

JOHNSTON *Living Weekly*

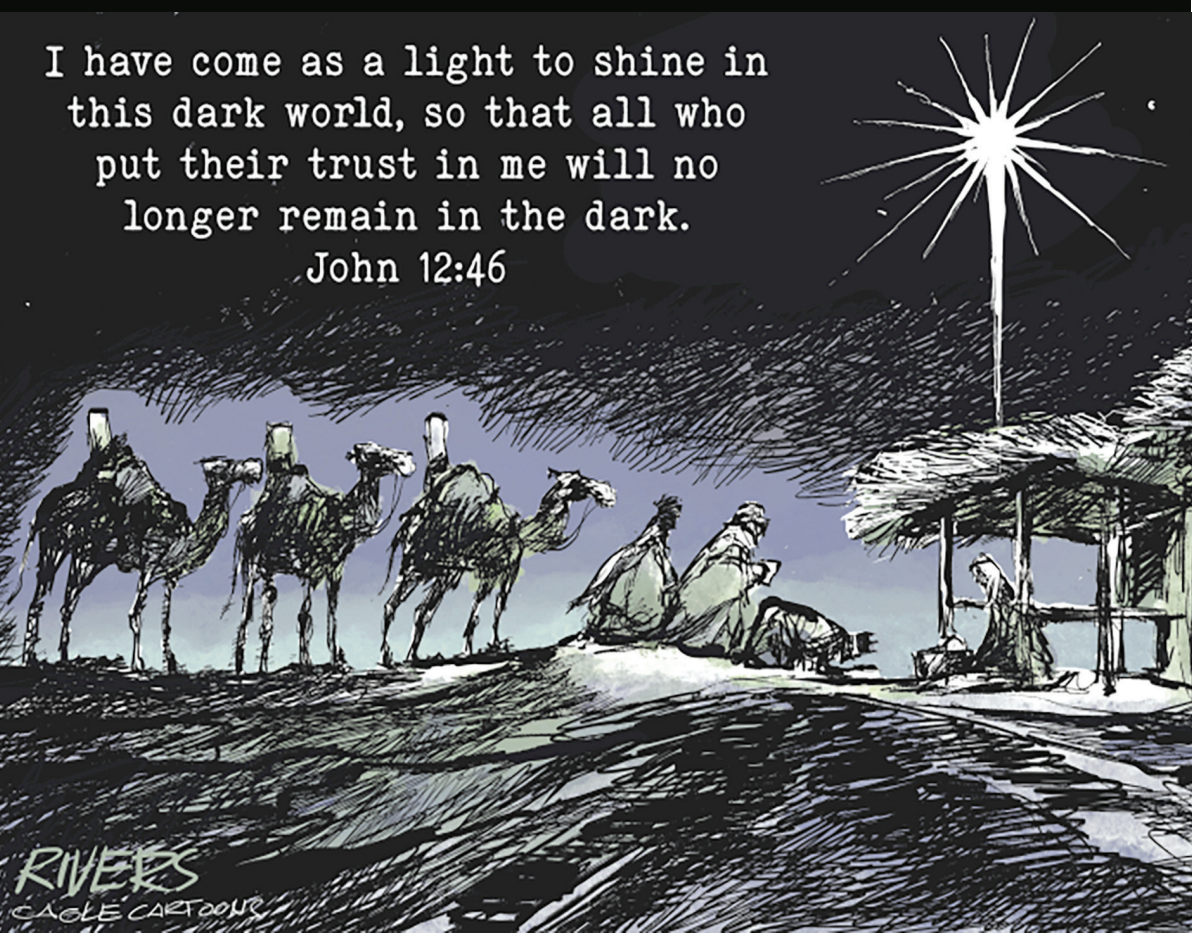
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I have come as a light to shine in
this dark world, so that all who
put their trust in me will no
longer remain in the dark.
John 12:46




JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

FRI. HIGH 28 | LOW 14
Mostly cloudy and colder 

WED. HIGH 32 | LOW 24 
Breezy in the morning; cloudy

SAT. HIGH 25 | LOW 9 
Mostly sunny

THURS. HIGH 44 | LOW 15 
Mostly sunny; becoming windier

SUN. HIGH 28 | LOW 21 
Plenty of sunshine

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER,
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

IT'S A GOLDILOCKS AND THE 3 BEARS THING

I have a foot fetish. But wait. Before you think I am more weird than I am, read on. It's not so much a foot fetish that I have as a sock fetish — and not those trendy socks some guys wear with repetitive decorations on them. I have a thing for socks that keep my feet warm. That's it.

Well, maybe it's not that simple. I do have some requirements. I don't like socks that droop like the skin on the neck of a French bulldog. I have enough things drooping at my age. And I don't like the ones that are so tight they leave indentations on my legs and cut off the blood supply. I prefer to have feeling in my toes. Socks have to fit just right. It's a Goldilocks and the three bears kind of thing.

I recall my dad's socks, especially when he wore them with his green shorts and

sandals on Sunday summers. The silky black dress socks contrasted nicely with his milky white legs. It wasn't cool, but Dad didn't care.

When I was a kid, I had a different take on socks than my father. Mine had to be angelic white and pulled up to my knees with a few horizontal stripes at the top. Those looked especially good with those tennis shoe/roller skates that I always wanted but never had.

Years later, socks went the other direction and were not to be over the ankle. This was fine for the summer months but allowed a bit of a draft to happen in Iowa's winters. Some of these socks were white. Some were black. Many were other colors, too, but none even approached the calf.



When our children were teenagers, I would struggle to find my black dress socks. Our oldest daughter, Sara, seemed to like them and “borrowed” mine quite often. I am still trying to figure that trend out.

Today, I stock my sock drawer with supplies from hardware stores and farm stores. Those places seem to understand what middle-aged men want. Solid colors. Perfect tension. Up to the calf. And, most importantly, extra warm.

And they are not just for men. If Goldilocks wore socks, she would certainly approve, too.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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JOHNSTON
Living Weekly

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SANTA VISIT



Melisa Wardlow, Holly Moon, Paula Bierle and Casee Woodley visit with Santa at the Purple Poppy Boutique on Dec. 15. ■

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY OF NAZARETH

The public is invited to Christmas and New Year's Mass at St. Mary of Nazareth, 4600 Meredith Drive in Des Moines.

- **Christmas Eve:** Mass times: 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.
- **Christmas Day:** 9 a.m.
- **Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass:** 5 p.m. on Dec. 31
- **Solemnity of Mary:** 9 a.m. on Jan. 1 ■

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 mshepherdgreetings@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. ■

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 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. ■

JOHNSTON LIBRARY NEWS

For information about all events and resources, visit www.johnstonlibrary.com or by calling the library at 515-278-5233.

School's Out! On Dec. 30 and 31, JPL's Teen Space will have extended hours so kids in grades 6 and up can hang out at the library. On Dec. 30, a Shrinky Dinky, Cocoa Drinky Movie Jamboree will be held from 1-3 p.m. Teens can ring in New Year's Eve at the Pokemon Club: Legendary New Year's Eve Party at 1 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Do you have a teen in grades 8-12 looking to make a difference in the community? If so, the new VolunTEEN program at JPL may be the perfect opportunity to do so. On the second and third Saturdays of each month, from 2-5 p.m., teens can help prepare materials for youth activities and complete other needed tasks in the library. Interested teens can register to receive email reminders about upcoming volunteer times and opportunities at the library, or they can just drop in on a VolunTEEN Saturday and volunteer.

The library is also happy to be able to provide the gift of language this holiday season. Everyday English, held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:45 p.m., is an ongoing program designed for English language learning adults. Led by a professional ESOL teacher and trained volunteers, lessons focus on functional English as well as life in the United States. Let's Talk: ESL Conversation Group is a casual program designed for non-native English speakers to practice their English conversation skills with a native English speaker. Discussions focus on current news, events and American culture. This program is on Mondays from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Both Everyday English and Let's Talk are held in-person and online via Zoom. Email library staff at esol@johnstonlibrary.org for sign-in information. Both programs are free, and registration isn't required but is appreciated. ■

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SATURDAY, JAN. 18 • 1-4 P.M.

FIRE & ICE

An interactive
WINTER PUB CRAWL in

Try new drinks!

Bring a group of friends!



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY AT WWW.DMCITYVIEW.COM

MAYOR'S 11TH ANNUAL RUN FOR FOOD

Mayor Paula Dierenfeld is again embarking on her journey to Run for Food. This year, her goal for the community is to log 2,500 miles. Donations for the Johnston Partnership will be accepted until Dec. 30 to ensure families have a joyous holiday season.

Mayor Dierenfeld has pledged to run one mile for every bag of food or \$10 donated to the Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community. Over the years, the community's response has been incredible, with an outpouring of food and monetary contributions. More than \$81,130 has been raised through this annual initiative. In 2023, Mayor Dierenfeld covered an impressive 2,328 miles, finishing her last mile on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024.

Donations are more important than ever to support families in need. When the pantry opened in 1999, it served approximately 343 people per month. By October 2024, that number had risen to around 2,700 people. This exponential growth in need highlights the importance of your support — not only to help the mayor reach her goals but also to assist families in need.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- **Online:** Visit <https://johnstonpartnership.org/donate/> to give a monetary donation.
- **Venmo:** @johnstonpartnership
- **Drop-off:** Drop off monetary or food donations to the Johnston Partnership on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ■

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. ■

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. ■

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. ■



EVENTS IN THE AREAEMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**IOWA DIECAST TOY SHOW**

Jan. 4-5

Iowa State Fairgrounds,
3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines
www.agfarmtoys.com

Explore an extensive selection of toys of all kinds and memorabilia from reputable dealers. Discover rare and limited-edition pieces to add to your collection. Find that missing piece for your display that you have been searching for. Find a great piece that you didn't know you needed.

CINCH WORLD'S TOUGHEST RODEO

Jan. 10-11

Wells Fargo Arena,
233 Center St., Des Moines
www.iowaeventscenter.com

Action-packed performance featuring some of the nation's most talented rodeo athletes, livestock and specialty entertainers.

INDOOR GARAGE SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

Jan. 11

Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines
www.iowaeventscenter.com

Need a mid-winter fix for your garage sale habit? This is the place to be.

CITYVIEW'S FIRE AND ICE

Saturday, Jan. 18, 1-4 p.m.

Historic Valley Junction Foundation,
137 Fifth St., West Des Moines

Join CITYVIEW's Fire and Ice, an interactive winter pub crawl in Historic Valley Junction. Fire and Ice is a hockey-themed liquor sampling event that will be sure to warm up your winter blues. With your event ticket, you will receive 10 individual drink tickets to sample some of the

best winter cocktails from establishments in the Valley Junction area. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. For tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-cityview-fire-ice-a-winter-pub-crawl-tickets-1079964535999.

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

Sunday nights starting Jan. 19, 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 at a time, taught by a caller (instructor) and volunteers. For more information call Sandy Townsend, 515-294-2624, or visit www.ankenysquares.com.

POLK COUNTY HERITAGE GALLERY EXHIBIT

Until Jan. 24

Polk County Administration Building,
111 Court Ave., Des Moines
polkcountyheritagegallery.org

DSM Exhibited 2024 - Annual Juried Show is on display.

LIVE MUSIC AT WOOLY'S

504 E. Locust St., Des Moines

firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys

- **Jan. 17:** Tyler Richton & The High Bank Boys at 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 18:** The Prince Experience at 8:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 24:** Smells Like Nirvana: A Tribute to Nirvana at 8 p.m.
- **Jan. 26:** Beach Bunny at 8 p.m.
- **Jan. 30:** Aaron Watson at 8 p.m. ■

RECIPE

SINGLE-SERVE SEASONAL SWEETS

(*Culinary.net*) Instead of assigning cake cutting duty at your holiday party, let dessert serve itself with these Mini Pecan Cheesecakes from “Cookin’ Savvy.” Individually wrapped for ease and convenience – or for giving as parting gifts – they’re a rich and delicious holiday treat. ■

MINI PECAN CHEESECAKES

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”
Yield: 20 mini cheesecakes

Ingredients:

- 1 package plain round shortbread cookies
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup crushed pecans

Directions:

Heat oven to 325 degrees.

In muffin pan, fill each hole with paper cupcake liners. Place one cookie in bottom of each cup.

Whisk flour and sugar. Mix in



cream cheese. Using hand mixer, blend in eggs one at a time then add vanilla and sour cream. Mix until smooth then spoon on top of cookies.

Mix butter, brown sugar and crushed pecans. Spoon on top of cheesecake mixture.

Bake 25 minutes. Let cool before serving.

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WINTER COATS NEEDED

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need, as well as children's seasonal clothing. The Partnership has been extremely busy and has already distributed more than 850 winter coats. Many more are needed to make it through the cold months and keep all of our neighbors warm. With the drastic weather change, the largest current need is winter coats of any size (baby through adult) in good or new condition. The Partnership has worked through its storage and are putting out whatever comes in, and they are going quickly. The goal is to provide one coat per client per year.

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.

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BACKPOCKET OFFERS EVENTS

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

- **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. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS:

Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

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

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 MONDAY AT 10 A.M. TO BECKHAM@DMCITYVIEW.COM

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