

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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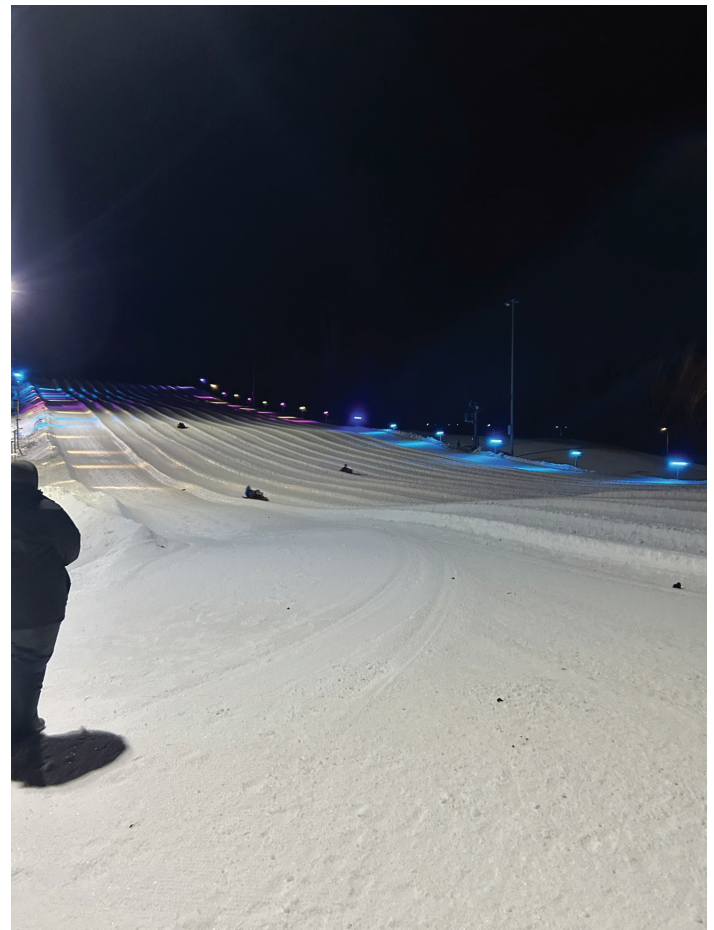
January 29,  
2025

## Local News

### 4-H Members Attend Regional Winter Retreat

Pocahontas County Junior 4-H members had a blast at the regional winter retreat with friends from Buena Vista, Humboldt, Webster, and Hamilton Counties!

They ventured to Sioux City, where they got creative in a ceramics workshop, discovered fun exhibits at local museums, and hit the slopes for an exciting tubing adventure at Cone Park. It was a wonderful day full of learning and making new friends!



### Northwest Career Academy Visit Day

Advanced Manufacturing | Welding | CNC Machining



Tuesday,  
February 11  
Laurens

#### EXPERIENCE THE CAREER ACADEMY

This program is for students who are mechanically inclined, the advanced manufacturing career pathway is a great start to finding out what career interests them. The course sequence has been designed to build skills in fundamental welding, metal working, blueprint reading, and general machining. Students will develop a solid foundation in basic machining tools such as lathes and milling machines, as well as general shop equipment and tools.

Inviting students, instructors, and counselors!

#### Career Academy Visit Day:

Learn about the benefits of the Career Academy by working alongside our instructors and hear from local businesses about career opportunities.

Lunch will be provided.

Registration begins at 9:00 am  
with the day concluding at 12 pm.



Scan to Register



It is the policy of Iowa Central Community College not to discriminate in its programs, activities, or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential family, parental or marital status.  
If you have questions or complaints related to the compliance with this policy, please contact the Vice President of Human Resources, Iowa Central Community College, One Yutan Circle, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501, Telephone: (515) 274-2438. Email: [compliance@iccc.edu](mailto:compliance@iccc.edu), or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, 400... Kiewit Federal Building, 230 E. Superior Street, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604-7204, Telephone: (312) 750-1540. Fax: (312) 750-1576, TDD: (312) 750-8239. Email: [OCR.CC@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.CC@ed.gov).

## At the Library with Glenda Mulder January 29, 2025

Next Tuesday is our Deb's favorite day of the month. The first Tuesday of the month we have Kids Make & Take from 3:45-5:00 p.m., and Take it Tuesday for adults at 6:30 p.m. This month the kids will be making a puzzle piece heart. The adults will make a Valentine tree and/or the puzzle piece heart. Contact the Library to sign up so we can be sure to have enough supplies!

New novels in the library this week include *Mona Acts Out* by Mischa

Berlinski, *Eddie Winston is Looking for Love* by Marianne Cronin, *Order of Swans* by Jude Devereaux, *Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Murray, *Texas Murders* by James Patterson, *Keeper of Stars* by Buck Turner and *Good Dirt* by Charmaine Wilkerson.

### Mark Your Calendar

February 4 3:45-5:00 p.m. - Kids Make & Take Puzzle Piece Heart

February 4 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday Valentine Tree/Puzzle Piece Heart

February 5 & 17 - Evening Tot Time @ 5:30 p.m.

February 24 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry



## The Paper

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*This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Wednesday: January 29, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

**Saturday: February 1, 2025**

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

**Sunday: February 2, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:15 AM ~ Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion,  
Installation of Council

4:00 PM ~ Laurens Care Center  
Service

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

**Monday: February 3, 2025**

4:00 PM ~ W/M Mtg.

**Tuesday: February 4, 2025**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Wednesday: February 5, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

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



*This Week at  
Laurens United  
Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Saturday, February 1:**

Laurens United Methodist Men  
Meeting @ 8 AM in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, February 2:**

Sunday School from 9:15-10:05 AM  
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Holy Communion Sunday  
Potluck Dinner Following Worship  
Service in Fellowship Hall

**Monday, February 3:**

Town & Country Quilters Club  
meeting at UMC @ 2:00 PM in  
Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, February 5:**

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the  
Wesley Room



*This Week at  
First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Sunday, February 2**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Mission Council following Worship



*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

## *2025 Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training Scheduled in Pocahontas County*

Confinement site manure applicators should plan to attend a two-hour workshop offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to maintain or renew their confinement site manure applicator certification. The Pocahontas county workshop will be offered on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Pocahontas. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins permitted.

“Iowa law requires confinement site manure applicators to attend two hours of continuing education each year of their three-year certification period or take and pass the exam once every three years,” said Dan Andersen, associate professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering and extension agriculture engineering specialist at Iowa State University, and coordinator of the manure applicator certification program. “If applicators fail to attend the two hours of continuing education each year, they will be required to pass a written exam to be eligible to recertify.”

Each year, nearly 300 confinement site applicators fail to attend training and must pass the remedial exam prior to being eligible to renew their certification for the following year.

The workshop serves as initial certification for those applicators not currently certified, recertification for those renewing licenses, and as continuing education for those applicators in the second or third year of their license.

The 2025 confinement site program will include rules for applicators, as well as land-application and setback distance requirements, soil compaction, cereal rye affecting nitrogen cycling, a national manure nutrient database, and viable rate systems.

Operators must be certified to handle, transport, and apply manure if the confinement livestock operation has more than a 500-animal unit capacity, unless the manure is applied by a commercial manure applicator. The certification fee is \$100 for a three-year certificate. This fee is paid when applicators initially get certified and then every three years thereafter when they re-certify to apply manure.

Confinement site applicators are also required to pay an annual education fee of \$25. All fees and application forms must be sent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to complete certification requirements.

ISU Extension and Outreach will charge a \$10 fee to applicators choosing to view the certification materials on a non-scheduled reshew day at the county office. For this reason, all applicators are encouraged to attend the workshops or to plan to view training materials on the scheduled reshew date at their local county extension office. This fee will not apply to workshops or scheduled reshew dates. Contact the county extension office to determine which days are scheduled for the manure applicator certification programs.

Applicators have another online certification option. Applicators can take their training at the DNR MAC Workday site at [www.IowaDNR.gov/MAC](http://www.IowaDNR.gov/MAC). Applicators will need to sign-in and create a Workday account.

Applicators are encouraged to complete certification requirements annually prior to March 1 to meet certification deadlines and avoid being assessed a \$12.50 late fee for re-certification.

For more information about meeting dates and locations, or to schedule an appointment to attend training, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103 or visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/immag/confinement-site-applicators> to see the 2025 workshop schedule.

## *Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator Course Offered in February*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa Central Community College are offering a four-day workshop that will prepare attendees to become certified as Commercial Pesticide Applicators.

This course will focus on materials needed to take the Iowa Core Manual Exam and Categories 1A (Ag Weed Control), 1B (Ag Insect Control) and 1C (Ag Disease Control). In addition, this material will cover local context and real-life application of insect, weed and disease management. Course information will be presented by ISU Extension and Outreach field agronomists.

The course will take place Feb. 18-21 at the Iowa Central Community College East Campus located at 2031 Quail Ave., Fort Dodge, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day.

“Agribusiness retail outlets are in need of a certified workforce to meet the seasonal demands of pesticide applications” said Aaron Saeugling, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach. “This course will help develop that workforce for future employment.”

The curriculum and supporting materials are offered in the form of PowerPoints, worksheets, demonstrations and activities. Participant engagement will provide a variety of learning opportunities through activities, hands-on demonstrations and real-life scenarios.

Tuition for the class is \$749 and includes the Core, 1A, 1B and 1C manuals as well as other resource materials. Participants will have the opportunity to take the certification exams each afternoon at the Iowa Central Community College testing center at no additional cost.

To register, please contact Iowa Central Community College at 515-574-1293 or go to the Iowa Central Community College registration page. Questions may be sent to [noncredit@iowacentral.edu](mailto:noncredit@iowacentral.edu). Registration for this course closes on Feb. 11.

## *Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Workshop Series to Be Held in February and March*

Iowa Learning Farms will host a series of monarch and pollinator habitat workshops in February and March. Farmers, landowners and urban residents are welcome to attend these free workshops that include a complimentary meal.

Pollinators, like farmers, help ensure the world eats. It is estimated that about 75% of the world's flowering plants and about 35% of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators. Monarchs are ecologically important as pollinators and are symbolic wildlife used by biodiversity conservation initiatives as exemplary flagship species. The iconic species migrates across U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico, as well as across dozens of U.S. states, especially the Midwestern Corn Belt and Iowa, in search of milkweed for both nectar resources and laying their eggs. This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn more about monarchs and integrating pollinator habitat into Iowa's landscape.

The workshops will be hosted by Katherine Kral-O'Brien, Iowa State University assistant professor in natural resource ecology and management and co-leader of the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium, and Jon Dahlem, Iowa State University postdoctoral research associate. Dates, times and locations are:

- Feb. 6, 12-2 p.m., Ames Moose Lodge 520, 644 W 190th St., Ames
- Feb. 11, 12-2 p.m., Chautauqua Park Shelter House, 401 Chautauqua Park Dr., Storm Lake
- March 11, 12-2 p.m., Fairfield Arts and Convention Center, 200 North Main St., Fairfield
- March 18, 12-2 p.m., Coralville Public Library E. Jean Schwab Auditorium, 1401 5th Street, Coralville

The events are free and open to farmers, landowners and urban residents, though reservations are required to ensure adequate space and food. Attendees will enjoy a complimentary meal and be entered into a drawing for ISU Prairie Strips honey. For reasonable accommodations and to RSVP, please contact Liz Ripley at 515-294-2473 or [ilf@iastate.edu](mailto:ilf@iastate.edu). Iowa Learning Farms field days and workshops are supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information, visit the Iowa Learning Farms website.

## *Virtual Grant Writing 101 Workshops Available This February and March*

Nonprofit, government and school district representatives can boost their grant writing skills by enrolling in any of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's upcoming virtual Grant Writing 101 workshops.

The workshop fee is \$25 and the registration deadline is two days before each session. Upcoming workshops are set for:

- Feb. 12, 9–11 a.m. Learn more and register online. The registration deadline is Feb. 10, 11:59 p.m.
- March 26, 9–11 a.m. Learn more and register online. The registration deadline is March 24, 11:59 p.m.

The online workshops, hosted by ISU Extension and Outreach, provide practical training for crafting successful grant applications. Participants will learn about grant terminology, how to find funding opportunities and strategies for developing a compelling proposal.

"Grant Writing 101 gives participants the skills and confidence they need to succeed," said Lindsay Henderson, community and economic development specialist. "In 2024, 89% of participants reported feeling more confident in their ability to write grants after taking the workshop, compared to just 31% before. That's a dramatic improvement."

Henderson added, "Additionally, 98% of participants agreed they could identify and understand general grant terminology and processes after the workshop, up from 48% before. These numbers reflect the real value this training provides.

"These workshops are designed for everyone, whether you're new to grant writing or looking to sharpen your skills," Henderson said. "The insights and techniques we teach can make a lasting difference for your organization and community."

For more information or to register, contact Henderson at [lindsayh@iastate.edu](mailto:lindsayh@iastate.edu) or Esther Crompton, communication specialist, at [eecrompt@iastate.edu](mailto:eecrompt@iastate.edu).

## *Yard and Garden: Caring for Sansevieria*

Sansevieria, also known as snake plant, St. George's sword or mother-in-law's tongue, is a resilient houseplant that is grown for its striking appearance and low maintenance needs. Its tall, sword-like leaves and unique variegation make a beautiful addition to most indoor spaces. This hardy plant is known for its ability to thrive in a variety of conditions, making it an ideal choice for both novice and experienced gardeners. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists answer questions on these highly adaptable indoor plants.

**What types of sansevieria are commonly grown indoors?** The group of plants known as sansevieria is comprised of the species and cultivars formerly classified in the genus *Sansevieria*. Despite being reclassified to the genus *Dracaena*, this group of plants is still widely called sansevieria.

The most common species in homes is the snake plant (*Dracaena trifasciata*), a species native to tropical West Africa. The long sword-like leaves grow from the ground in rosettes and come in a variety of colors and patterns. One of the most popular varieties, *laurentii*, has striking gold bands running vertically along the leaf edge. Other varieties have unique patterns and colors in dark green, light green, white and silver. Popular varieties include 'Black Gold,' 'Moonshine,' 'Metallica,' 'Silver Queen,' 'Futura Robusta' and 'Bantel's Sensation.'

Bird's nest types, such as 'Hahnii,' have rosettes of much shorter leaves, typically less than 8 inches long, forming a funnel shape.

Other species of sansevieria found at well-stocked garden centers include

the African spear (*Dracaena angolensis*, syn: *Sansevieria cylindrica*) with long, stiff cylindrical leaves that grow in a fan pattern. Whale fin (*Dracaena masoniana*) has wide (8+ inches), stiff, dark green leaves. This species is often found in garden centers with just one or two large leaves.

### **How do I care for sansevieria?**

*Sansevieria* prefers bright, indirect light. This is light bright enough to cast a shadow but not directly in the sun's rays. Plants tolerate low light levels very well, although this can lead to muted leaf coloration and patterns.

Plant in a well-drained potting soil, such as cactus mix or potting soil amended with perlite. Water plants only after the soil has completely dried out. The quickest (and sometimes the only) way to kill a sansevieria is to overwater it. Plants can go weeks, sometimes months, without water, but if plants stay wet, root rot develops, causing leaves to turn yellow and collapse, eventually leading to plant death. Wet conditions can be caused by frequent watering, using containers that don't have drainage holes or allowing water to sit in saucers or outer pots.

Grow plants in average home temperatures, although they prefer it a little warmer (70-90 degrees Fahrenheit is ideal). Avoid cold drafts, especially in winter. Frequent fertilizing is not necessary, but using an all-purpose fertilizer at half or quarter strength in the spring promotes healthy growth.

### **How do I propagate sansevieria?**

*Sansevieria* is easily propagated by leaf section cuttings and division. To propagate by cuttings, cut a leaf into 3-inch to 4-inch sections, dip the lower cut end in rooting hormone, and insert the leaf piece into perlite or other rooting media. Place in a warm, bright, indirect light location with high

humidity. Use a plastic dome or bag to maintain humidity. Check frequently and moisten the media as needed. New roots will form, followed by a small plantlet after about two months. When the new plant is several inches tall, pot it in regular potting soil.

Cultivars with variegated leaf edges, such as *laurentii*, lose their interesting coloration when propagated by cuttings. The variegation in these cultivars is created from a chimera, which is an uncommon way for variegation to form. To maintain the leaf pattern, propagate by division. Separate clumps or rosettes of leaves by cutting the thick underground rhizome, making sure each section has both roots and shoots. Pot up the new plants immediately and give them good care until fully re-established. While sansevieria doesn't mind being a bit crowded in its container, division helps manage excessively pot-bound plants.

**Is sansevieria toxic to pets or people?** Sansevierias are mildly toxic to humans and pets. Plants contain saponins, which cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and gastrointestinal discomfort. All species of sansevierias should never be ingested and should be kept out of reach of children, dogs and cats.

**Do sansevierias flower?** It is rare for sansevieria to flower when grown as a houseplant. When provided with abundant light and good fertility, sansevieria may produce flowers. Flowers form along a long stalk that arises from the base of the rosette. The cream-to-greenish-white tubular flowers have strap-like petals that curl back to reveal prominent stamens. The flowers typically have a sticky texture and a pleasant scent, especially at night, that is similar to vanilla or jasmine.

# City Council Minutes

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamison called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Aaron Christenson arriving at 5:05, Jean Swanson by phone, City Manager Hilary Reed, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and Public Works Director Julian Johnson.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting, and the list of claims. Swanson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

## CLAIMS 01-20-25

AFLAC	GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS	37.08
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	DVDS & BOOKS	408.47
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	MONTHLY EYE CARE INSURANCE	190.28
BADGER METER	METERING & TECH SUPPORT	54.16
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS	228.53
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	132.70
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	CLOSE OUT BOOKS	120.00
CITY OF MOVILLE	NUISANCE ABATEMENTS	1,442.87
CMBA ARCHITECTS	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,652.79
COMMUNITY FIRST AUTO	PARTS FOR GARBAGE TRUCK	404.24
CONNECTIONS	MONTHLY INSURANCE	31.14
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	732.40
DES MOINES REGISTER	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	540.00
ECONO SIGNS, LLC	STREET SIGNS	261.44
FIRE SVC TRAINING BUREAU	2 FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING	300.00
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	272.00
GORDON FLESCH COMPANY	COPIER MAINT	39.98
HACH	CHEMICALS	595.51
HEIMAN	FIRE EQUIPMENT	13,442.45
HEMPHILL LAW OFFICE	LEGALS	811.10
HILARY REED	PCEDC MEETING	45.48
I & S GROUP, INC.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	485.25
IRS	FED/FICA TAXES	4,384.87
IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	ANNUAL DUES	90.00
JCL SOLUTIONS / SPENCER OFFICE SUPPLY	CLEANING SUPPLIES	106.78
KEVIN SHANNON	ANNUAL CONFERENCE	425.00
LMPC	REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR ST. LIGHT	393.66
LMU	DEC MONTHLY UTILITIES	666.80
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICE	SUPPLIES	6,675.75
MACC	TECH SUPPORT	858.92
THE MACHINE SHOP	SHOP SUPPLIES	865.48
MANGOLIA JOURNAL	SUPSCRIPTION	30.00
PAYMENTUS CORPORATION	BILLING EXPENSE	409.83
POCAHONTAS COUNTY SHERIFF	DEPUTY CALL LOG	10,855.95
POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE	DEC LANDFILL FEES	6,921.90
PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEMS	GROUP INSURANCE	2,385.00
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	764.65
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY FUEL	1,603.50
RSM US, LLP	TECH SUPPORT	1,460.72
SHAMROCK RECYCLE	DEC CURBSIDSE RECYCLING	1,952.05

# City Council Minutes

VERIZON WIRELESS	MONTHLY CELL PHONES	<u>290.92</u>
	TOTAL	<u><u>63,574.03</u></u>
PAYROLL	1/6/2025	
001 GENERAL		3,492.29
210 ROAD USE TAX		1,620.17
600 WATER		3,058.13
610 SEWER		3,181.16
670 GARBAGE		<u>2,628.14</u>
	TOTAL	<u>13,979.89</u>
	PAYROLL TOTAL	<u><u>13,979.89</u></u>
	PAID TOTAL	<u><u>77,553.92</u></u>
001 GENERAL		36,596.93
110 ROAD USE TAX		4,139.23
112 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		2,263.19
174 POOL RESTRICTED		485.25
600 WATER		13,070.89
610 SEWER		6,932.67
670 GARBAGE		14,048.77
745 STORM WATER		<u>16.99</u>
	TOTAL BY FUND	<u><u>77,553.92</u></u>

Zylstra moved to approve Resolution 04-25 – Unpaid Nuisance Fees. Swanson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Swanson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Christenson moved to approve Resolution 02-25 – Mileage Rate. Zylstra seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Christenson, Swanson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on police matters. No action was taken.

Discussion was held on the pool project. No action was taken.

Zylstra motioned to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

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John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem

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Hilary Reed, City Clerk