for 2011 reflect a total of 57 pets received from the three municipalities combined: Dillsburg Borough - one dog and 13 cats; Carroll Township - four dogs and eight cats; and Monaghan Township - one dog and 30 cats. Municipalities pay an annual fee to the SPCA, based on population, at 50

cents per resident. SPCA fees for 2011 were Dillsburg Borough - \$1,282; Carroll Township - \$2,970; and Monaghan Township - \$1,315. The contracts allow residents to turn in stray animals at the SPCA facility, where they provide care and housing, adoption services and, in rare cases, euthanasia.

Each of the three municipalities also contract with Kohler Animal Control (KAC), based in Manchester

Township, for the collection of stray dogs. KAC fees include an annual retainer, mileage compensation and hourly fees. In 2011, Dillsburg paid \$1,102.29, Carroll paid \$508.52 and Monaghan paid \$1,845.00. Monaghan's expense includes KAC representation during a court case.

Tim Kohler, owner of KAC, reports a heavy volume of calls from all contracted coverage areas, mostly for stray cats. "You should never feed a stray cat unless you are prepared to adopt it and get it off the street," said Kohler. He recalled a situation in Shiloh in which a woman was treated for rabies after being scratched by a stray she was feeding. A rabid raccoon contaminated a food bowl set out for stray cats. The whole colony became suspect for infection and had to be euthanized.

SPCA director Melissa Smith echoed Kohler's caution against feeding strays. "Many people do not equate the compassion they show by feeding strays with creating greater potential for spreading diseases, such as feline leukemia, distemper and rabies," she said.

"Oftentimes, they endanger their own pets through this exposure."

Both Kohler and Smith commended Dillsburg Borough's "no feed" ordinance approach. A few abandoned cats can become a colony of feral cats in a very short period of time. While euthanasia is the last option at the SPCA, Smith advises there is no other avenue for feral cats. "A feral cat cannot be adopted out," she said. Catching strays and turning them over to a rescue facility is the best action. Through their SOS Program, the SPCA provides traps for a \$50 refundable deposit.

A trap, neuter, release (TNR) approach has been attempted in many communities across the nation. Feral cats are trapped, neutered and released into the same environment where they were caught. This method is not recommended for neighborhoods, because the initial complaints regarding strays are based on property damage from territorial spraying, digging in flowerbeds and gardens and upsetting trash

*Continued on 5C.  
See Animal control*



Photo by Georgia Weaver

**Two locations in Dillsburg Borough have become overpopulated with stray cats, causing residents to file nuisance complaints.**