

POLK CITY Living Weekly

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A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

DONATION FOR ICE SKATING RINK



Kiwanis Nebraska/Iowa District granted Polk City Kiwanis \$3,000 for the Polk City Parks Ice Skating Rink. The planned \$8,000 rink will be placed on top of the existing basketball court in Kiwanis Park during the winter months. The rink should be completed by this winter. The \$3,000 is added to approximately \$1,000 already donated by Kiwanis. Additionally, in Kiwanis Park, Kiwanis recently updated the picnic tables in the gazebo, adding a table for people with disabilities, and updated the volleyball court. Pictured are Brandon Converse, Polk City Parks Director Jason Thran, Janet Hromatko, Steve Weideren, Mark Triplett, Monica Converse, Tanya Harrington and Krista Bowersox. Photo by Kyle Matzen ■

POLK CITY WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 47 | LOW 38

Mainly cloudy, breezy and mild



SATURDAY HIGH 51 | LOW 39

Mainly cloudy, breezy and mild



SUNDAY HIGH 50 | LOW 31

Clouds followed by sun



MONDAY HIGH 51 | LOW 28

Mild; times of clouds and sun



TUESDAY HIGH 51 | LOW 34

Partly sunny



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A MIDWESTERNER?

I thought I knew where I was from, until I read an intriguing piece in the Wall Street Journal recently. The article was written about the surprising number of things that Americans get wrong about the Midwest. It basically points out how a large number of residents in Wyoming, Montana and even Arkansas consider themselves to be living in the Midwest. I really don't care. The more, the merrier, in my world. But the notion of being a Midwesterner when you are really not one doesn't seem to sit well with other folks from those outlying states. They don't know what they are missing.

Let's start with what states the Midwest officially includes. The U.S. Census Bureau says it is Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Most all of us living in these states would likely agree to this definition.

If it were only that easy. The Midwest is apparently one of four

U.S. census regions with the others being West, Northeast and South. Inside those four regions are several divisions, which include Pacific, Mountain, West North Central, East North Central, West South Central, East South Central, New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic and East South Central. We Iowans are in the West North Central.

These designations are as clear as mud — or at least as clear as comedian Steve Martin's routine on smoking marijuana: "I would only smoke it in the late evening. Oh, occasionally the early evening, but usually the late evening — or the mid-evening. Just the early evening, midevening and late evening. Occasionally, early afternoon, early midafternoon, or perhaps the late-midafternoon. Oh, sometimes the early-mid-late-early morning... but never at dusk."

A more important question than where the Midwest is may be what



makes someone a Midwesterner. The website inspiredbyinsiders.com offers "25 Signs That You Are a True Native of the Midwest." Some of this reads like it was written by a person who is not a Midwesterner, but I do agree with a few: We know the importance of a good Jell-O salad. We have a strong connection to our hometowns. We know how to make a good s'more. We have experienced the magic of county fairs. We can handle extreme weather conditions. And we value humility and hard work.

Darn right. But there is one more that should be added: If it makes people feel better, we are also OK with them calling themselves Midwesterners — even if they are not.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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HOME STATE BANK OPENS POLK CITY BRANCH

Home State Bank in Jefferson announced the opening of its new location in Polk City. Since the groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 27, 2022, Home State Bank and construction crews have been working to finish their newest full-service location, which will also include various office suite rentals for local businesses. This full-service location has replaced their temporary Ankeny location, giving current local customers their full suite of products and services, allowing for more growth for new customers.

“Over the last decade, we have been growing and expanding our relationships in the Polk County area. Polk City is a community that so many people call home and is a great opportunity for Home State Bank to be part of and serve,” said Bob Allen, bank president.

“Since 1934, Home State Bank has been a staple for community banking in Greene County. We are excited to expand into Polk City and bring our community banking experience to the market. We look forward to growing with and supporting Polk City and the North Polk School District,” said Eric Hockenberry, market president.

Home State Bank officially opened its doors on Monday, Jan. 22, and will be holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m. at the new location at 101 E. Bridge St. in Polk City. ■

GO POLK CITY SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS AND AMBASSADORS

Go Polk City is taking applications for its board of directors and ambassador positions. Applications are due Monday, Feb. 5. Learn more at <https://gopolkcit.com/get-involved#424c5e0d-93be-46ea-9f03-ebeac220715a>.

Board member: Are you looking to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Go Polk City? They are currently seeking two passionate and dedicated individuals to join the board of directors. As a board member, you'll have the unique chance to strategize, oversee the group's mission, and make significant decisions that will influence the organization's direction and success.

Ambassador: If you're enthusiastic about representing and promoting Go Polk City, consider applying to become an ambassador. This role is perfect for those who enjoy networking, community engagement, and advocating for the group's causes. As an ambassador, you'll help expand the organization's reach, connect with the community, and make a tangible difference in the efforts of Go Polk City. ■

NORTH POLK STUDENT ART EXHIBITED

Reception date: Feb. 9, 5-7 p.m.
The Ankeny Art Center, 1520
S.W. Ordinance Road

The Ankeny Art Center's annual K-12 art exhibits have been part of an extended outreach program for more than two decades. With the goal of introducing students to the gallery setting, center officials “hope to bring about individual self-worth within the community, increase community involvement, and promote culture and diversity. Through seeing their art on a gallery wall, we hope to bring insight to the students about becoming an exhibiting artist in the future.” The center exhibits student art from the Ankeny, Bondurant-Farrar and North Polk community school districts. Receptions include drinks and cookies and are free and open to the public. Works will be on display and available for viewing during the Ankeny Art Center's open hours. ■

UTILITY BILL ASSISTANCE OFFERED

Did you know that the City of Polk City began a short-term utility billing assistance program due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Due to the response, the City of Polk City has continued this program on an annual basis. As reviewed by the City Council, income levels may change. Maximum assistance in a calendar year is \$375. For those who would like to apply for assistance, please email Meri Merritt today. ■

EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**DOME AFTER DARK**

Fridays, 6-10 p.m. through March

Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines

Enjoy the conservatory and gardeners show house which will be illuminated with unique and colorful lighting. Details at dmbotanicalgarden.com.

THE SNOW BALL

Feb. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Science Center of Iowa, 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Des Moines

DSM.city/SnowBall

This family-friendly event provides an evening of dancing, refreshments, photo opportunities, art projects and science exhibits.

DES MOINES ART CENTER EXHIBIT

Through Feb. 18: "Double Take"

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Desmoinesartcenter.org**SIXTH ANNUAL SUPER BAGS TOURNAMENT**

Feb. 11

Smash Park, 6625 Coachlight Drive, West Des Moines

smashpark.com/location/west-des-moines

You honed your skills during tailgate season. Now it's time to see if you've got what it takes against the best bags, or cornhole, players in the metro area at Smash Park. Registration begins the day of at 9 a.m.

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTIONS

Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

dmpa.org

Feb. 6-11: "Company"

Feb. 15: Capital City Pride Presents: Brea Baker

Feb. 17: The Peking Acrobats

Feb. 20: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Feb. 27 through March 3: "Les Misérables"

Feb. 27 through March 17: "Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull"

IOWA WOLVES HOME GAMES

Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines

iowa.gleague.nba.com

Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. vs. Sioux Falls

Feb. 6 at 10:30 p.m. vs. Sioux Falls

Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. vs. Rio Grande Valley Vipers

IOWA WILD HOME GAMES

Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines

iowawild.com

Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. vs. Tucson

Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. vs. Tucson

Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. vs. Rockford

Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. vs. Rockford

CITYVIEW CHOCOLATE WALK

Friday, Feb. 23, 5-9 p.m.

West Glen Town Center, 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines

Like chocolate? Like chocolate drinks? Then you'll love this event. For a ticket price of \$25 (\$35 at the door), attendees will receive 10 drink tickets that can be redeemed for sample cocktails at participating venues. Attendees will also be provided chocolate dessert samples. A shuttle bus from Majestic Limousine will be providing transportation to each location, although most are only a short walk away. For a link to purchase tickets, visit <https://chocolatewalk.dmcityview.com>. ■

RECIPE

A LIGHT BUT SATISFYING SOUP

(Family Features) On the lighter side when it comes to soup, but still satisfying, Tuscan 3 Bean Peasant Soup calls for shallots, diced tomatoes, spinach, cannellini beans, cooked small pasta and more for a true winter warmup. Served with toasted bread cubes, it's sure to warm loved ones up from the inside out.

Its key ingredient is Aunt Nellie's 3 Bean Salad, featuring premium green, wax and kidney beans in a light, sweet-tangy vinegar dressing. As a ready-to-eat solution, it can be served chilled, at room temperature or as part of comforting winter recipes. ■

TUSCAN 3 BEAN PEASANT SOUP

Recipe courtesy of Sarah Meuser on behalf of Aunt Nellie's

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 27 minutes

Servings: 8

- 10 ounces day-old crusty bread, such as ciabatta, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus additional for drizzling (optional)
- 2 medium shallots or 1 small yellow onion, peeled and chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
- 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 3 cans (14 1/2 ounces each) low-sodium chicken broth (about 6 cups)
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup small pasta, such as ditalini, uncooked
- 2 cups frozen cut leaf spinach or chopped fresh spinach
- 2 jars (15 1/2 ounces each) Aunt Nellie's 3 Bean Salad, drained
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest (optional)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Place bread cubes in single layer on large baking pan. Bake until bread cubes are lightly browned, 8-12 minutes. Set aside.

Heat large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons oil; swirl to coat. Add shallots;



cook 5 minutes, or until soft, stirring occasionally. Add garlic; cook 1 minute, or until fragrant. Add cannellini beans, tomatoes, broth and black pepper; bring to boil. Add pasta; cook 8 minutes, or according to package directions. Stir in spinach and bean salad. Simmer 5 minutes, or until heated through.

Ladle soup evenly into bowls. Top with toasted bread cubes and lemon zest, if desired. Drizzle with additional olive oil, if desired.

POLK CITY LIBRARY

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

K-5th Comets Kids Club, Monday, Feb. 5, 4-4:45 p.m. Join for a special themed Valentines snack and craft. Registration is required.

Wednesday Book Club, “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. The chronicle of the tragic lives of a poor black family in 1940s America. Every night, Pecola, unlovely and unloved, prays for blue eyes like those of her white schoolfellows.

Babble and Brew, Thursday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. Longing for grown-up conversation? We will have coffee for you and exciting, age-appropriate toys for the kiddos.

Soaking It Up: What a Rain Garden Can Do For You, Thursday, Feb. 8, 6 p.m.

Hear from a representative from Polk County Public Works on the hows and whys of rain gardens: a yard feature that can absorb rain runoff that might otherwise run into streets and storm drains. After, hear from Polk City’s City Manager’s office on funding opportunities to help offset the cost of starting a rain garden.

Hot Cocoa Spoons, Monday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m. Come make a yummy gift for yourself or someone you love at this DIY food program. We’ll make stirring spoons to flavor and decorate your hot chocolate with candy melts and sprinkles. Ages 17 and older, registration required.

STEM Book Club (K-fifth grade), Tuesday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m. We will read the book “The Love Letter” by Anika Aldamuy Denise then create a Valentine’s love letter of our own that lights up using circuits. Registration required.

Adult Coloring at Fender’s Brewing, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 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, Thursday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. Come shimmy and shake with your child. Dance and

sing while building pre-reading skills with rhythm and rhyme.

Adult DIY Candle Painting, Thursday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m. Create your own custom candle by painting on one with melted wax! Ages 17 and older. RSVP at www.polkcitylibrary.org.

Monday Book Club, “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick, Monday, Feb. 19, 2 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.

Adult Crafternoon Scented Handwarmers, Monday, Feb. 20, 1 p.m. Spring is on its way, but it’s not here yet. If your hands are still feeling chilly, come craft your own scented hand warmers. Ages 17 and older. RSVP at www.polkcitylibrary.org.

Adult Coloring, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 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.

Messy Munchkins, Thursday, Feb. 22, 10-10:45 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.

D.I.Y. Teen Craft-Paint Your Own Canvas Bag, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Teens will love drawing with paint pens to create their own unique canvas zipper bags to stash their stuff in. Registration required.

Kids Coloring & Movie, Friday, Feb. 23. Come relax with some coloring while watching a movie.

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.

LIBRARY, CONTINUED ON BACK

**LIKE CHOCOLATE?
LIKE CHOCOLATE DRINKS?
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THIS EVENT!**

**OUR
6TH
ANNUAL
EVENT!**



FRIDAY, FEB. 23 | 5-9 P.M.

West Glen Town Center

(Pre-Event Ticket Price \$25 , \$35 at the door)

**RECEIVE 10 SAMPLE DRINK
TICKETS PLUS CHOCOLATE TREATS**



CHOCOLATEWALK.DMCITYVIEW.COM

CITYVIEW  **West Glen** Town Center

PET REGISTRATION OPEN

With January comes a whole slew of new. Don't let registering those furry family members disappear from your radar. Registering goes beyond making sure that shots are up to date. If your pup or cat find themselves off your property, having them registered helps officers to reunite them with their people quickly. To get their 2024 tags, stop at City Hall. Bonus points (treats) if you bring your fur babies in to say hello. ■

LIBRARY, FROM INSIDE

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 polkcitlibrary.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. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

FREE MENDING CLINIC: Saturday, February 10, 2024, 10:00am - 2:00pm at the Polk City Community Library. Get your worn, torn, clothes fixed! Sewing Guild members will patch knees, stitch rips, replace missing buttons, hem pants, and repair seams. Clean items only.

FOR SALE: Vertical cloth blind. 40" x 36". It is a very light gray color. \$75. Text or phone 515-321-0301.

WANTED: Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-3343.

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

BICYCLES WANTED: Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-3343.

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

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

LIST 50 WORDS OR LESS FOR FREE.



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JOKE OF THE WEEK



What should you
do if you see a
spaceman?

Park in it, man.