

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 11 No. 2

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May 10, 2017

## School News

### Habben Puts Bounce in Her Classroom

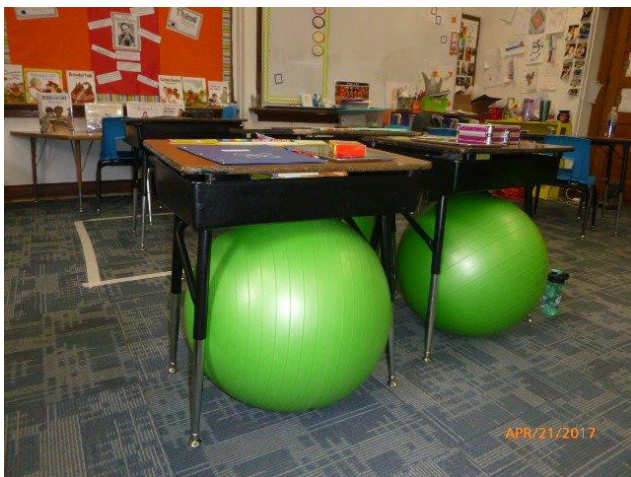


Mariah Hogan and Jacey Branschewig work on geography for Habben who is in her third year at Laurens-Marathon.

With a little boost from Charger Pride, third grade teacher Emily Habben has added new furniture to her room. Inflatable green chairs are now the preferred seating. Since there are not enough to accommodate everyone, the girls have them one day and the boys get them the next day.

Habben said they are called stability balls. Indeed the balls won't roll away because they have a heavy spot. Nonetheless, students diligently tuck them under the desk when they leave them unoccupied.

"I have read many articles on how they allow for the students to focus because they are allowed to bounce and move. It does not cause a distraction in the classroom," Habben testified.



Some balls tucked under a desk when not in use.



Olivia Dahlberg gets to go green while Kyle Moreno endures the hard seat. Moreno says the balls "are cool and I like to bounce."

## The Paper

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## At the Library with Glenda Mulder May 10, 2017

Our Book Club choice for May is the nonfiction selection *"The Necklace: Thirteen women and the experiment that transformed their lives"* by Cheryl Jarvis. Our catalog says this book, "Recounts the true story of a group of women who together purchased an expensive diamond necklace, which they shared, and, in the process, changed their lives and community." Grab a copy of this book and join our discussion Monday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

Because our book club members so enjoyed Anthony Doerr's book, I ordered an earlier book of his that we didn't have, it's *About Grace*. We also received *Rabbit Cake* by Annie Harnett, *Since We Fell* by Dennis LeHane and *The Girl Who Knew Too Much* by Amanda Quick.

With the end of the school year in sight, Jeri, our Children's Librarian, has been making summer plans. This summer's theme is "Build a Better World." We will be meeting Wednesdays again this summer, but have moved most of the programs to 1 o'clock. Our perennial favorite "Pockets Full of Fun" will be here, as well as author, illustrator & caricature artist Tim Read (yes, that's his real name!), and the ISU Extension Service. More details to come on this, but Jeri asks if you would please save those biodegradable packing peanuts (the ones that dissolve in water) and plastic baby food containers with a lid for us. I have no idea what her plans are for these, but I'm going to trust that it will be wonderful!

### COMING EVENTS

- *Tot Time* every Monday at 10 a.m.
- *Card Making* 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- *Take it Tuesday* - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- *Book Club* 4th Monday at 7 p.m.
- *"German Iowa & the Global Midwest"* July 5-17

## Marathon Fire Department Breakfast



Join us for our Annual  
Spring Breakfast!  
Come hungry, leave FULL!

**Sunday, May 21**  
**Serving from 8a.m.-1p.m.**

Serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits and  
gravy, sausage, hashbrowns, coffee, juice & milk

Free Will Donation

### Pocahontas Community Hospital



An Affiliate of  UnityPoint Health

**You are cordially invited to attend  
Pocahontas Community Hospital's  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!!**

**Monday, June 5, 2017**

**4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Expo Center, Pocahontas, Iowa**

The Pocahontas County Cattlemen will be grilling hamburgers provided by the Pocahontas Community Hospital

This will be a come and go event with educational tables and raffle drawings. There will also be a short program beginning at 5 p.m.

**We hope that you will be able to join  
us to help celebrate 50 years of serving  
the healthcare needs of the people of  
Pocahontas County!**

### *Mattie Kreul Information Requested*

Information/memories of Mattie Kreul needed for the 2017 Cemetery Tour/Walk. Please contact Grace Hertz by e-mail at: [gradon@ncn.net](mailto:gradon@ncn.net) or call her at: 712-845-2231.

### *Class of 1962 Reunion*

The Class of 1962 will celebrate its 55th year reunion on July 7-9. The Opening dinner will be at the Country Club at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 7th. The class will also take part in the activities of the Summer Celebration of Laurens.

***Click Here to Read the May Issue of  
L-M's Family, School, & Community  
Connections Newsletter!***

**You are invited to a Tailgate  
Bridal Shower for Kelsey Slattery,**  
bride elect of Andrew Lynch and daughter of  
Dennis & Chantelle Slattery

on Saturday, May 20th from 10:30 to Noon  
at

Gary & Traci Heuton's Garage  
536 Allen Street in Laurens, Iowa

**BRIDAL SHOWER**

Registered at: Heart 'n Home, Target,  
and Bed, Bath, & Beyond



### *Card Shower!*

Darlene Goerner of Laurens will celebrate her 90th birthday on Thursday, May 18. Please send birthday wishes to her at the Laurens Care Center, 304 East Veterans Road, Laurens, IA 50554. Thank you from her 9 children.

*Raylene, Linda, Carol, Larry, Julie,  
Elaine, Donna, Debbie and Randy*

### *Laurens Women's Club to Meet*

The Laurens Women's Club will meet Friday, May 12 for a Dutch Treat Brunch at 9:30 a.m. at the Laurens United Methodist Church. The program will be about "Don't Buy It New" presented by Lois Jirgens and Ruth Steinkoenig.

**2017 Laurens Summer Ball**  
**Concession Stand Help Needed!**

We have games in Laurens Tuesday through Friday starting May 24-June 23. Games are at 6 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

If you are able and willing to help, please contact:

Allison Price cell: 314-413-6402

Home: 845-2327

E-mail: [allison1971@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allison1971@sbcglobal.net)

**Town & Country Floral Mother's Day Specials**

1 dozen vased roses - \$39.99

Mixed Spring Bouquet - \$34.99

Large Spring Outdoor Sprinkling Cans - \$39.99

(assorted styles and colors)

Order Early! Call: 841-4616

HAPPY   
*Mother's  
Day*

Spring Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. ~ 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.



**Charger Pride/Fit Exercise Studio 3K/5K Color-a-thon**

**Event:** Saturday, July 8, 2017 (during Laurens Summer Celebration)

**Register Online Today at:** <http://shop.schoolathon.org/184650>

*Join us for Mother's Day  
Brunch at Laurens Golf &  
Country Club*

**Sunday, May 14  
Serving 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Breakfast & Pastry Buffet**



***Bridal Shower***

Let's Shower Amanda Hanson, the future Mrs. Gustafson, on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Laurens United Methodist Church, 201 W. Main Street, Laurens.

Come and go with a short program at 10:30 a.m.

Amanda is registered at: Heart 'n Home, Target and Menards. Please bring your favorite recipe to share with Amanda.



## *This Week at First Christian Church*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

### **Wednesday, May 10**

1:00 p.m. - Willing Workers  
7:30 p.m. - Lydia Circle

### **Friday, May 12**

7:00 p.m. - AA

### **Sunday, May 14**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
4:00 p.m. - Service at Laurens Care Center



## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

### **Wednesday: May 10, 2017**

7:00 PM - Council Mtg.

### **Sunday: May 14, 2017**

#### **Fifth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day**

9:00 AM - Sunday School  
9:15 AM - Coffee Fellowship  
9:15 AM - Adult SS  
10:30 AM - Worship  
NO Evening Youth Group

### **Tuesday: May 16, 2017**

10:00 AM - Coffee Time

### **Wednesday: May 17, 2017**

7:30 PM - Baccalaureate at BLC

### **Thursday: May 18, 2017**

9:00 AM - Morning Circle

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



## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

### **Wed., May 10th:**

Book Club @ 9 a.m.  
Worship Committee @ 7 p.m.  
Administrative Council @ 8:15 p.m.

### **Fri., May 12th:**

Men's Bible Study @ 7 a.m.

### **Sat., May 13th:**

Bridal Shower in honor of Amanda Hanson  
and Jason Gustafson @ 10 a.m.

### **Sun., May 14th:**

Adult Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.  
Last Day of Sunday School @ 9:10 a.m.  
Worship @ 10:30 a.m. w/ Teacher Appreciation/ Sunday School Awards, Mother's Day  
and Blanket Sunday



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## *Sacred Heart Church Laurens*

Pastor ~ Father Francis Makwinja

Weekday Mass : Friday, 8:00 AM

Weekend Mass: Saturday, 5:00 PM (March - June)

### *Cluster Parishes:*

*St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sioux Rapids*

Weekday Mass: Monday & Wednesday, 8:00 AM

Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10:30 AM (March - June))

*St. Louis Catholic Church, Royal*

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 AM

Weekend Mass: Sunday, 8:30 AM (March- June)



## ***2017 Pocahontas County Fair Livestock Identification***

All 4-H and FFA members must have their livestock identified no later than May 15. Open bottle calf and lamb must have their paper identifications turned into the ISU Extension and Outreach Office Pocahontas County no later than May 15.

If you need help or have any questions regarding livestock identification, please contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103 or e-mail: lzeman@iastate.edu.

## ***Gilmore City Gardening Open House & Plant Sale***

Gilmore City Gardening Open House & Plant Sale will be Thursday, May 11, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Gilmore City-Bradgate Elementary School in Gilmore City.

Come learn how to successfully grow plants in containers, how to use herbs in snacks, the importance of pollinators, and a way to mark what you are doing. This event is FREE and all are welcome!

Please join us for a free-will donation pizza supper!

*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

## ***Survey Shows Iowa Farmers Increasing Nutrient Loss Reduction Practices***

The 2016 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll examined trends in farming practices and strategies since 2013, the year that the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy was started. The Farm Poll survey listed a number of nutrient loss reduction practices as well as some practices that are not recommended, and asked farmers if they had changed their use of the practices since 2013.

“For the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy to meet its goals, most of Iowa’s farmers will have to continuously improve their nutrient management practices,” said J. Gordon Arbuckle, associate professor of sociology at Iowa State University and director of the Farm Poll. “These survey questions give us an idea of which practices are being adopted more or less quickly.”

The results indicate that farmers are increasing their use of recommended practices and decreasing use of some practices that are not recommended. For example, about 26 percent of farmers reported they had increased their use of conservation tillage methods and 19 percent increased their use of continuous no-till. About 21 percent reported a reduction in fall tillage and 19 percent had reduced spring tillage. Only five and seven percent of respondents reported an increase in their fall and spring tillage, respectively.

“Reductions in tillage decrease soil loss, which means less phosphorus in waterways,” said Arbuckle. “Of course, there’s also the added benefit of keeping the soil where you want it – in the field growing crops.”

The poll also found farmers had increased their use of several nutrient management practices since 2013. The greatest change was reported in the use of precision agriculture practices such as variable rate fertilizer application, with 34 percent of farmers reporting either moderate or major increases in the practice. Soil testing and similar methods of determining fertilizer rates saw 31 percent of respondents reporting an increase in the practice while 27 percent reported increasing their use of nitrogen stabilizers.

Twenty-two and 20 percent of farmers reported an increase in spring or growing season applications of nitrogen, respectively. A decrease in fall application of nitrogen fertilizer was reported by 17 percent.

“Research shows that applying nitrogen during the growing season instead of the fall can reduce nutrient loss and potentially increase profits,” Arbuckle said.

A significant number of farmers reported increases in the use of other important conservation practices. Thirty-five percent reported having increased use of structural practices such as terraces, buffer strips or grassed waterways. Twenty percent reported an increase in cover crop use, and 14 percent indicated they had shifted at least some marginal cropland into other uses such as pasture or hay.

About 36 percent reported increasing their use of tile or other drainage practices, which can lead to nutrient loss.

“These results show positive trends in the use of practices that can reduce nutrient loss into waterways,” Arbuckle said. “Although the results indicate that many farmers are headed in the right direction, many more will need to adopt or increase their use of a diversity of nutrient loss reduction practices to meet strategy goals.”

The Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll has been in existence since 1982, surveying Iowa farmers on issues of importance to agricultural stakeholders. It is the longest-running survey of its kind in the nation.

## ***Yard and Garden: Successfully Planting Trees during Spring***

*Authors - Richard Jauron, Extension  
Horticulturist  
Greg Wallace, Organizational  
Advancement*

Spring is a time for renewal and growth, and it's also an excellent time for new beginnings. Planting a new tree (or trees) is a great way to create a legacy that can last for generations on a landscape. However, planting trees requires specific care and steps to ensure a successful outcome.

ISU Extension and Outreach horticulturists can help answer your questions about how to best handle planting new trees. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu).

**What is the proper way to plant a container-grown tree?** When planting a container-grown tree, dig a hole that is two to three times wider than the diameter of the container. The depth of the hole should be two to three inches less than the height of the soil ball. Slope the sides of the hole so the top is several inches wider than the bottom. In poorly drained soils, the depth of the hole should be approximately two-thirds of the height of the soil ball.

Once the hole has been prepared, carefully lay the tree on its side. Tap the sides of the container to loosen

the soil ball from the container, then slide the tree out of its container. All containers should be removed, even purportedly plantable containers. If the sides of the soil ball are a mass of roots, carefully shave off the outer one-half to one inch of the soil ball with a sharp spade or saw. Place the tree in the hole. The top of the soil ball should be two to three inches above the surrounding soil. In poorly drained sites, the top one-third of the soil ball should stick above the surrounding soil.

Gradually fill the hole with soil. With each new addition of soil, firm it in place with your hands. Place soil to the top of the soil ball and gradually slope it down to the surrounding soil. Once planted, water thoroughly.

**What is the proper way to plant a balled and burlapped tree?** Dig a hole that is two to three times wider than the diameter of the tree's rootball. The depth of the hole should be two to three inches less than the height of the rootball. Slope the sides of the hole so the top of the hole is several inches wider than the bottom. In poorly drained soils, the depth of the planting hole should be approximately two-thirds of the height of the rootball.

Grasping the tree's rootball, carefully lower the tree into the hole. The top of the rootball should be two to three inches above the surrounding soil line. In poorly drained sites, the top one-third of the rootball should be above the surrounding soil. Make sure the trunk is straight. Then, begin

backfilling with the original soil. Firm the backfill soil in the hole with your hands.

When the planting hole is half-full, cut and remove the twine. Also, cut away and remove the burlap on the top one-third to one-half of the rootball. If the rootball is in a wire basket, remove the top one-third to one-half of the basket. Completely fill the remainder of the hole with soil. Place soil up to the top of the rootball and gradually slope it down to the surrounding soil line. Once planted, thoroughly water the tree.

**Should compost or sphagnum peat moss be added to the soil when planting a tree?** Do not add compost, sphagnum peat moss or other organic materials to the soil when planting trees. Studies have shown that the root systems of trees in amended soils tend to remain confined to the amended soil in the planting hole, while trees planted without soil amendments developed roots beyond the planting hole. Additionally, in poorly drained sites, the amended planting hole can fill up with water like a bathtub during periods of heavy rainfall, causing root suffocation and tree death.

Tree selection is the key when planting in poorly drained sites or other difficult soils. Select tree species suitable for the soil conditions at the site.

# ***Determine When a Child Is Ready to Stay Home Alone***

*Authors: Malisa Rader, Human Sciences Extension and Outreach Family Life*

*Laura Sternweis, Organizational Advancement*

With the school year coming to a close and summer just around the corner, many parents of school-agers are faced with the decision of finding child care for their adolescent or allowing their child to stay home alone, says Malisa Rader, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

“Often parents call, wanting the ‘magic’ age number that their child should be to stay home without supervision,” said Rader, who specializes in family life issues.

Parents have many things to consider when making the decision, including the child’s ability to make good decisions, how he or she feels about being home alone and the length of time the child will be alone, Rader said.

“Has your child spent some smaller-increment times at home alone? This would be a good first step in gauging your child’s comfort and skill level. However, that is not the only factor to consider. The neighborhood you live in and the availability of adults should also be given some thought as well as your flexibility to field phone calls or check in occasionally with your child,” Rader continued.

## **Ask questions to assess readiness**

Science of Parenting is an Iowa State University Extension and Outreach blog sharing research-based information with parents. Parents can ask themselves the following questions to determine their child’s readiness to stay home alone.

- Is my child mature enough to handle the responsibilities of being on his or her own?
- Do my child and I communicate well about feelings?
- Can my child manage simple tasks like making a snack and taking a phone message?
- Has my child indicated an interest and/or a willingness to stay home alone?
- Does my child generally observe rules that exist in our home?
- Does my child spontaneously tell me about daily events?
- Is my child physically able to unlock and lock the doors at our home?
- Can my child solve small problems without assistance?
- Does my child know when and how to seek outside help?
- Do I think my child is prepared to handle an accident or an emergency?
- Will my child follow our household rules when I am not home?

## **Teach skills before leaving a child home alone**

“Teach your child important skills as well as any household rules you want to make clear before leaving your child home alone. This will give your child confidence in his or her ability and help your child deal with emergencies,” Rader said.

Talk about expectations for answering the door, responding to phone calls, rules about having friends over, options for meals and snacks, what to do in a storm and who to contact with questions. Making a chart with guidelines and emergency numbers can help make those expectations clear, Rader said.

Rader offers these additional suggestions to parents who are considering leaving a child home alone.

- Role play some of the various situations the child might encounter without adult supervision. This will give the child a chance to practice his or her responses and will help parents determine if child care or other summer school-age programming might be a better option.
- Don’t see staying home alone as an “all or nothing” option. Parents can be creative. Perhaps attending a program two to three days a week or spending a day or two with a grandparent are a possibility. This will help keep a child from being bored and may even help a child to better enjoy days spent home alone.

## **Do what is best for the child and family**

“It is natural for parents and youth to give thought to what others are doing,” Rader said. “But every child and situation is unique. The best decision is made when considering what is right for your child and family.”

Be sure to periodically review house rules and safety information with the child. Children who are emotionally ready and have the knowledge and skills for handling emergencies can gain independence and confidence when given the opportunity to care for themselves.

# City Council Minutes

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Jean Swanson, Pat Sullivan, Rich Newgard, Sid Enockson, Julie Potter, City Attorney Ann Beneke, City Manager Hilary Reed, City Clerk Joan Hoben, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, and Chief of Police Chris Toner.

Potter moved to approve consent agenda consisting of the agenda, minutes from the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting, in addition to the list of claims. Sullivan seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

CLAIMS 05-01-2017		
ALLIANT ENERGY	APRIL GAS	191.91
BOLTON & MENK	WMAIN/BISSELL SERVICES	1,885.00
BOMGAARS	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	173.65
CAHOY PUMP SERVICE, INC.	WATER PLANT EQUIP. SERVICES	3,714.00
COFFMAN'S LOCKSMITH	LOCKS FOR BALL COMPLEX	286.19
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING	VEHICLE REPAIRS	150.00
FIRE SVC TRAINING BUREAU	TRAINING	100.00
GLENDA MULDER	GRANT	399.58
HILARY REED	MILEAGE	16.48
ICMA	RETIREMENT 457	350.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	3,857.13
IPERS	IPERS	4,160.11
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	1,872.38
JULIAN JOHNSEN	TRAINING MEALS	7.91
LMPC	PHONE BILL	408.87
LMU	APRIL BILLING	5,824.66
MET	BOBALEE WASTEWATER GRAB	700.00
PETE HOWE INDUSTRIAL	TELEVISE STORM LIKES	750.00
PETE RUNNEBERG	TRAINING MEALS	9.57
PETTY CASH	POSTAGE	224.92
POC COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	RANDOM TESTING	91.75
PRIME BENEFIT SYSTEMS	MAY GROUP INSURANCE	96.25
SANTANDER LEASING, LLC	PUMPER	1,461.34
STAPLES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	187.36
TOYNE	PUMPER SERVICE	500.00
TREASURE STATE OF IOWA	APRIL SALES TAX	4,541.00
US BANK	POOL TRAINING	234.99
US BLUE BOOK	WATER PLT SUPPLIES	1,165.66
USPS	APRIL UTILITY POSTAGE	299.92
VAUGHN DELOSS CONST.	PAY REQUEST 15	40,719.17
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	99.35
WOODLEY INSURANCE	ANNUAL INSURANCE	71,855.50
ZIEGLER	EQUIP MAINT.	1,491.22
	TOTAL	<u>147,825.87</u>
PAYROLL	4/24/2017	
	001 GENERAL	3,888.88
	210 ROAD USE TAX	1,260.30
	600 WATER	2,102.00
	610 SEWER	1,763.84
	670 GARBAGE	1,031.32
	TOTAL	10,046.34
	PAID TOTAL	<u>157,872.21</u>
BY FUND		
	001 GENERAL	56,637.44
	110 ROAD USE TAX	10,337.87
	112 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	56.86

# City Council Minutes

176	HOMETOWNPRIDE COMMITTEE	6.65
316	WEST MAIN & BISSELL ST	42,604.17
600	WATER	28,166.20
610	SEWER	12,925.99
670	GARBAGE	7,137.03
TOTAL BY FUND		<u>157,872.21</u>

Swanson moved to approve Change Order #4, West Main & Bissell project. labor. Newgard seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Enockson moved to approve Pay Request #15 for Vaughn DeLoss Construction. Sullivan seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held on the decision of the Dog Park presented by Anthony Gordon at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The council feels it is a great idea; however, the ball fields are currently being used for their particular purpose. With that, Newgard motioned to keep the ballpark as is. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held on the decision of the acquisition of the Sacred Heart Parish Center. The council, again, feels it is a great idea; however, after discussion regarding the lack of financing available for the repairs/maintenance/upkeep of the Parish Center, Sullivan thanked the Sacred Heart Parish Center Council for the opportunity, but for the City to pass at this time. Enockson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Council member Julie Potter expressed her concern regarding a lack of a fence by the West Main Project. It was noted that fences are being placed.

Potter moved to adjourn at 5:42 p.m. Enockson seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Rod Johnson, Mayor

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Hilary Reed, City Clerk