

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

The Kiwanis Club of Polk City has announced its Seniors of the Month for December are Samantha Nicole Weers, Alyson Marie Burdine and Rebecca Josephine Greene.

SAMANTHA NICOLE WEERS

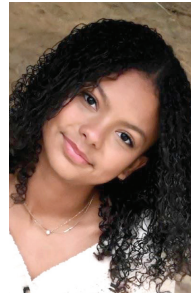
"My name is Samantha Weers. My parents are Ben and Brenda, and I have two sisters, Sydney and Stella. I have attended North Polk schools all 12 years. My favorite classes in school are in the science department. I have had the amazing opportunity to participate in several activities at the school. I run track and cross country, which has taught me perseverance and determination. I am an extremely active member of the band, being involved in marching band, concert band, pep band, jazz band, pit band, show band, band buddies and band leadership team as the head section leader of my section, the trumpets. Band has allowed me to push myself to be the best musician possible and make close connections with others. Band has also given me the opportunity to participate in honor bands such as Drake Honor Band and the Raccoon River Conference Honor Band for two years. I am involved in the play and



Samantha Nicole
Weers



Alyson Marie
Burdine



Rebecca
Josephine Greene

speech. I am a member of the National Honor Society and National Spanish Society. I have also received the Gold Honor Roll the last four years as well as been on the DMACC President's list. I volunteer at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church nearly every week. Working on the Big Red Food Truck as well as Brick and Ember Pizza has taught me lessons on responsibility. I am very excited to study biology or life sciences at Iowa State next year."

SENIORS, CONTINUED ON BACK

POLK CITY WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 54 | LOW 39

Cloudy with areas of drizzle



SATURDAY HIGH 55 | LOW 47

Cloudy and mild



SUNDAY HIGH 57 | LOW 45

Cloudy with a little rain; breezy



MONDAY HIGH 49 | LOW 32

Cloudy and mild; a little rain



TUESDAY HIGH 39 | LOW 28

Low clouds; showers later



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

IOWA'S MOST POPULAR CHRISTMAS MOVIE IS...

If you are a regular reader of this column, you know I am a fan of the Christmas season. In fact, I have some holiday music favorites playing in the background right now. But it's not just Christmas music that gets my sleigh bells a jingling. There's nothing like settling in for the night on the couch with a warm blanket and your sweetie while watching a Christmas movie. My favorites are the Bass Rankin stop motion Christmas specials I circled in the TV guide and watched so many times as a child. You may remember them. "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer." "The Little Drummer Boy." "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." And my all-time favorite, "The Year Without a Santa Claus."

Now, they may not be official Christmas "movies," but I don't care. I know what I like. Meanwhile, I received a press release from a company called Comparitech that published a study showing the most popular Christmas movies by state. And in our great state of Iowa, they determined that "The Santa Clause" from 1994 starring Tim Allen is the most popular.

How did they arrive at this conclusion? Well, here is how they describe their methodology. "Using Google Trends to search for the term 'Christmas movie' in each state, we looked to see which movie was a rising topic in the related topics section. Rising topics are the top related search terms users looking at Christmas movies also searched for over the past year and saw the biggest influx in searches during that period."

It may not be perfect, but it is certainly one way to determine the answer, and, if nothing else, it's entertaining. Of course, you are curious how our top pick compares with our friendly neighbors.

Nebraska? The top choice is "Christmas with the Kranks," which also starred Tim Allen along with Jamie Lee Curtis in this 2004 film that I have seen. It was good, not great.

Illinois? "A Christmas Carol," the 1951 film adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel, is their pick. I can't argue with that.



Minnesota? "Merry Kiss Cam," whatever that is. I had to look it up. From way back in 2022, this movie was filmed entirely in Duluth, Minnesota. As you know, Minnesotans don't venture out much.

Missouri? "A Christmas Vintage." Vintage? It's from 2023. Seriously. And, you guessed it, the film was made in Missouri.

South Dakota? The selection is "Spirited." I haven't seen this movie either, but it looks like something I might like. This 2022 musical comedy is a modern retelling of "A Christmas Carol" and a satire of the adaptations since. It stars Will Ferrell, so I am willing to give it a shot.

Any of these holiday movies connect with you? Or did something else come to mind? Send me a note and let me know. And do yourself a favor and watch "The Year Without a Santa Claus."

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

**Shane Goodman**

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Living Weekly

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CITYVIEW'S WINTER EVENT IS BACK!

FIRE & ICE

AN INTERACTIVE WINTER PUB CRAWL IN VALLEY JUNCTION

SATURDAY, JAN. 20 • 1-4 P.M.

**BREAK THE WINTER BLUES, GET OUT
AND HAVE FUN ON A SATURDAY
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POLK CITY LIBRARY

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LIBRARY HOLIDAY HOURS

- Monday, Jan. 1, closed
- Monday, Jan. 15, closed for staff training

LIBRARY WINTER WEATHER POLICY

- If school is delayed due to inclement weather, all morning programs will be canceled.
- If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, all afternoon/evening programs will be canceled.
- If school is canceled due to inclement weather, a decision about opening the library will be made by 9 a.m. All programs will be canceled.

ACTIVITIES

The Winter Reading Challenge for all ages:
30 x 30 x 30. Jan. 1-31. New this year. Read at least 30 minutes a day for 30 days. Turn in your log for a chance to win a \$30 gift card to Papa's Pizza. Prizes for kids and adults.

Wednesday Adult Book Club. "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick. Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m. It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live. Pick up a free copy of the book at the library ahead of the meeting.

Babble & Brew. Thursday, Jan. 4, 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.

Comets Kids Club for K-fifth graders.
Monday, Jan. 8, 4 p.m. Remember playing with Shrinky Dinks as a kid? We will be going "retro" at Comets Kids Club and making some Shrinky

Dink creations of our own. Register online at our website beginning two weeks prior.

Friends of the Library Meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m. The Friends of the Polk City Community Library has four scheduled meetings per year. All meetings are open to members and the public. Anyone interested in supporting the library is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Coloring Night at Fenders Brewing.
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 4-9 p.m. Come for a night of relaxation and fun with friends at Fenders Brewing.

Adult Evening DIY: Faux Stained Glass.
Thursday, Jan. 11, 6 p.m. Stained glass is beautiful, but it's not the hobby for everyone. If you love the look, stop by the library to make faux-stained glass with simple acrylic paint and craft glue. Ages 17 and older, registration required.

K-5th STEM Book Club. Tuesday, Jan. 16, 4 p.m. Join us for a new and exciting book club experience for K-5th graders. Each month, we will have a picture book that we will connect to a science experiment that we will do together at the Book Club meeting. (Not every month will there be books to pick up. Sometimes the book will just be read at the beginning of the book club meeting). January's Book Club book, "Libby Loves Science" by Joelle Murray, can be picked up at the library anytime before the meeting. Registration is online at our website.

Adult Coloring. Tuesday, Jan. 16, 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.

Music and Movement (toddlers and preschoolers). Thursday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m. Come shimmy and shake with your child. Dance and sing while building pre-reading skills with rhythm and rhyme.

Messy Munchkins (toddlers and preschoolers).

Thursday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m. Does your toddler or preschooler always make a mess? It is actually a great way for them to learn. Visit us and let your child explore sensory tables we will put out. Have your child wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Monday Adult Book Club. "Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less" by Jeffrey Archer.

Monday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m. From the luxurious casinos of Monte Carlo to the high-stakes windows at Ascot to the bustling streets of Wall Street to fashionable London galleries, four strangers' ingenious game has begun. It's called revenge — and they were taught by a master.

Adult Crafternoon: Sock Gnomes. Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2 p.m. Join us for a relaxing afternoon of crafting, where we'll make simple and adorable sock gnomes to keep you company in your winter decor. Ages 17 and older, registration required.

Swing Dance Lesson with the Cardinal Swing Society. Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. Even if you have two left feet, come have a fun night of learning to swing dance. We'll have instructors from the Cardinal Swing Society at Iowa State in for a brief lesson on the basics, then feel free to dance until the library closes. Ages 17 and older, registration required.

Adult DIY Card Crafting. Monday, Jan. 29, 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.

Story Time Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Join us 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.

Chair Yoga, Mondays, 9 a.m. Join Rachel Snyder via Zoom. We will be broadcasting the class on the big screen in the library or you can join us from home. Chair yoga is a gentle practice in which postures are performed while seated and/or with the support of a chair. No experience is necessary. *Gentle strength training may also be incorporated into the practice. Props such as hand weights, resistance bands and a yoga block may be helpful if desired, but not necessary. The Zoom link can be found on our online catalog at polkcitylibrary.org.

Geri-Fit® Strength Training Workouts,

Tuesdays 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 older. Stretch bands are available upon request. If you would like to participate from home via Zoom, please let the library know ahead of time so we can email you the link.

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. Fridays, 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. ■

EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

Iowa Wild

IOWA WILD GAMES

Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines

Iowawild.com

The Iowa Wild are the affiliate program of the Minnesota Wild. Home games through December are:

Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. vs. Manitoba (Winnipeg Jets)**Dec. 23** at 6 p.m. vs. Manitoba**Dec. 28** at 6 p.m. vs. Colorado (Colorado Avalanche)**Dec. 30** at 6 p.m. vs. Colorado**MIRACLE ON 86TH STREET**

Through Jan. 8

**Charles Gabus Memorial Tree Park,
3600 86th St., Urbandale**

Bundle up this winter and stroll through the Charles Gabus Memorial Tree Park. The park features a large custom-built train, larger-than-life ornamental displays, an ice-skating rink, and holiday-themed events all season long. The park is lit with more than 50,000 holiday lights.

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

Sunday nights starting Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m.

**Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church,
4601 Douglas Ave., Des Moines**

Ankeny Square Dance Club is sponsoring Square Dance Lessons. Cost is \$20 per person for the entire session, accepted at the third lesson. Attend with or without a dance partner. You'll learn

the calls, one call at a time, taught by a caller (instructor) and volunteers. For more information, call Sandy Townsend, 515-291-2624, or visit www.ankenysquares.com.

**LIVING WELL CLASSES:
OVERCOMING ANXIETY OR
DEPRESSION**

Orientation: Thursday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m.

**Ankeny First United Methodist Church Christian
Life Center,**
710 N.E. 36th St., Ankeny

Two separate Living Well Classes: Overcoming Anxiety or Depression will be held for eight weeks, Thursdays, Jan. 25 through March 14 from 7-8:30 p.m. Classes are confidential and supportive. For information, call Jim White at 515-313-3701 or email jcjlwhite@live.com.

MUSEUM OPEN**Urbandale Historical Society, 4010 70th St.**

The Olmsted-Urban House will be open for viewing the first Sunday of each month 2-4 p.m. Members of the society will be there for guiding tours and showing the collection of things that might have been in Grandma's house. The Rolling Green school quilt made by the students and the painting given in memory of Pamela Powers are now at the Olmsted Urban House. These items can be viewed during the museum's monthly open house.

WAUKEE FAMILY FEST

Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 a.m. to noon

Lutheran Church of Hope - Waukee

This free, family-friendly event will help kids burn off some cabin fever energy. Check out Waukee area businesses, enjoy games and prizes and jump on inflatables. To become a vendor, visit waukee.org/familyfest. ■

RECIPE

A POP OF PEPPERMINT

(Family Features) While there are countless ingredients that harken to the taste of holidays past, there's one sweet favorite that truly symbolizes the season: peppermint. Whether enjoyed in the familiar shape of a candy cane — the original kid-favorite — or added to recipes from beverages to desserts and everything in between, it's a delicious way to connect generations.

For example, White Chocolate Peppermint Popcorn Bark offers a tasty way for everyone to get in on the fun. The taste of peppermint and white chocolate make this a perfect holiday treat for sharing with a crowd. Plus, the easy prep means less time in the kitchen and more time savoring the classic flavors.

Better yet, it makes for a delicious gift to send off with guests as another festive celebration comes to a close. Simply package in a small, clear bag tied off with a colorful bow so loved ones can enjoy the tastes of the season in the days to follow.

These favorites are made possible by the versatility of popcorn, one of America's most beloved snack foods. Celebrated for its seed-to-snack simplicity, popcorn's smell, taste and versatility mean it can enhance any occasion as a budget-friendly solution for family gatherings. ■

WHITE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT POPCORN BARK

Yield: 1 pound

- 5 cups popped popcorn
- 12 ounces white chocolate baking chips, chopped white chocolate or white candy coating
- 1 cup crushed hard candy peppermints

Directions:

Cover baking pan with foil or wax paper; set aside.

Place popcorn in large bowl; set aside.

In double boiler over barely simmering water, melt chocolate, stirring until smooth, or melt according to package directions. Stir in crushed peppermints.

Pour chocolate mixture over popcorn mixture and stir to coat. Spread onto prepared pan; cool completely.



When chocolate is cooled and set, break into chunks for serving.

Store in airtight container at room temperature.

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SENIORS, FROM FRONT**REBECCA JOSEPHINE GREENE**

“My name is Rebecca Greene, and I’m from Ankeny. Outside of studying, I spend my time practicing and performing a range of fine arts activities, including the marching band and the winter guard team. Additionally, on Fridays and Tuesdays, I am cheering on our varsity teams or practicing new stunts and cheers with the cheer squad. I spend a lot of time bonding with my teammates by passionately working to better our sports/activities together. Teams aside, I have a personal passion for creating. I enjoy making art, whether it is through colors such as painting, clay in pottery, crafting with embroidery, or writing. I love creativity and originality so I use art to embrace myself.”

Rebecca is the daughter of Gabriela Greene and sibling to Veronica Schiltz, Purmon Greene, David Greene, Aaliyah Greene and Aaron Greene. Her favorite school subjects are English and art. She is on the Gold honor roll and a member of Spanish Honor Society and Art Honor Society. After graduation, she

says, “I want to major in either psychology or criminal justice and minor in Spanish. I am still deciding which college I want to go to.”

ALYSON MARIE BURDINE

“Any subject or activity that allows me to be around people and have creative freedom is something I enjoy. All the activities I am involved in are made fun by the people who I get to be around. But also because it allows me to express myself creatively through writing, acting or music. I consider myself lucky to be able to do things I love doing especially with people who I love being around.”

Alyson’s parents are Megan and Nicholas Burdine, and she has one sibling, Aden. Her favorite school subject is English. She is involved in speech, play, musical, concert band, choir, mock trial, pep band and marching band. She has been on the Gold honor roll every year and DMACC Dean’s List. After graduation, she plans to attend DMACC for an associate’s degree then transfer to an undecided four-year university to get a master’s degree in mental health psychology to become a licensed mental health counselor. ■

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: Sew Steady sewing extension portable table made in USA by Dreamworld Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Has ruler marking on one side. phone 515-321-0301.

PUPPIES: Gorgeous English Bulldogs pups for free adoption ready for a new home previous owner just died contact via email kellycoux33@gmail.com. They are vet 12 weeks old checked and come with amazing health guarantee. They love to play with kids and other animals. They have very great personalities and are full of love. These babies will make the best gifts for this special Christmas season.

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

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