

POLK CITY Living Weekly

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A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

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HALLOWEEN TRADITION BIGGER AND BETTER — AND A FUNDRAISER

By RICH WICKS

Jason and Meri Merritt of Polk City have an October tradition in which they put on a Halloween-themed party for their friends and neighbors. They call their tradition “Merrittween.” The first year’s party was in Des Moines, but the couple then moved to Polk City and has a larger yard, so they made use of more room for decorations. Each year, the event has grown. More decorations, more guests, more costumes, more food and adult beverage options, and more fun. This year, the Merritts have chosen to add “more giving.”

“We both really love Halloween. We have always done a Halloween party and go crazy decorating the front yard with a full cemetery, animatronics, and stuff like that,” says Meri. “This is our fourth year doing it, and, every year, people ask us how they can help.”



The Merritt yard is transformed into a spooky scene every October.

In the past, they politely thanked guests for the offer to help but declined any assistance. But then Jason had an idea following last year’s event. He suggested that, if guests truly wish to pitch in, the couple could pick a charitable cause for anyone to donate toward. After some consideration, Meri and Jason decided upon the American Cancer Society.

Merrittween 2023 begins at 7 p.m.

on Saturday, Oct. 28, at their home, 1200 Westside Drive in Polk City. Meri says this year’s decorations include an alien theme. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes, but they don’t have to follow the alien theme.

For the full story, see the October issue of North Polk Living magazine, available online at www.iowalivingmagazines.com. ■

POLK CITY WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 52 | LOW 31

Showers early, then mostly cloudy

**SATURDAY HIGH 42 | LOW 31**

Mostly cloudy with a passing shower

**SUNDAY HIGH 41 | LOW 23**

Mostly cloudy and chilly

**MONDAY HIGH 41 | LOW 25**

Plenty of sunshine; chilly

**TUESDAY HIGH 42 | LOW 26**

Plenty of sunshine



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

WHAT'S THAT THING FOR?

A younger person was in our office the other day and pointed at a telephone jack, asking me, "What's that thing for?" I explained to her how telephones need to plug into those jacks to operate.

She replied, "Why? My phone doesn't need one of those."

"Exactly," I said while changing the subject quickly.

Her comments made me start noticing all of the unused telephone jacks that are in homes and businesses. Yes, we have an office phone system that requires hard wires, and, yes, it works just fine. At least I think so. To be honest, we don't get many in-bound phone calls on it anymore, and most of our staff use their cell phones to make out-bound calls.

I was also talking with a few employees the other day about faxing. The response was, "We have a fax machine?"

"Well, kind of," I replied. "It is part of the copier."

I was then asked, "What's our fax number?" I had to think about it, but I did recall it, eventually. I am just not sure when it was last used.

Like many of you, Jolene and I no longer have a home phone number. As such, we no longer have standard phones. I was looking for one the other day to test some lines at our office and realized I didn't have one. I asked the staff if any of them had one at home that I could borrow. None did.

Back to those phone jacks. We covered an abandoned one in our home with a photo, and I bought a blank wall plate to put over another one. Someday, when the walls are torn down, a young construction worker will wonder what all those



wires were for.

If I would have told you 25 years ago that you would not have a standard telephone and that most offices would not have fax machines, you would have never believed me. How could devices that were so instrumental in our daily activities no longer be needed? Then I thought of my cassette player, my beeper, our VCR, overhead projectors, typewriters and film cameras. The list could go on and on, and so can our memories of how important they once were.

Exactly.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman

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POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION EVENTS

HORSE WHISPERS IN THE WOODS

Jester Park Equestrian Center,
11171 N.W. 103rd Court, Granger
Thursday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m.

A women's circle of self-discovery through the intuitive and healing power of horses. This on-the-ground workshop provides a real-time experience in relationship skills and increased emotional intelligence through a partnership with the horse. Registration required at least 24 hours prior to the event. This event is for ages 21 and older. Cost is \$35. For more information and registration, visit www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/events. ■

COME SEE BISON & ELK HERDS

The bison and elk herds that live in this wildlife animal enclosure have been popular attractions at Jester Park for almost four decades. In 2012, renovations were made to the area and the Elk and Bison Educational Plaza was opened to the public. Improvements include an accessible observation deck, educational displays, spotting scopes, high quality art components and an inviting viewing and picnic area. An electric fence surrounds the animal exhibit. Please use caution and stay away from exhibit fencing. ■



**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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Brought to you by the publisher of CITYVIEW and the Iowa Living magazines.

EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**OCT. 28-29: Des Moines Comic and Toy Show.**

This Halloween-themed event starts at 10 a.m. at Merle Hay Mall, 3800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines.

OCT. 28: Trick or Trees. Family-friendly fall festival at the Botanical Garden. Costumes encouraged. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines; dmbotanicalgarden.com.

NOV. 1: Des Moines Dash Scavenger Hunt. A nontraditional scavenger hunt that will take you around the city. 505 E. Grand Ave., No. 104, Des Moines; crazydash.com/Locations/Des-Moines-IA.

NOV. 1: Paint and Sip. Make your attempt at painting a "Harvest Moon," accompanied by beverages. Starting at 6 p.m. at Reclaimed Rails, 101 Main St., S.E., Bondurant; reclaimedrailsbrewing.com.

NOV. 1: Live Music Wednesdays. Presented by Republic on Grand. Take in live musical performances every Wednesday through December for free. From 6-8 p.m. in the Historic East Village, AC Hotel, 401 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; therepublicongrand.com.

NOV. 2: Trivia Night at Paws & Pints. Bring your furry friends and your trivia knowledge, starting at 6 p.m. at 6218 Willowmere Drive, Des Moines; pawsandpintsdsm.com.

NOV. 4: Live Jazz at The Continental in the Historic East Village. From 8-11 a.m. at 407 E. Fifth St., Des Moines; ongrand0.wixsite.com/the-continental.

NOV. 4: Nurse Blake is back on the road for his stand-up comedy tour. From 8-10:30 p.m. at Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; hoytsherman.org.

NOV. 4-5: Pumpkin Destruction. Normally pumpkins are put on a pedestal during the fall months, but not at Center Grove Orchard. From 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 32835 610th Ave., Cambridge; centergroveorchard.com.

NOV. 11: Living History Farms race. Run for 5 miles and see 300 years of history. Beginning at 9 a.m. at 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; lhf.org.

NOV. 12: Jazz at Caspe Terrace by Sparks. From 2-4:30 p.m. at 33158 Ute Ave., Waukee; jewishdesmoines.org/our-community/caspe-terrace.

NOV. 15: Roomful of Teeth. The Grammy-winning octet performs 7:30- 9:30 p.m. at the Sheslow Auditorium, 2507 University Ave., Des Moines; calendar.drake.edu/sheslow_auditorium.

NOV. 18: Fall into Wine and Art. Fall-themed arts and crafts show. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Summerset Winery, 15101 Fairfax St., Indianola; summersetwine.com.

NOV. 19: Fall Makers Market. Local vendors, crafters, artisans and more will be available for your shopping needs right before the holidays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jester Park Nature Center, 12130 N.W. 128th St., Granger; www.jesterparknaturecenter.com/calendar-events/fall-makers-market.

NOV. 22: A Night Under the Lights. Waukee's second annual light parade, with activities, local food vendors and entertainment. From 6-9 p.m. at Centennial Park, Waukee; <https://fb.me/e/3nnUYFKhy>. ■

RECIPE

WARM COLD-WEATHER MEALS

(Culinary.net) When the winds howl and the chill of changing seasons brings a crispness to the air, one way to warm up from the inside out is with favorite foods. Filling up on comforting recipes like hearty soups and stews can be the solution you need to fight off cold temperatures.

Consider quick and easy ingredients that add a little warmth to your plate as the cravings for comfort kick in.

If you're craving a meal that's big on flavor but short on prep time, it's hard to top the classic comfort food combo of chicken and rice. This Parmesan chicken and rice with spinach and artichoke starts with the homestyle taste of fully cooked Minute Chicken & Herb Seasoned Rice Cups with carrots, onion and garlic. The BPA-free cups offer a quick and flavorful option for an on-the-go power-up loaded with chicken, vegetables and herbs paired with hearty rice. Ready in only 1 minute, you can enjoy the flavored rice right out of the cup or prepare it as part of this 5-minute recipe on a busy weeknight. ■

PARMESAN CHICKEN AND RICE WITH SPINACH AND ARTICHOKE

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 5 minutes

Servings: 1

- 1 Minute Chicken & Herb Seasoned Rice Cup
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup spinach, stems removed
- 2 ounces chicken, cooked and shredded
- 1/4 cup canned artichokes, drained and quartered
- 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

Directions:

- Heat rice according to package directions.
- In medium saute pan over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add spinach and sauté 1 minute.
- Add chicken and artichokes; sauté 2 minutes,



or until heated through.

- Add cheese and rice; stir to combine until heated through.

THIS SPOT IS AVAILABLE.

Contact Dan Juffer at
dan.juffer@dmcityview.com

JOKE OF THE WEEK



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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. ■

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. ■

WE WILL RUN YOUR POLK CITY NEWS ITEMS FOR FREE.

Email your news by Wednesday at 5 p.m. to: tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com or call 515-953-4822, ext. 302

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

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Wednesday Book Club, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m., “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt. Join us to discuss this mystery novel from a unique perspective. Ever the detective, Marcellus the octopus deduces what happened the night aquarium cleaner Tova’s son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it’s too late.

Adult D.I.Y., Thursday, Nov. 2, 6 p.m. Join us for a relaxing evening of crafts. We’ll be making wreaths from the pages of old books. Ages 17 and older. Register online by clicking on the calendar event on our website one month in advance of the program.

Coloring Night at Fenders Brewing, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 4-9 p.m. Come for a night of relaxation and fun with friends at Fenders Brewing.

Pre-Teen/Teen D.I.Y. Pencil and/or Make-up Bag, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 4 p.m. Teens who enjoy drawing and painting will like this program. We will be using acrylic paint pens to decorate our creations. The bags are the perfect size to hold pencils or make-up, but you can decide what you want them to hold. Registration is required and will begin two weeks ahead of the program date. Register by clicking on the calendar event on our website.

Babble and Brew, Thursday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m. Playtime for them, coffee and conversation for you. Longing for grown-up conversation? We will have coffee for you and exciting, age-appropriate toys for the kiddos.

Author Ann Hanigan Kotz, Thursday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m. Hanigan Kotz incorporates her own family history and Iowa roots into her writing. Her book, “The Journey of Karoline Olsen,” is praised for its “authenticity and reliability.” Recommended for women “who look for history-based novels that come alive with the quickening of both relationships and survival tactics.”

November Comets Kids Club for K-fifth graders, Monday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m. Officer Aicher and Eudoris, his police dog, will be at our Comets Club meeting to discuss what it is like working with a police dog. Register online by clicking on the calendar event on our website. Registration opens two weeks prior to the event.

Music and Movement (toddlers and preschoolers), Thursday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. Come shimmy and shake with your child. Dance and sing while building pre-reading skills with rhythm and rhyme.

Monday Book Club, Monday, Nov. 20, 2 p.m., “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus. Join us to discuss this uplifting story of a female scientist whose career is constantly derailed by the idea that a woman’s place is in the home. Copies of the book are available at the library. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR SALE: 2006 Chevrolet Silverado truck 4x4, V8, crew cab, 148,000 miles, great condition. Call 641-757-0731.

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS: Paying cash for 60’s-90’s rock, blues, country and jazz. Call Brian at 515-326-5033.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: recliner couch good condition. Just for hauling. I just bought new one. Call 515-993-3814.

FOR SALE: Softball/Baseball Pitching/Hitting net. \$20. Call/Text 515-238-3198.

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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