

# JOHNSTON *Living Weekly*

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



MORE PHOTOS INSIDE

The Joint Legislative Luncheon with Johnston, Urbandale, Grimes and Ankeny chambers of commerce was held at Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines, on Nov. 20. The Legislative Panel included Larry McBurney, Dan Gehlbach, Eddie Andrews, Jill Altringer, Ryan Weldon and Heather Matson. ■

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**WED. HIGH 42 | LOW 17**  
Windy with clouds and sun



**THURS. HIGH 24 | LOW 15**  
Colder with partial sunshine



**FRI. HIGH 40 | LOW 29**  
Mostly sunny and not as cold



**SAT. HIGH 49 | LOW 32**  
Mostly sunny and milder



**SUN. HIGH 46 | LOW 29**  
Plenty of sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

## WHY BABY BOOMERS WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG

I am not a Baby Boomer. And I don't consider myself part of Generation X either. I guess I am in middle, and that's just fine with me. I never really felt a need to be part of a generation with a name. Generalizing just isn't my thing. I have been called "old-school" and "young punk" in the same day. It all seems to be a matter of perspective from the name-caller.

I appreciate the song "Hey Nineteen" by Steely Dan. The words of the song explain the generational differences a man is beginning to understand when dating a younger woman. "No, we can't dance together. No, we can't talk at all." It is a commentary on the fear of growing old, the struggle to stay relevant. Most all of us can relate. If you can't yet, you will at some point.

Meanwhile, we tend to believe the music we listened to, the shows we watched, the cars we drove, the toys we played with, and the slang we used were all part of the best generation. We also tend to hang on to many of those things. A reader recently sent me a list of reasons "why Baby Boomers were right all

along." I will share a few edited versions to see what you think.

**They actually talked to each other.** No texts, no DMs, just face-to-face conversations or a good old-fashioned phone call. Boomers had long chats at the dinner table or spent hours on the porch with friends and neighbors.

**They fixed things instead of throwing them away.** Boomers grew up in a time when fixing was the norm. These days, most folks are quick to toss and replace, and honestly, it's left us with landfills full of perfectly fixable stuff.

**They valued hard work.** Work was a point of pride. Whether it was delivering papers as a kid or putting in overtime to provide for a family, Boomers weren't afraid to roll up their sleeves. These days, the focus seems to be on doing the least for the most, and something feels lost.

**They knew the value of a dollar.** Boomers lived in a time when you saved for what you wanted, and credit cards weren't



handed out like candy. If you couldn't afford it, you didn't buy it.

**They dressed for the occasion.** Boomers didn't wear sweatpants to dinner or flip-flops to the office. They believed in dressing appropriately, and it was a way to show respect for themselves and others. Somewhere along the way, we traded pressed shirts for yoga pants.

**They listened to elders.** Boomers grew up respecting the wisdom of older generations. Grandparents were fountains of advice and stories, not out-of-touch relics. These days, youth culture dominates, and we forget that older folks have a lot to teach us.

I tend to agree with many of these points. As a result, some of you will think I'm crazy. Some will think I'm just growing old. Where's Aretha Franklin when I need her?

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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## JOHNSTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO DISSOLVE

The Johnston Economic Development Corporation (JEDCO) board of directors voted unanimously on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to cease operations and legally dissolve the organization. The decision follows a JEDCO member survey in which 76% of the respondents supported a decision to discontinue the organization.

“Our JEDCO membership has existed to partner with the city of Johnston to strengthen our local economy and retain and attract business. As economic development evolves in central Iowa, Johnston must adapt to remain competitive,” said Grant Taylor, JEDCO board president.

The city has expressed an interest in exploring an alternate forum to stay connected to business leaders and developers with a vested interest in Johnston. Discussions about continuing JEDCO’s two main annual events are ongoing, including the Development Forum and the Economic Development Bus Tour.

“While many details are yet to be determined, the first order of business is ceasing operations as an investor-based entity,” said Taylor.

For additional information, contact Grant Taylor at [GrantT@hansencompany.com](mailto:GrantT@hansencompany.com). ■

## BACKPOCKET OFFERS EVENTS

The public is invited to a variety of events coming up at Backpocket, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Johnston.

- **Hot cocoa bar**, pictures with Santa and cookie decorating, Monday, Dec. 16.
- **Elf and Friends Guided Paint Night**, Dec. 17, 6 p.m., \$55. [www.makeitartfull.com/event-details/elf-and-friends-guided-painting-trio](http://www.makeitartfull.com/event-details/elf-and-friends-guided-painting-trio). Get in the holiday spirit and create your own home decor inspired by a classic Christmas movie.
- **Family Fun New Year’s Eve** is Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features face-painting, a photo booth with props, a DIY party hat making station, a balloon drop and sparkling cider toast at 2 p.m., food and drink specials, and more. ■

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

Johnston Station Historical Society, 6161 Northglenn Drive, will hold its annual holiday open house Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. The Museum, which is located in a turn-of-the-century farmhouse, will be decorated for the holidays. Guests can enjoy guided tours, along with coffee, cocoa and cookies. Visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3856](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3856) for more information. ■



## HOLY DAY MASSES AT ST. MARY OF NAZARETH

St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church, 4600 Meredith Drive in Des Moines, invites the public on Monday, Dec. 9 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass will be at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Call 515-276-4042 if you have any questions. ■

## 45TH ANNUAL MADRIGAL

The Johnston High School Choral Department will present the 45th annual Madrigal: “The Tragedy of Orpheus: A Comedy,” on Dec. 4 and 5, 7 p.m., at the Johnston High School Auditorium. Enjoy an evening of festivities and feasting to kick off the 2024 holiday season. Tickets are on sale at [www.gobound.com/ia/schools/johnston/tickets](http://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/johnston/tickets). ■



## WINTER CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The Compost It! winter collection in Johnston will be on Dec. 30 and 31 and Jan. 6 and 7, corresponding with your regular trash collection day. This is a great time to dispose of brush, leaves, lawn clippings, garden waste and live holiday trees. ■

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON WITH JOHNSTON, URBANDALE, GRIMES AND ANKENY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WAS HELD AT HOLIDAY INN NORTHWEST, DES MOINES, ON NOV. 20.



Rose Schroder and Mike Pogge-Weaver



Samantha Winebrenner and Josh Laraby



Eddie Andrews and Brenda Ballard ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGES DONATIONS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need, as well as children's seasonal clothing. Almost 600 families are being served per month, so the need is high. Donations can be dropped off at 5870 Merle Hay Road, Suite C, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m., and on Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. Currently they pack 220 food bags each week to go home with students. They can use fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, granola bars, individual shelf-stable milk and individual peanut butter. ■

## SUPPORT THE BLUE DRAGON PROGRAM

The Blue Dragon Program is holding a special holiday shopping event. The event pairs officers with less fortunate children or those who have faced tragic experiences, allowing them to enjoy a memorable shopping spree at Grimes Walmart. Your participation can help create unforgettable memories for these children.

How you can contribute: Your support is invaluable, and there are two easy ways to make a difference:

- Traditional giving: Send or drop off your monetary donation to the Johnston Police Department, Attn: Blue Dragon Program, 6373 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131. (Checks should be made payable to the Johnston Police Officers Association.)

- Online contribution: Embrace the convenience of online giving by donating through Donor Box at <https://donorbox.org/blue-dragon>.

If you have questions or need help with donations, contact Sgt. Grandon at 515-278-2345. Your generosity helps create cherished moments and ignites the warmth of the holiday spirit for those who need it most. ■

## LOOKING FOR EVENT OR MEETING SPACE?

The Johnston Lions Club is here to make your next event unforgettable. Whether you're planning a business meeting, family gathering or special celebration, the Lions have the perfect space for you. Join them on Sunday, Jan. 19 to learn more about renting the club's venue. Explore the space, get all your questions answered, and see how they can help make your event a success. For more information, email [venueclub@gmail.com](mailto:venueclub@gmail.com). ■

# COFFEE WITH A COP AND BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Join the Johnston Police Department on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8-10 a.m. for Breakfast with Santa and Coffee with a Cop at Johnston Hy-Vee, 5750 Merle Hay Road. Officers will have donuts, coffee and juice available. If you'd rather have a warm breakfast, you can purchase it from the Hy-Vee cafe. Visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3810](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3810) for more information. ■



# PET PHOTOS WITH GRINCH

Would you like to get your pet's picture taken with the Grinch? Come to Woof Pack Resort and Spa, 5700 West Parkway, Johnston, on Dec. 8 from 1-4 p.m. for a photoshoot with the Grinch. The price is \$15, and all proceeds benefit Hope Animal Rescue of Iowa. There will also be adoptable dogs from Hope present. For more information, contact 515-416-4255 or [info@woofpackresort.com](mailto:info@woofpackresort.com). ■

# ARTS AND CRAFTS WITH SANTA

Join Local 4835 Firefighters for a morning of Christmas-themed arts and crafts on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9-11 a.m. at Fire Station 39, 6373 Merle Hay Road. Consider bringing an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots drive to fill the back of Santa's sleigh. Visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3811](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3811) for more information. ■



# HOLIDAYS AT THE TOWN CENTER

The annual Holidays at the Town Center, Saturday, Dec. 7, 4-7 p.m., will feature free ice skating, a visit with Santa and his reindeer, samples from local businesses and a community tree lighting. Santa arrives at 4 p.m. with the tree lighting at 5 p.m. Dancer's Theatre performance is 4:30-4:45. Unaccompanied Minors perform 5:30-5:50 p.m. Food trucks onsite will be Flame and General Lee's Smoke Shack. Free carriage rides from TAGA Shires will be offered around the Town Center with a bag of non-perishable food donations for the food pantry and Mayor's Run for Food. Visit with reindeer, enjoy children's craft with the Johnston Public Library, join free cookie decorating with Northpoint Church, participate in a children's activity with Raising Cane's and view live ice sculpting. First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines will provide a children's game and hand out candy and miniature flashlights. ■

# COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Johnston Community Greetings would like to welcome anyone new to Johnston with a welcome bag including discounts at local businesses and city information. Contact Missy Shepherd by phone, text or email at 515-991-5014 or [mshpherdgreetings@gmail.com](mailto:mshpherdgreetings@gmail.com). ■

# GIVING TREE BENEFITS ANIMALS

Woof Pack Resort and Spa is sponsoring a Giving Tree to benefit Hope Animal Rescue of Iowa the entire month of December. Stop by the resort to grab an ornament to donate to Hope or give us a call to donate. The resort address is 5700 West Parkway in Johnston. For information, contact 515-416-4255 or [info@woofpackresort.com](mailto:info@woofpackresort.com). ■

# COMFORTABLY DUMB

By Bruce Quast



...from the makers of Good & Plenty

**EVENTS IN THE AREA**EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

In the Christmas Mood with the Glenn Miller Orchestra

**IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD WITH THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA**

Dec. 22, 7 p.m.

**Hoyt Sherman Place,  
1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines**Enjoy the favorites of the season. For tickets, visit [hoytsherman.org](http://hoytsherman.org).**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m.

**Olmsted-Urban House, 4010 70th St., Urbandale**

Enjoy a Christmas Open House at the Urbandale Historical Society's Olmsted/ Urban House. A variety of activities will be held at the decorated house.

**HOLIDAY HO HO HOME TOUR**

Dec. 7, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

**Around Ankeny**Tour several Ankeny homes decked out for the holidays. Each features its own unique decorations, style and appetizers. All donations benefit the Wiedenman Family Foundation, which was formed to undertake projects that will enhance Ankeny and the surrounding community. Tickets are \$25. For tickets, visit [www.hohohometour.org/event-details/tickets](http://www.hohohometour.org/event-details/tickets).**CHRISTKINDLMARKET**

Dec. 5-8

**Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines**Christkindlmarket features regional vendors selling old-world, hand-crafted products from wooden vendor stalls, lively performances of polka music, traditional dance and choirs in Yuletide Hall; children's activities; Glühwein (warm, mulled wine) and European beer. [www.christkindlmarketdsm.com](http://www.christkindlmarketdsm.com)**FAMILY CHRISTMAS AT LIVING HISTORY FARMS**

Saturday, Dec. 7, noon to 3 p.m.

**11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale**

Hear the sounds, see the sights, and smell the smells of a 19th-century Christmas.

Enjoy carolers, old fashioned demonstrations, a craft, stories, and a visit with old St. Nick. Tickets are \$9 for ages 2 and older (\$8 for members). Buildings are heated. Bundle up for wagon rides. Tickets are available at <https://marketplace.lhf.org/Events.aspx>. [www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org).**CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE**

Dec. 15, 3 p.m.

**Staplin Performing Arts Center at Valley High School, 3650 Woodland Ave., West Des Moines**The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble (CIWE) welcomes audiences to its new performance home for a heartwarming holiday concert. In addition to celebrating the season through music, CIWE is honored to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa to bring the joy of music to youth across the community. For tickets, visit [www.ciwe.org/deck-the-halls-dsm](http://www.ciwe.org/deck-the-halls-dsm). ■

## RECIPE

# TURN LEFTOVER TURKEY INTO A REINVENTED DISH

*(Family Features)* Once your holiday feast comes to pass, you're almost certain to find your refrigerator stuffed with leftovers. However, that doesn't mean you want to eat the same meal again and again in the days that follow.

The star of many seasonal celebrations, turkey can be reused in a variety of post-holiday dishes to cut down on food waste and create fresh new meals your whole family can enjoy. Featuring a unique blend of 100% natural chili peppers, lime and sea salt, Tajín pairs perfectly with turkey, making it a go-to for creative leftovers.

Gone are the days of simply reheating turkey and stuffing or making a turkey sandwich. Instead, reinvent your holiday extras through fresh takes on classic dishes like leftover turkey carnitas tacos. ■

## LEFTOVER TURKEY CARNITAS TACOS

**Total time: 25 minutes**

**Servings: 2 (2-3 tacos each)**

### Ingredients:

- 4-6 garlic cloves, peeled and separated
- 1 pinch salt
- 1/2 cup fresh bitter orange juice or fresh lime juice with fresh orange juice combo
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon Tajín Clasico Seasoning
- 1 cup leftover turkey, shredded
- 1 cup duck fat, ghee or high smoke point oil of choice
- 4-6 tortillas

### Toppings (optional):

- pico de gallo
- pickled onions
- cilantro
- pomegranate seeds

- avocado

### Direction:

In mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, sugar, salt and cream of tartar.

Grate butter and mix with dry ingredients.

Carefully add buttermilk and mix until incorporated.

Fold over 5-6 times, roll out and cut into 10-12 rounds.

Place cut biscuits on floured surface.

Refrigerate 30 minutes.

### To make turkey pot pie filling:

With mortar and pestle, crush together garlic cloves and salt, make paste and place in medium bowl.

Stir in juice, olive oil and seasoning.

Fold mojo into shredded turkey meat.

In large, heavy-bottomed pot over high heat, melt duck fat and



wait until it forms a wave. Add turkey, in batches, stirring often, until meat turns light golden brown, then lower heat to medium. Turn off heat.

Heat up tortillas, place turkey carnitas on top and add pico de gallo, pickled onions, cilantro, pomegranate seeds or avocado as desired.

Note: Once browned in duck fat, carnitas can be stored in the fat overnight and reheated over low heat to melt fat and warm carnitas.

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## FUNERAL NOTICE

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### HARRY NORMAN SANDSTROM

Harry Norman Sandstrom was the first born to Naomi Judith Anderson Sandstrom and Harry Martin Sandstrom in Bristol, South Dakota, on Jan. 26, 1944. Harry grew up on a farm near Waubay, South Dakota. After graduating salutatorian from Waubay High School, Harry attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and received a political science degree. There he met his forever love, Kathy Hall. In 1966, they married in Iowa City, where Harry earned a master's degree in political science from the University of Iowa.



Harry entered the U.S. Army, serving in Germany and Vietnam. Following his tour in Vietnam, the family moved back to Vermillion, where he attended law school at the University of South Dakota. He served a year after law school as Judge Nichol's clerk in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, before joining the private practice Bantz and Gosch in Aberdeen, South Dakota. In 1978, the family moved to Des Moines for Kathy's job as a pole climbing instructor for the telephone company. Harry joined the legal department at Dial Finance Co., which, after a series of mergers, became Wells Fargo. He retired in 1999.

A lifelong Lutheran and devoted Democrat, Harry lived a fulfilling retirement with a great mix of purpose and fun. He loved reading, biking, cooking, eating and traveling. Throughout his life, he maintained close ties with his family and friends. By far the most important person in his life was his wife, life partner, and best friend, Kathy.

Harry courageously faced health problems during his last eight years. He rehabilitated after a massive stroke. He also battled chronic back pain, arthritis and sciatica. A fall in mid-October required brain surgery. Harry fought to recover, but eventually found peace and comfort at Kavanaugh Hospice House.

Harry is survived by his wife, Kathy Sandstrom; daughters, Jill Sandstrom Almgren (John) and Kristin Sandstrom Markert (Paul); grandchildren, Kate, Inga and Eden Almgren and Reina and Graham Markert; siblings, John and Carol; and many other family members and friends.

Harry's life will be celebrated with a service at Hope+Elim in Des Moines on Dec. 27 at 11 a.m. Visitation will be for one hour prior to service. Lunch will follow the service. Interment will be held Dec. 24 at 11 a.m. at the Veteran's Cemetery in Van Meter. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Hope+Elim Church. Arrangements are by Iles Westover Chapel. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### PANORA COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR SALE OR LEASE:

Nearly 1,500 square feet of professional office or retail space on Main Street in Panora. Approximately 1,000 square feet finished with remaining space ready to be built out or used as storage or shop area. Front portion walled off for reception area. Open space in the middle. New windows in middle and back area installed this year, as well as a new canopy on front of building. Painted recently inside and out. Sale price of \$75,000 or lease for \$750 per month with flexible terms. Contact Shane Goodman for a viewing at 515-473-8312 or [shane@dmcityview.com](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com).

**FOR SALE:** Antique bicycle, roll-top desk, big armoire, marbles, teacher desk, Duncan Phyfe table and hutch. Contact Judy at 515-249-8664.

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