

POLK CITY *Living Weekly*

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ELKHART CITY FESTIVAL TENTH-YEAR CELEBRATION FEATURES TRUCK PULL, KIDS ACTIVITIES

BY JACKIE WILSON

Elkhart is celebrating the 10th year of the Elkhart City Festival on Saturday, June 24, with a variety of family-friendly activities.

The festival has gotten larger each year. This year, they'll have a truck pull, car show, 5K run/walk, parade, petting zoo, bounce house and other activities for all ages. The festival also includes food trucks and vendors, while a live band and fireworks cap off the evening.

The event is run by volunteers. The cost of the truck pull is \$10 for adults and kids wristbands cost \$10 for all the kids' activities.

A portion of the entry fee goes towards community projects, such as the scholarship program and paying for the "Welcome to Elkhart" sign.

Volunteers, sponsors and vendors still have time to sign up. For more information, search Facebook for the Elkhart Community Betterment Committee site. ■



Kids activities at Elkhart City Festival include a bounce house.



A 5K run/walk will be held at the Elkhart City Festival.



The truck pull is a highlight of the Elkhart City Festival.

POLK CITY WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 63 | LOW 46

Some sun; breezy and cooler

**SATURDAY HIGH 71 | LOW 49**

Sunny and pleasant

**SUNDAY HIGH 78 | LOW 54**

Sunny, pleasant and warmer

**MONDAY HIGH 77 | LOW 54**

Partly sunny and pleasant

**TUESDAY HIGH 80 | LOW 57**

Partly sunny



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

NO FENCES

“No Fences” was a 1990 album by Garth Brooks that reached No. 1 on Billboard’s Top Country Albums chart. In a world where we commonly separate ourselves from each other with fences, his choice for this album title had a deeper meaning.

Consider this. According to grandviewresearch.com, the U.S. fencing market was estimated at \$8.2 billion in 2021 and was expected to expand at 5% per year from 2022 to 2030. That’s a lot of fences.

The site says the growth can be accredited to the availability of high-quality materials, consumer affordability, and varied designs and is primarily driven by factors such as increasing housing construction and growing demand from end-user industries such as the residential, industrial and agricultural sectors. But there is more to it than that.

Fences made sense when early pioneers needed a way to gather and hold livestock. Those fences changed the West from vast

prairies to a land of farming and settlements. They were a necessity, but, interestingly enough, the Native Americans seemed to survive just fine without them — until the barbed-wire fence changed their lives dramatically.

Michael Kelly twisted two wires together and formed a cable for barbs known as the “thorny fence.” This design made fences stronger and forced cattle to keep their distance. Joseph Glidden improved on this with a simple wire barb locked onto a double-strand wire. As a result of the mass use of barbed-wire, the lives of the nomadic Native Americans were radically altered. Just imagine how they discovered barbed wire, or what they called “the Devil’s rope.”

Today, we construct fences to distance ourselves from outsiders, both in our rural areas and in our cities. But why? Is it because we are



not as willing to share? Is it because we are too territorial? It is out of fear? Or is it simply because we are packing too many people in too small of an area? I tend to think it is mostly the latter.

Some people say we need more fences. Others say they are unnecessary. In many ways, it may be difficult to imagine a world without fences. But, if you are really curious what it would be like, venture across the wide swaths of land in Montana.

Fences may be great for keeping animals in place. But people? As a society, I would like to think we could learn from the Native Americans and make “No Fences” more than an album title.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman

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COPS & BOBBERS

Polk City Police and Iowa DNR are hosting their annual Cops & Bobbers youth fishing event on May 20, 8:30-10 a.m. at Big Creek Lake. ■

FARMERS MARKET

Thursday evenings through Sept. 18, 4-7 p.m.

Polk City Square

The Polk City Farmers Market is underway. Enjoy visiting a variety of vendors and live entertainment. ■

GARAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE

Sheldahl United Methodist Church, Sixth and Hubbell, is holding a garage sale and bake sale in conjunction with the Slater Citywide Garage Sales on Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Garage sale items are sold for a freewill donation. Items include a lot of denim rag rugs. A bake sale is also planned. Free coffee and bottled water will be available. ■

FOUR SEASONS FESTIVAL

Friday and Saturday, July 15 and 16

Join this fun-filled weekend at the Four Seasons Festival in Polk City. The festival will feature food trucks, a beer garden, youth and teen activities, a toddler zone, vendor fair, contests and competitions, among many more activities. Friday's highlights are a family movie, three-point shootout, and live music. Saturday morning is the fun run, parade, and Kiwanis pancake breakfast. The afternoon includes live music, family-friendly activities, bandstand contests, punt-pass-kick contest and car show, followed in the evening by youth/teen movie, live music and dancing. Visit <https://www.fourseasonsfestival.com/> for more details and see next month's North Polk Living for a story about the festival. ■

JOKE OF THE WEEK



*I don't want to brag, but
I finished a puzzle in
under a week and it said
2-4 years on the box.*



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NPHS SPORTS SCHEDULES

Friday, May 19

TBD **Soccer:** Girls Varsity
Regional vs. TBA @
TBA
2 p.m. **Track:** Varsity Co-Ed
State Meet @ Drake
Stadium

Saturday, May 20

9 a.m. **Tennis:** Girls Varsity
State Meet vs. TBA @
TBA
9 a.m. **Track:** Varsity Co-Ed
State Meet @ Drake
Stadium

Monday, May 22

TBD **Golf:** Boys Varsity
State Tournament @
Veenker Memorial Golf
Course
TBD **Tennis:** Girls Varsity
State Meet vs. TBA @
TBA
7 p.m. **Soccer:** Boys Varsity
Substate @ Lewis
Central HS
7:15 p.m. **Softball:** Varsity @
Winterset
7:30 p.m. **Baseball:** Varsity vs.
Winterset

Tuesday, May 23

TBD **Golf:** Boys Varsity
State Tournament @
Veenker Memorial Golf
Course
TBD **Tennis:** Boys Varsity
State Meet vs. TBA @
TBA
7 p.m. **Soccer:** Girls Varsity
Regional Semifinal vs.
Multiple Schools
7:30 p.m. **Softball:** Varsity @
Webster City

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

City Hall in Polk City is located at 112 Third St., 515-984-6233, support@polkcity.ia.gov. Staff is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to handle items including, but not limited to: water and sewer utility services, building permitting and pet licensing. Visit www.polkcityia.gov for more details.

How can I find out about city meetings, programs and events?

Visit www.polkcityia.gov/calendar/events or follow Polk City on social media:

- Facebook: [/cityofpolkcity](https://www.facebook.com/cityofpolkcity)
- Twitter: [@CityofPolkCity](https://twitter.com/CityofPolkCity)

You can also sign up for a variety of notifications at www.polkcityia.gov/subscribe for City alerts and news, agendas and minutes.

How do I contact the police department?

Call 911 if you are witnessing or having an emergency.

To report a crime or a suspicious activity, you can reach dispatch at 515-286-3333, or email police@polkcityia.gov. The Polk City Police Station and Fire Department are located at 309 W. Van Dorn.

Vacation Watch: If you are taking a vacation and would like the police to keep a watch on your residence, call City Hall with the following information: your name, address, date you are leaving and returning, and a person to contact in case of problems. Also, leave any additional information such as a light you might be leaving on or someone picking up your mail.

How do I contact the fire department?

Call 911 if you are witnessing or having an emergency.

To contact the Fire Department call 515-984-6304 or email: firedepartment@polkcityfd.com. The Fire Department is always looking for motivated individuals who would like to volunteer.

The department also employs firefighter/EMTs and paramedics. For more information, visit www.polkcityfd.com.

The Polk City Police Station and Fire Department are located at 309 W. Van Dorn.

Can I pay a city bill online?

Polk City accepts water bill payments online at www.polkcityia.gov/administration/pages/online-bill-payment. You can make a one-time payment or set up recurring payments, by choosing the ACH option. If you have any questions, contact City Hall.

When do I need a building permit?

Before you begin a project, familiarize yourself with Polk City's building and zoning regulations. Visit www.polkcityia.gov/administration/pages/building-permits to learn permit guidelines and inspection procedures. Building permit applications can be obtained at City Hall or downloaded from the website. All required documents may be submitted to the City Clerk at City Hall or electronically at support@polkcityia.gov. Building permits are required for all new construction projects and renovations including any alterations made to an existing structure or the addition of buildings, accessory structures, pools, and/or fences. Review all requirements before proceeding with any project.

Where do I get a pet license?

An application can be downloaded at www.polkcityia.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif5571/f/uploads/pet_license_202_.pdf. Annual licenses are required for all pets in Polk City. Every owner of a cat or dog 6 months old or older must get a license for it from the Clerk's office. Registration begins the first day of January each year. Cost is \$10 for each pet if received before March 31, after which the cost is \$25 per pet. To obtain a license, a pet owner must present a current rabies vaccination certificate. ■

FILM REVIEWS

By Michael C. Woody

'SUPER MARIO BROTHERS'

Huge month in the theaters for those less than 3 foot tall. "Super Mario Brothers" opened in early May and has dominated the box office every week since. As I write this, the movie has made \$434 million dollars. If only it had been good. The film wasn't made for me, so I'll give it a pass this time. Obviously, its target audience loved it.

Grade: C+



"SUPER MARIO BROTHERS"

'GUY RITCHIE'S THE COVENANT'

With "Operation Fortune" a couple of months ago, "Guy Ritchie" has turned in two of the most enjoyable movies of the year to date. This one follows an American soldier in Afghanistan who is injured and flown home to recuperate. When he finds that his former Afghan translator is in hiding and being hunted, he takes it upon himself to go back and save him. Jake Gyllenhaal brilliantly plays this soldier, and the movie is really emotional and entertaining. It is a really strong story about two men thrown together by fate. **Grade: A-**



"GUY RITCHIE'S THE COVENANT"

'PAINT'

Owen Wilson plays Carl Nargle, Vermont's No. 1 public television painter. Think Bob Ross, but you will see why his estate probably squashed that idea. The highlight of the film (and there are only a few) is seeing Wilson in the Ross afro. After that, the movie slides downhill fast. Wilson plays this character as a serial philanderer and not a very bright man. I think this could have been really good, but it's not even close. **Grade: C- ■**



"PAINT"

Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986 and can be heard talking movies every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. on KXn0 106.3 with Keith Murphy and Andy Fales. You can also follow him on Twitter at MrMovieDSM.





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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT THE POLK CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

• **Story Time:** Mondays and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Join us at the library for stories, songs and an activity or craft. Choose the day that works best for you. Every story can be logged in our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, too.

• **Geri-Fit® Strength Training Workouts** Mondays at 9 a.m. Strength training workouts that work for all ages and fitness levels. Geri-Fit is challenging, effective and safe to do. The Geri-Fit® program requires a set of light dumbbell weights, a sturdy chair and water to drink during the workout. Ages 50 and over. Stretch bands and a Zoom link are available upon request. No class Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.

• **Chair Yoga**, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. Join Rachel via Zoom. We will be broadcasting the class on the big screen in the library, or you can join us from home. Yoga is for everyone and every body. Yoga is not for flexible people but for people who want to become more flexible. This chair yoga practice will include breath work, mindfulness and simple, easy movements to release tension, reduce pain and restore your body to optimum movement. Props needed are an armless chair, like a kitchen chair and a small hand towel or kitchen dish towel. Join the Zoom meeting on our website at polkcitlibrary.org. No class April 25.

• **Ageless Grace Workouts**, Wednesdays, 9 a.m. Ageless Grace is a cutting-edge brain fitness program based on neuroplasticity that activates all five functions of the brain. This exercise program is performed in a chair and is based on everyday movements that are natural, and focus on the healthy longevity of the body and brain. The only material needed is a chair. If you would like to participate from home via Zoom, please call the library ahead of time. No class April 26.

• **Ladies' Wednesday Coffee**, Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Ladies, join us for coffee and conversation.

• **Sit N Stitch**, Thursdays 6-8 p.m. Bring your current project and join us for stitching and conversation.

• **Men's Friday Coffee**, 10 a.m. to noon. Gentlemen, drop in for coffee and conversation. Enjoy spending time and having a few laughs or interesting discussions with other men from around the area. ■

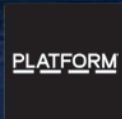
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SUMMER READING

The 2023 Summer Reading Program is here. This year's theme is Reading is Delicious. We have programs for kids, teens and adults.

KIDS AND TEENS: JUNE 5-JULY 27

Stop by the library to pick up our paper packets for details on how to participate. See what free events we have, and how to earn prizes. We'll have Movies on Mondays, Story Time on Tuesdays, Comets Kids Club on Wednesdays (K-5), and our Performers Series on Thursdays during our summer reading program. There will also be teen events. Programming runs June 5-July 31, but you can begin logging your reading June 1.

ADULTS: JUNE 1-JULY 31

Tickets towards grand prizes can be earned by reading and attending programs. We have a fun lineup of summer programs including Home Brewing with Fenders, Cookie Decorating with Rising Sun, How to create a Charcuterie Board, Death by Chocolate, a discussion with local author Jolene Philo and publisher Anne Fleck of Midwestern Books, and more. ■

NORTH POLK COMET CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

The NP Comet Cupboard Indoor Food Pantry is open on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 5-6:30 p.m. (no appointment necessary and no eligibility requirements). It is located in the Education Wing of Polk City United Methodist Church, 1421 W. Broadway St., Polk City.

The NP Comet Cupboard in Polk City is doing food rescue at the Polk City Fareway store three days a week.

The Tiny Food Pantry, an Eagle Scout project by Andrew George, sits at the entry drive to the church and is available 24/7. It is restocked regularly.

Those who wish to donate food or personal care items can place them directly inside the tiny pantry or bring them to the big red collection barrel inside the church. If you or someone you know are in need, take what you need.

Donations are welcome. Food items commonly needed are dry soup mixes, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned tuna/chicken, canned pasta, instant mashed potatoes, dried pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, mac-n-cheese, cereal, pancake mix and syrup, instant oatmeal, cornbread/muffin mix, brownie/cake mix, breakfast bars, granola bars, popcorn, hot tea, cocoa packs, coffee. Donations of personal items such as chapstick, hand cream, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, etc. are also appreciated. For \$25, you can help fill one bag of groceries for a family facing financial hardships. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 1996 Ford F-150 in De Soto. Asking \$5,600. Call 515-974-9203.

FOR SALE: Nice TV stand cabinet. Lots of space above and below the TV area. \$75. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

FOR SALE: Nice bunk beds. Solid built. \$175. call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS: Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

WANTED: Electronics, stereo receivers, guitar or amps, speakers, radios, etc. Any age or condition for parts or repair. Call 515-445-6023.

NANNY WANTED: I'm looking for a nanny for my 6 year old daughter. Mostly Mon through Fri and occasional Saturdays. Most days I work from 8-5:30. Preferably someone with a reliable vehicle. Pool pass would be provided. Text or call 515-205-4321.

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS: Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

WANTED: Electronics, stereo receivers, guitar or amps, speakers, radios, etc. Any age or condition for parts or repair. Call 515- 445-6023.

FOR SALE: 1981 Ford F100 Truck, Blue/white. Ran when I shut it off two years ago. For someone who wants to repair/restore. \$500 or make an offer to take it away. Call 515-238-3198.

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