

POLK CITY Living Weekly

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A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

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POLK CITY KIWANIS SENIORS OF THE MONTH

CORRECTION: Lola Austin is a Senior of the Month. Last week's issue featured her sister, Ava, who was a past Senior of the Month.

LOLA AUSTIN

"My name is Lola Austin. I live in Ankeny with my parents and three sisters Ava, Elinor and Gwen. Throughout my high school years, my favorite subjects have been science and art. In my four years of high school, I have earned many honors such as National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, DMACC President's List, Cheer Honor Squad, four-year Gold Honor Roll, and now Kiwanis Senior of the Month. I have participated in football cheer, basketball cheer, and track all four years. I am the cheer captain this year. As well as



Lola
Austin



Annie
Gubbins



Chance
Crippen



Claire
Jepsen

doing those school activities, I enjoy going to tumbling, youth group and mission trips. I have been a leader for my church's middle school youth group for three years. Through my church, I have also been helping out with Sunday school since I was in sixth grade. In my free time, I love to crochet. It is my favorite pastime if I'm not hanging out with my family or friends."

Lola's parents are Jill and Jeff Austin.

ANNIE GUBBINS

"Hi, my name is Annie Gubbins. I have a sister, Julia, and a brother, Connor. My favorite classes in high school have been anatomy and physiology and Spanish. I have

SENIORS, CONTINUED ON BACK

POLK CITY WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 71 | LOW 48

Plenty of sun



SATURDAY HIGH 54 | LOW 43

Partly sunny; breezy



SUNDAY HIGH 61 | LOW 43

Sun followed by clouds



MONDAY HIGH 62 | LOW 51

Stray a.m. shower; partly sunny



TUESDAY HIGH 65 | LOW 53

Plenty of sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

OH, DEER

I collided with a deer recently. Or maybe the deer collided with me. I am not sure who hit whom, but I do know one thing: I am the only one standing. And, regardless of how tough I may think I am, watching a deer die on the side of the road isn't something I care to see again.

I saw the first deer — and what I improperly thought was the only deer — and slowed down. Then four more popped out. Three ran by me, but one chose to stop and stare. You know the “deer in the headlights” saying? This one wanted a good look at my license plate.

The last time I hit a deer was more than 30 years ago. I was driving home from college on a rural road near a wooded area. As I rounded a turn, a big buck was suddenly racing alongside me. It was so close that I could have rolled down the window and pet it. I didn't. Instead, I slowed down, that buck took a sharp right in front of the vehicle, and I ran over it. Thump. Thump. When I looked in the rearview mirror, the deer stood

up, shook it off, and ran back into the woods. I doubt that it lived through the ordeal, but can you imagine being run over and getting back up?

Of course, deer get the worst part of these confrontations, but my truck bumper was a close second on Friday night. After the collision, I pulled over to the side of the road and walked along the highway, searching in the dark for my license plate and grumbling while I picked up dozens of pieces of broken plastic. When I was a young boy, bumpers were made to endure these types of “bumps” with minimal damage. Sure, those massive chrome projectiles may not have been pretty, but they didn't crumble on impact and result in a few thousand dollars in repairs. I used to mock those who put big grille guards on the front of their trucks. “Just slow down and pay attention,” I would say. Well, I just got my truck back from the



body shop two weeks ago, having a rear bumper and tailgate repaired due to a trailer smashing into the rear. Now I have to take it back in to have the front end fixed. Grille guards suddenly don't look so silly.

I am also rethinking those deer warning whistles that attach to vehicles. Every vehicle seemingly had those when I was a kid. Some say they work. Some say they are a farce. I say for \$4.97, they are worth a shot.

After hitting the deer, I counted more than 20 others on my drive home. At times, they can be so peaceful and serene. Other times, they are menacing rodents. Either way, they are not going away, and we are going to have to learn how to co-exist — preferably without the body shop involved.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman

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Living Weekly

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CHILDCARE FACILITY HOLDS GRAND OPENING IN ELKHART

Shooting Star Childcare in Elkhart held a grand opening on Saturday, Oct. 14. The childcare facility, located at 403 N. Grand Ave., Elkhart, has been up and running since May 8.

Construction for the facility came at a time of dire need for quality childcare in rural Iowa communities. According to owner Shane Torres, the city of Elkhart had fallen into a state of need after the closure of multiple childcare facilities in the area.

"There have been multiple childcare facilities in the area that are shutting down for reasons I either don't know or don't understand," Torres said. "What I do know is that there is a huge need for quality childcare in this area. There have probably been 300-400 new homes built in Elkhart in the last few years, with no childcare facilities whatsoever."

To optimize the success of this venture, the team had to create a facility that stood above the rest, and the building was constructed as such. Shooting Star opened with a state-of-the-art kitchen, an in-house chef, robust security systems, and impressive indoor and outdoor play areas.

Parents can also expect that their children will be learning largely through play-based philosophies. Director Patricia Moody noted there are very few facilities that operate in this fashion, a quality the team has prided themselves on.

"Everything we do is a learning opportunity. We create an environment that enriches children's lives through play. We encourage our kids to explore, discover and imagine new things in every activity. We meet them where they are so that they are confident, autonomous and accepting of others' differences," Moody said.

According to Torres, the children have met baby goats, participated in scientific experiments, and met local firefighters to learn about what they do.

In terms of expanding to other areas, the team has recognized a few obstacles. Torres and the team have noticed these struggles since operations began in May. Shooting Star has the capacity to hold 150 children, but they have not yet reached full capacity.

"We have not reached our full potential, yet," he said. "We are very willing to expand this model to other areas, but we want to prioritize the children currently in our care before moving forward with another facility."

For more information on Shooting Star Childcare, visit shootingstarchildcareia.com. ■



**Nick
Otis**
for City Council



- ✓ Be a voice for AND to the community. Provide timely communication about City plans and decision making. Be better at listening to what the citizens want for their community.
- ✓ Accelerate work on the Regional Park project. A park for ALL the people of Polk City, in addition to new sports facilities.
- ✓ Be a responsible, thoughtful voice on how the City spends your tax dollars to provide services.

www.facebook.com/nick.otis.for.polk.city

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**AREA LIVE PERFORMANCES****ACTORS, INC. - AMES COMMUNITY THEATER**

120 Abraham Drive, Ames

actorsinc.org**Nov. 9-11, 17-19, 25-26:** "Avenue Q"**ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE**

1932 S.W. Third St., Ankeny

ankenycommunitytheatre.com**Sept. 29 through Oct. 8:** "The Addams Family"**Dec. 1-10:** "A Gift for Rebecca"**CLASS ACT PRODUCTIONS**

201 First Ave. S., Altoona

captheatre.org**Nov. 3-5, 10-12, 17-19:** "The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition"**DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS**Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines
dmpa.org**Nov. 4:** "The Adventures of Tortoise and Hare: The Next Gen"**Nov. 10:** "Blippi: The Wonderful World Tour"**Nov. 14-22:** "Yippee Ki Yay"**Nov. 28 through Dec. 3:** "Girl from the North Country"**Dec. 12-17:** "The Wiz"**Dec. 21:** "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical"**Dec. 22-23:** "Cirque Dreams Holidaze"**DES MOINES COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE**

831 42nd St., Des Moines

dmplayhouse.com**Dec. 1-17:** "All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914"**Dec. 2-17:** Kate Goldman Children's Theatre: "A Charlie Brown Christmas"**DMACC ANKENY CAMPUS THEATRE**

2006 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny

dmacc.edu/theatre/ankeney/Pages/welcome.aspx**Oct. 20-23:** "Eleanor and Dolly"**Nov. 11-13, 18-20:** "Failure: A Love Story"**HOYT SHERMAN PLACE**

Historic Sherman Hill, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines

Oct. 24: Des Moines Storytellers Project: "Family"**IOWA STAGE THEATRE COMPANY**

Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

iowastage.org**Nov. 10-12, 15-19:** "Chipmunk'D"**Dec. 8-17:** "A Christmas Carol"**SIMPSON COLLEGE**

513 N. D St., Indianola

simpson.edu/academics/departments/departments-theatre-arts**Oct. 26-28:** "Good Kids"**Nov. 17-18:** "Into the Woods"**TALLGRASS THEATRE COMPANY**

2019 Grand Ave., Suite 100, West Des Moines

tallgrasstheatre.org**Nov. 10-19:** "Wicked Queen"**Dec. 15-17:** "Home For The Holidays, A Christmas Cabaret"**DANCE & PERFORMANCE ARTS****Oct. 27-29:** "Jekyll and Hyde" at the Temple Theatre, 1011 Locust St., Des Moines; desmoinesperformingarts.org**Oct. 28:** "Dracula" by Iowa Dance Theatre, at 2812 E. 29th St., Des Moines**Nov. 8:** "Contra Tiempo" at the Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines; desmoinesperformingarts.org**Nov. 11:** Hurley & Dancers at the Iowa State University Scholarship Concert. Betty Toman Dance Studio Theater, Forker 196, ISU Campus; tandemtheatreanddance.org/hurley-dancers**Nov. 18-19:** "The Nutcracker" by the School of Classical Ballet and Dance, 1509 42 St., West Des Moines; myscbd.com ■

RECIPE

IMPRESS FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH A QUICK APPETIZER

(Culinary.net) If you're looking for a new dip for your next get-together and tired of the same boring salsas and layered dips, this Cowboy Caviar may quickly become a family favorite.

Also known as Texas Caviar, this bean salad can be a hit with loved ones at birthdays, holidays, graduations, reunions and more. It serves well with tortilla chips but can be enjoyed in a variety of ways. Plus, it's a breeze to make and can be even simpler when prepared the night before your big event. ■

Cowboy Caviar

- 1 can (15 ounces) sweet corn
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans
- 1 bunch cilantro
- 3 Roma tomatoes
- 2 jalapenos
- 1/2 red onion
- bell peppers (mix of green, red, orange and yellow, as desired)
- tortilla chips, for serving

Dressing:

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 lime, juice only
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

Directions:

Drain and rinse corn and black beans; dry well. Finely chop and dice cilantro, tomatoes,



jalapenos, onion and bell peppers.

To make dressing: Combine olive oil, red wine vinegar, honey, paprika and lime juice. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Mix vegetables with dressing. Serve with tortilla chips.

**THIS SPOT IS
AVAILABLE.**

Contact Dan Juffer at
dan.juffer@dmcityview.com

JOKE OF THE WEEK



*I only know
25 letters of the
alphabet...*

I don't know Y!



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TRUNK OR TREAT

Go Polk City's Trunk or treat event is right around the corner, and they need your trunks. This is a free and fun event for you to participate in. All you need to do is show up, decorate your trunk, and have fun handing out candy to all the ghosts, goblins, super heroes and princesses that come to visit. This year's Trunk or Treat event will happen on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 3-5 p.m. at the West Elementary parking lot. You can register by calling 515-669-0072. If you had previously registered, please register again as that information has been lost. Register by Oct. 25. ■

KIWANIS ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Kiwanis of Polk City will have its yearly silent auction Nov. 23 through Dec. 3. Check out the many items that would make great Christmas gifts. They have Mary Kay items, pontoon rental, golf simulator certificates, restaurant gift certificates, haircut certificates, handmade quilts, workout memberships and much more. Bids can be made at www.proxibid.com/dvorak. ■

LIGHT UP POLK CITY

Light Up Polk City will be held Friday, Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m. at the Town Square. Businesses are encouraged to participate in this promotional event by either holding an open house or tailgate-style event. Contact Amanda at GO Polk City, 515-984-3098, if your business plans to participate. ■

CANDIDATE FORUMS

GO Polk City is hosting candidate forums for Polk City City Council and for North Polk School Board. The forum for City Council candidates is Oct. 24, 6-8 p.m. at the Luana Savings Bank community room. The school board forum is Oct. 25, 6-8 p.m. at the Luana Savings Bank community room. ■

BAKE SALE, WHITE ELEPHANT AND DINNER

The Polk City O.E.S. Chapter 361 is hosting a bake sale and dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Masonic Temple, 106 Third St., Polk City. The bake sale is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and features homemade mincemeat and apple butter; cashews, pecan halves, mixed nuts, honey-roasted peanuts, chocolate amaretto pecans, and chocolate-covered peanuts. There will also be a white elephant sale. Dinner is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes beef and noodles with mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll and dessert for \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10 and free for children younger than 5. Carryout will be available. ■

SPOOKY TALES AT THE MUSEUM ON THE SQUARE

The public is invited to Spooky Tales Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Polk City Museum on the Square. Stories are appropriate for teens and adults but not younger children. Admission is \$10 at the door for this fundraiser by Big Creek Historical Society. The mood will be set in this old building with cobwebs, pumpkins, organ music and more fun. ■

JEFF SAVAGE

FOR CITY COUNCIL **POLK CITY**



- ✓ Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Commercial Development
- ✓ Equity
- ✓ Quality of Life

Smart Growth, Equity, and a Vibrant Community

As a City Council member, I will champion balanced growth via commercial development underpinned by fiscal responsibility, while emphasizing equity and quality of life for every resident. With a foundation of integrity, transparency, and duty, my mission is to ensure that every voice is heard. Together we can shape a prosperous, inclusive, and vibrant Polk City for all.

VOTE **TUESDAY**
NOVEMBER 7, 2023
7AM - 8PM

PRECINCT ONE
Lakeside Fellowship
1121 W Bridge Road

PRECINCT TWO
United Methodist Church
1421 W Broadway Street

savageforpolkcity.com

Paid for by the Committee to elect Jeff Savage for City Council

SENIORS, FROM FRONT

been on the Gold Honor Roll as well as the DMACC President's List. I am also a member of the National Spanish Honor Society. I have been a part of North Polk's Dance Team all four years of high school. I have also managed track. My junior and senior years of high school, I have been participating in the athletic trainer student aide program volunteering with our school's athletic trainer. When I'm not busy with schoolwork or activities, I enjoy working at The Creamery and Hy-Vee. After high school graduation, I plan to attend Iowa State University to major in kinesiology on a pre-health track. Go Comets!"

Annie's parents are Dan and Charlana Gubbins.

CHANCE CRIPPEN

"I am Chance Crippen, the son of Jim and Kelly Crippen and the brother of Grace Crippen. I have gone to North Polk school district my entire life. Throughout school, my favorite subject has been math. I will put my math skills to use in college by pursuing a degree in actuarial science at UNI. In high school, I played defensive line on the football team and have thrown discus on the track team. I have done a lot of volunteering,

most of my hours coming from St. Luke's church and football-related activities. I mentored younger students in various football camps for the school. I have enjoyed my time and made lifelong memories while being a student in the North Polk district. I am honored to be chosen for Kiwanis Senior of the Month."

Chance's honors include National Honor Society, Gold Honor Roll, and all-district academic team in football and track.

CLAIRE JEPSEN

"Hi, my name is Claire Jepsen. I live in Polk City with my parents and younger sister, Carly. My older sister, Natalie, is currently a student at Iowa State University. My favorite subjects at school are Spanish and science classes. My first three years of high school, I played volleyball and was a member of the track team. Currently, I am a member of the National Spanish Honor Society and the president of National Honor Society. I am on the Gold Honor Roll and the DMACC Dean's List. Outside of school, I enjoy working at The Creamery and Plato's Closet. I also spend time fostering kittens through the ARL. After graduation, I plan on attending a four-year college with a major yet to be determined. Claire's parents are Shannon and Gary Jepsen.

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

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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