

POLK CITY *Living Weekly*

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A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

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SEEN IN POLK CITY



SHOP HOLDS GRAND OPENING: Ryan and Mary Lewellin, owners of Red Dragon Herbs & Tea, held a storefront grand opening in Polk City on Sunday, Oct. 29. ■

POLK CITY WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 59 | LOW 36

Rather cloudy



SATURDAY HIGH 57 | LOW 38

Mostly cloudy



SUNDAY HIGH 62 | LOW 47

Partly sunny and beautiful



MONDAY HIGH 55 | LOW 37

Times of clouds and sun; windy



TUESDAY HIGH 47 | LOW 36

Mostly cloudy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

IS SELF-CHECKOUT A FAILED EXPERIMENT?

What do you think of self-checkout kiosks at retail stores? More than likely, you either love them or hate them. Few are in between.

The Atlantic published an article recently called “Self-Checkout Is a Failed Experiment” and detailed the problems with this technology and why some retailers are ready to scrap it.

The self-checkout concept made great sense to me at first, as I am one who becomes annoyed while waiting in lines. If I can scan my own items, pay for them and get out the door a few minutes faster, then I am all for it. But, as most of us know, that’s not how these scenarios typically play out. More often than not, a store employee comes over to the self-checkout kiosk to address something that went wrong. The kiosks seem to malfunction more than the ice cream machines at McDonald’s, which makes me wonder, how is this helping anyone? Well, there are a few ways, apparently.

According to one survey, 66% of consumers say they prefer self-service over interacting with a store employee.

Why? Because, like me, they think it is faster. Of course, if 66% of customers like self-checkout, that means 34% do not. That’s one-third of customers who are clearly annoyed by the technology.

Retailers apparently like these self-service options because of space and personnel reasons. Some claim as many as six self-checkout kiosks can fit in the space that is needed for one traditional cashier system. Retailers also thought they could operate with fewer employees, as one employee can oversee several self-checkout kiosks.

Meanwhile, the up-front costs to install self-service systems are significantly higher than standard cashier lanes. That may work for the mega-retailers that can justify



the investment, but it can be cost prohibitive for smaller stores.

The elephant in the room, though, is theft. A recent study examined 12 million shopping trips over two years. Of them, 1 million trips were audited, accounting for 6 million items, according to The New York Times. The study found that 850,000 of those items were never scanned, and this accounted for 4% of the total merchandise value. For stores that operate on low single-digit profit margins, that’s concerning. And if you can’t turn a profit, you won’t be in business for long — with or without self-checkout kiosks.

How about you? What do you think about self-checkouts? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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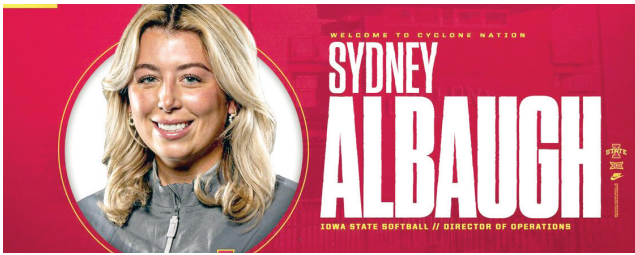
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ALBAUGH NAMED TO CYCLONES SOFTBALL POST

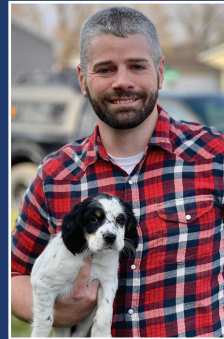
Iowa State Softball Head Coach Jamie Pinkerton has named Sydney Albaugh, an Elkhart native, as director of softball operations for the Cyclones. Albaugh comes to Ames after playing five collegiate seasons between Kirkwood and Omaha, having just recorded 12 starts with the Mavericks last season.

Albaugh initially joined the Cyclone softball program as a graduate assistant before being promoted. "I am very excited to join Coach Pinkerton and his staff and to be a part of the culture they have created here in Ames," said Albaugh. "Coming back home and being able to work at such a prestigious university and program is truly a dream come true for me."

After attending North Polk High School, Albaugh began her collegiate career at Kirkwood. There, over three seasons, she recorded 138 hits in 133 games played, recording 28 homers and 23 doubles. She slashed .400/.443/.728 with the Eagles and tallied 125 RBI while scoring 96 runs. At Omaha, the infielder played in 42 games, making 20 starts over the last two seasons. Sydney was surehanded in the field, recording 112 putouts and a .983 fielding percentage.

"We're happy to welcome Sydney to the staff as our director of operations," said Pinkerton "She's been a part of our program for the last semester, so when the position came open, it was an easy transition for her and for us. Sydney is a lifelong Cyclone fan and has played at the JUCO and the DI level and knows the inner workings of a softball program. She's a welcome addition to our staff."

Albaugh earned her bachelor's degree (2023) from Omaha in communication studies and is currently getting a mass communication and media studies master's degree from Iowa State. ■



**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

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Nurse Blake

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.



Living History Farms race



Roomful of Teeth

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.

NOV. 23: Des Moines Turkey Trot. Voted "Top Trot" in Iowa five years in a row by Runner's World Magazine, the 5K and 5-mile race takes over Des Moines on Thanksgiving. Starting at 9 a.m. on Court Ave.; desmoinesruturkeytrot.com. ■

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.

A family favorite in recipes year-round, ooey-goey cheese is a hallmark of cool-weather recipes. Consider creamy mac and cheese mixed with your preferred protein, homemade Mexican cuisine topped with melted chile con queso or an appetizer plate with options like brie, Manchego, aged cheddar, Parmesan and more.

Available in many varieties, curry paste is a common ingredient in South Asian dishes. It typically consists of ingredients like garlic, chiles or peppers, ginger and lemongrass. When you'd like to add some spice to your menu without bothering with takeout, this Thai Chicken and Rice Soup calls for green curry paste, which is generally spicier than red or yellow versions, but any can be substituted based on your heat tolerance. You can take the dish up a level with lightly seasoned Minute Cilantro & Lime Jasmine Rice for zesty flavor in a BPA-free, microwaveable cup for a simple solution when life gets hectic and preparing a time-consuming meal becomes challenging. ■

THAI CHICKEN AND RICE SOUP

Prep time: 2 minutes

Cook time: 5 minutes

Servings: 1

- 1 Minute Ready to Serve Cilantro & Lime Jasmine Rice Cup
- 1/2 cup (3 ounces) cooked rotisserie chicken, chopped
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon Thai green curry paste
- 3 small shiitake mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced

Directions:

Heat rice according to package directions.

In medium, microwave-safe bowl, combine chicken, broth, coconut milk, curry paste and mushrooms.

Microwave on high 3 minutes. Stir in rice and garnish with green onion.



POLK CITY LIBRARY

1500 W. Broadway St. • 515-984-6119 • polkcitylibrary.org

Announcements:

Happy Thanksgiving! The library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22. The library will be closed Nov. 23-26.

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.

Crafternoon, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2 p.m.

Join us for a fun afternoon of crafting. We'll be making garlands themed after delicious holiday pie. All supplies will be provided. Ages 17 and older. Register online at polkcitylibrary.org

Lure of the West (via Zoom), Wednesday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m.

Part geography and part mythology, the American West retains a powerful allure in popular culture. Explore depictions of the people, lifestyles and landscapes of the 19th century West to better understand this dynamic period of history. Watch from home or from the big screen in the library. Presented by Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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.

Book Club (K-second grade), Tuesday, Nov. 21, 4 p.m., "How To Find a Fox" by Nilah Magruder

Pick up your copy of the book while supplies last. Read, then join us for some fun discussion, games and/or a craft.

Adult Coloring, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 5-7 p.m.

Join us for a relaxing evening of coloring. Colored pencils and gel pens will be provided. You are also welcome to bring your own. Ages 17 and older.

Adult DIY Card Crafting, Monday, Nov. 27, 6 p.m.

Join Jane and Kim in making handmade cards that are fun to create and treasured by the recipients. Make two cards each of four different designs using numerous techniques. There will be a \$5 material fee payable that night. Beginners are welcome. Feel free to bring scissors and adhesive if you have them, and prepare to have a good time. Ages 17 and older. Register by clicking on the calendar event on our website one month in advance of the program.

Book Club (third through fifth grade), Tuesday, Nov. 28, 4 p.m. "When You Trap a Tiger" by Tae Keller

Pick up your copy of the book starting Tuesday, Oct. 24, or while supplies last. Read, then join us for some fun discussion, games and/or crafts.

Story Time Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Join Ms. Allyson at the library for stories, songs and an activity or craft. Choose the day that works best for you. Register online at our website for one of the programs each week. Every story can be logged in our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program too! ■

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

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. ■

KIWANIS ANNUAL 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. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: General electric glass top double oven range. It is electric, has air-fry, conv bake, warming burner, self & steam clean. used for 7 1/2 months \$850.00. Call 515-745-5002.

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.

SEND IN YOUR FREE CLASSIFIED AD BY WEDNESDAY AT 10 A.M. TO BECKHAM@DMCITYVIEW.COM

LIST 50 WORDS OR LESS FOR FREE.

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. ■



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