

# JOHNSTON *Living Weekly*

FREE!

WWW.IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

 A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

## SEEN IN JOHNSTON



MORE PHOTOS INSIDE


Fareway Stores, Inc. held an open house at its new corporate office location, 8800 N.W. 62nd Ave., Johnston, on Jan. 28. Pictured are Jeff Cook, Reynolds Cramer, Garrett Pklapp and Mike McCormick. ■


### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**WED. HIGH 37 | LOW 24**  
Cloudy 

**THURS. HIGH 34 | LOW 21**  
Cloudy; times of snow and ice 

**FRI. HIGH 36 | LOW 22**  
Cloudy 

**SAT. HIGH 35 | LOW 20**  
Cloudy; times of sleet and rain 

**SUN. HIGH 37 | LOW 21**  
Plenty of sunshine 

**CHARTER BANK** 

*Chart Your Success With Us!*

5526 N.W. 86th St., Johnston • 331-2265

Member FDIC

[CharterBanker.com](http://CharterBanker.com)





TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FREE DIGITAL VERSION OF THIS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, SCAN THIS QR CODE.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

# WORDS OF WISDOM FROM BABE

More than 30 years ago, I was having coffee with Babe Bisignano at his restaurant in downtown Des Moines. I was working for The Des Moines Register at the time, and Babe wanted to tell me what he thought about the restaurant reviews that were running in the newspaper's Datebook section (a now-defunct publication that was a competitor to CITYVIEW at the time).

Babe was an incredible man. A boxer. A wrestler. A bootlegger. A restaurateur. He was respected by many, including me. When he spoke, I listened.

"Those reviews are (expletive)," he would tell me. "They are just not fair. I can take the criticism. My business can take the criticism. But for the person who is just starting out, they are murder. You guys should be ashamed of yourselves for running them."

His words stuck with me, even three decades later.

"Kid, you don't know what that restaurant went through that night it was reviewed. Chefs get sick. Servers don't show up. Food trucks can be late."

Then he would set his coffee cup

down with one hand and point his cigar-sized finger from his other in my face with a stern message to come.

"It's not an easy business, you know that? But it sure is easy for writers to spout off their opinions when they don't know what the hell they are talking about."

The 77-year-old man would then rub his forehead while apologizing for yelling at me. I would pour him another cup of coffee, and we would scribble a pizza ad together.

I have shared this story many times with our longtime CITYVIEW food critic, Jim Duncan, who understands the challenges in running a restaurant. Jim tells me he visits a place he reviews multiple times before writing about it, and he makes efforts to point out several positives before expressing a negative of any sort. I respect Jim as well, and when he speaks, I also listen.

My views on restaurant reviews spill over to my views on restaurant inspections. Don't get me wrong,



I don't like food poisoning any more than you, but I have seen inspectors come into a crowded restaurant at noon with their white gloves and clipboards and rattle the staff. Undoubtedly, a few orders were messed up that day — and understandably so.

We used to publish the restaurant inspection findings. Some other media organizations still do. Most of the problems discovered are minor, but that's not how some readers, listeners or viewers may see it. And, in the meantime, a restaurateur's dream — and life savings — can be immediately crushed. Few other industries receive such scrutiny, and that's not fair.

So, the next time you go out to eat, I ask that you remember the many challenges of those in the restaurant industry — and the words of Babe.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
President and Publisher  
Big Green Umbrella Media  
shane@dmcityview.com  
515-953-4822, ext. 305



JOHNSTON  
*Living Weekly*

A publication of Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc.  
8101 Birchwood Court, Suite, D, Johnston, IA 50131  
www.iowalivingmagazines.com



**News contact**  
Tammy Pearson  
515-953-4822, ext. 302  
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com



**Advertising contact**  
Andrea Hodapp  
515-953-4822, ext. 322  
andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com

## FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com)

### GERALDINE "GERRY" HELEN MANGIONE

Geraldine "Gerry" Helen Mangione, 84, died Jan. 23, 2025, in Des Moines. A visitation and memorial mass will be held at St. Pius X Catholic Church on March 22. Visitation will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m., and mass will begin at 11:30 a.m. Private burial will take place at Glendale Cemetery.

Gerry was born on Feb. 10, 1940, to Louis and Helen (Szyska) Dusik in Chicago, Illinois. She attended all Catholic schools until graduating with a food and nutrition degree from Mundelein College, which has since been incorporated into Loyola University Chicago. Before her retirement in 2002, Gerry worked as the vice president of sales for Classic Coffee Service for 17 years.

She married Salvatore Mangione on Jan. 19, 1963, at Five Holy Martyrs Church in Chicago. Together they raised two children, David and Lisa, in Downers Grove, Illinois.

She was the heart of her family and always had an open door for her loved ones. It brought her immense joy to host countless family events and prepare meals that made every occasion feel special. She also enjoyed gardening and bird watching. She was a member of the National Audubon Society.

Gerry is survived by her husband, Sal; son, David Mangione; daughter, Lisa (Alan) Vontalge, of Johnston; grandchildren, Adam Mangione, Kara Mangione, Ella Mangione, Emma (Sean) Grogan and Hunter (Rachel) Vontalge; brother, Richard (Barbara) Dusik; and various other beloved friends and family members. She is preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Iowa Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; or to the family to plant a tree at Adventure Ridge Park, which was behind Gerry and Sal's home in Johnston.

Arrangements are by Iles Westover Chapel. ■



## THE IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM PRESENTS: IWO JIMA - 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Agenda for the day:

- **10:30-11:30:** Presentations from Living History Detachment.
- **11:30:** Free guided tour.
- **1-2:** Presentation on Iowa native and Marine veteran Harold "Pie" Keller –

Guest Speaker: Brent Westemeyer

Displays and mini presentations throughout the day ■

## UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- **Monday, Feb. 10:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Monday, Feb. 17:** City Office Buildings and Library closed for Presidents' Day
- **Tuesday, Feb. 18:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 18:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 19:** Senior Advisory Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, Feb. 20:** Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. ■

## 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](mailto:mshepherdgreetings@gmail.com). ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need, as well as children's seasonal clothing. Their current needs at the pantry are dry black beans, 1-pound bags of rice, winter coats (all ages/all sizes) and Easy Mac and ramen noodles. For more information, visit <https://johnstonpartnership.org> ■

# SEEN IN JOHNSTON

JOHNSTON HIGH SCHOOL'S WRESTLING SENIOR NIGHT WAS JAN. 16.



Brad Leonard, Caden Leonard, Jodi Leonard and Coach Aaron Tecklenburg



Tory Frisk, Owen Frisk, Shannon Frisk and Coach Aaron Tecklenburg



Irfan Beganovic, Nyle Beganovic, Nermina Beganovic and Coach Aaron Tecklenburg



Adam Hass, Caleb Hass, Erin McWilliams and Coach Aaron Tecklenburg



Coach Joe Huebbe, Azriel Cortez, Jahir Gutierrez and Coach Aaron Tecklenburg



Jeff Helgeson, Jacob Helgeson, Caryn Helgeson and Coach Aaron Tecklenburg

PHOTOS BY DAN MENNEN

SEE NEXT WEEK'S JOHNSTON WEEKLY FOR MORE WRESTLING SENIOR NIGHT PHOTOS.

# VALENTINES FOR PUPS

Celebrate Valentine’s Day with your pup, and the adoptable dogs from Hope Animal Rescue of Iowa will receive your love as well. The entire month of February you can purchase a Valentine for your dog from Woof Pack Resort & Spa in Johnston, and the proceeds will go to Hope Animal Rescue of Iowa. The Valentine includes homemade Valentine treat from Em’s Homemade Dog Treats, Valentine tennis ball and Valentine bandana. Price is \$10. Support this local rescue by purchasing your pup a special Valentine. Contact 515-416-4255 or info@woofpackresort.com. ■

# SPECIAL CENSUS HIRING FIELD REPRESENTATIVES, SUPERVISORS

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring for the Special Census in Johnston. Field representatives earn \$25.50/hour, and field supervisors earn \$29.50/hour. These temporary roles offer flexible hours, paid training, and the chance to positively impact our community — perfect for college students, retirees, or anyone seeking a side hustle. Applications close Friday, Feb. 14. Applicants must be 18 and older and U.S. citizens. For information and to apply, visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/1506/Special-Census-2025](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/1506/Special-Census-2025). ■

# UPCOMING IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF JOHNSTON LIVING MAGAZINE

**Foreign Exchange Students:** Have you hosted a foreign exchange student in the past or are hosting one this year? Share your sharing your home and culture with a student from abroad and what you learned from the experience with our readers. Email [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com) to be included in the April issue. ■

# DSF SPRING AUCTION UPCOMING

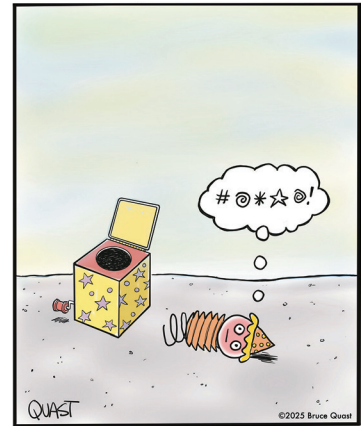
The Dragon Scholarship Fund’s annual Spring Auction is just around the corner, taking place from March 2-8. This key fundraising event is vital in supporting scholarships for Johnston High School seniors, helping them pursue their future goals.

This year’s auction will feature more than \$20,000 in community donations, including items and experiences from dining; entertainment, concerts, theater; sports tickets, memorabilia and activites; health and beauty. Click on the QR code to register as a bidder. New items will be added up until the opening day of the auction. Registering now ensures you will be informed once the site is open for bidding on all items. For more information, visit [www.dragonsf.org](http://www.dragonsf.org). ■



# COMFORTABLY DUMB

By Bruce Quast



“Think outside the box”, they said.



## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**SHIVER ON THE RIVER**

Feb. 15

**Captain Roy's, 1900 Saylor Road, Des Moines***captainroys.com*

Register for the competitions the day before. Featured are turkey bowling, tug of war, ice cooler curling, buck saw and several others. Live music with TOASTER is from 5-8 p.m. "Join your fellow village idiots for Shiver on the River, the premier event for pointless jackassery and top fuel feats of trivial competitions," per Captain Roy's. Sounds like a good time.

**BATTLE OF THE BAGS**

Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Izaak Walton League, 4343 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines***pcaiowa.org*

The Annual Battle of the Bags is back. Grab a friend and some great food and toss bags to compete for bragging rights, prizes, and, most importantly, to benefit kids in Iowa. Teams of two will battle in a bags tournament while supporting Prevent Child Abuse Iowa's mission of providing safe and happy childhoods for Iowa's kids. Must register to enter at <https://buy.stripe.com/28obJD28y3Fp51ScN3>.

**RED FLANNEL RUN**

Feb. 15

**501 Grand Ave., Des Moines**

The Red Flannel Run is the longest, consecutively produced race in the Des Moines area with 1-mile, 5K and 10K options. Wear your favorite red flannel attire and help support the YMCA's mission to strengthen the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Register at [runsignup.com/Race/IA/DesMoines/RedFlannelRun](https://runsignup.com/Race/IA/DesMoines/RedFlannelRun)

**VENDOR MARKETS**

Feb. 15, March 15, April 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Outlets of Des Moines, 801 Bass Pro Drive N.W.,****Suite 315, Altoona**

Each show has a variety of vendors from Avon, Living Oils, Small Town Laser, Unicorn Clouds, MJ's Hometown Honey, 3D by LouAnn, Tupperware, Tastefully Simple, Good Vibrations Gems & Crystals, plus others. Come check out the vendors and buy local. If interested in being a vendor, email [k2marketplacemagic@gmail.com](mailto:k2marketplacemagic@gmail.com) for information.

**DMPA CONCERT SERIES**

Various dates, 7 p.m.

**Temple Theater, 1011 Locust St., Des Moines**

Des Moines Performing Arts (DMPA) is excited to announce a new concert series. "Made in the Midwest" highlights the artistry of local musicians in the intimate Temple Theater. Celebrating the talents of independent artists from across our region, guests will enjoy a unique experience where the musicians take center stage in a venue known for its unparalleled acoustic quality.

The series will kick off with five artists just announced.

- **Feb. 14:** Brad & Kate, Pop/Folk
- **Feb. 15:** The Finesse, soul/pop
- **March 21:** Matt Woods, roots/blues
- **April 25:** Allegra Hernandez, rock
- **May 9:** Abbie Sawyer, folk/americana

The Finesse and Abbie Sawyer will be performing songs from their latest album releases, giving audiences the chance to hear their new music live for the first time. Tickets are on sale now starting at \$20/show. You can purchase tickets by visiting [DMPA.org](https://DMPA.org), calling 515-246-2300, or stopping by the Civic Center Ticket Office at 221 Walnut St. You can also purchase tickets night of at the Temple Theater Ticket Office, 1011 Locust St., starting two hours before a performance.

**BONDU CHOWDER RIDE**

Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.

**101 Main St. S.E., Bondurant**

Enjoy a free, easy winter ride from Bondurant to Berwick and back on the Chichaqua Valley Trail. ■

## RECIPE

# A HEARTY MEAL IN MINIATURE FORM

*(Family Features)* Perfect for any occasion — from family dinners to football watch parties — these mini beef Wellingtons pair nicely with mashed potatoes and green beans or can be served as an easy appetizer before the big game. It's a downsized version of a hearty favorite that'll leave everyone asking for more. ■

## MINI BEEF WELLINGTONS

*Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"*

### Mushroom Sauce:

- 1 can (14 ounces) mushrooms
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 8 ounces beef tenderloin steaks, cubed
- 1 package (17 ounces, 2 sheets) puff pastry
- water
- garlic and herb spreadable cheese
- 1 package (2 1/2 ounces) real bacon pieces
- mashed potatoes, for serving

### Directions:

To make mushroom sauce: In blender, blend mushrooms and



chicken broth; set aside.

In skillet over medium heat, melt butter and mix in flour. Slowly add mushroom broth while stirring. It should start to thicken; if it doesn't, add 1 tablespoon flour and stir well.

Add garlic powder and salt and pepper, to taste. Mix in heavy cream while continuing to stir. Remove from heat and set aside.

Heat oven to 400 F.

Cube steaks and place in bowl then cover and mix well with 1 cup mushroom sauce.

Cut each puff pastry into six squares

for 12 total. Use water to moisten each corner of squares and bring them together, forming small box shape. Place 1 heaping tablespoon meat mixture into each pastry square.

Place squares on parchment paper-covered cookie sheets and bake 15 minutes.

Spoon spreadable cheese over hot squares and top with bacon pieces.

Serve with mashed potatoes and use leftover mushroom sauce as gravy.

Serve with French bread or breadsticks.

## IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

515-252-4531

### HOURS:

SUNDAY: CLOSED  
MONDAY: CLOSED  
TUES. - FRI.: 9AM - 3PM  
SATURDAY: 10AM - 2PM

AT CAMP DODGE ★ 7105 NW 70th STREET, JOHNSTON



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR & TOWING 515-251-5839

70% of women will outlive men by 10-15 years

**DOES YOUR HUSBAND HAVE ENOUGH LIFE INSURANCE?**

**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**TIMOTHY OSBORNE**  
515-333-7182

# SEEN IN JOHNSTON

**FAREWAY STORES, INC. HELD AN OPEN HOUSE AT ITS NEW CORPORATE OFFICE LOCATION, 8800 N.W. 62ND AVE., JOHNSTON, ON JAN. 28.**



Mayor Paula Dierenfeld, Bret Wiltse and Paula Bierle



Tricia Gustafson, Leif Gustafson and Dan Fitzgerald



Andrea Hodapp and Annie Mielke

## POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION

Visit [polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/events/](http://polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/events/) for information about upcoming programs offered by Polk County Conservation and for registration links.



### STORY TELLEBRATION

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Feb. 19, Owl Moon; March 19, Spring is Sprung; April 23, It's Raining. Join volunteer storyteller Carmen Epstein for a fun, interactive tale tailored toward children ages 2 to 6 that explores the wonders of the outdoors. During each program, participants enjoy interactive stories and an activity. No registration required for this free event. ■

## 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**

LIST 50 WORDS OR LESS FOR FREE.

**AMEGA** CALL US  
**GARAGE DOORS** 515-633-2119  
**& OPENERS, INC.** [AmegaGarageDoors.com](http://AmegaGarageDoors.com)

**YOUR EXPERT SOURCE FOR GARAGE DOORS**  
 REPAIRS • NEW DOORS • OPENERS

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE DIGITAL EDITION OF JOHNSTON LIVING MAGAZINE FREE!**

Scan the code below, or visit [www.iowalivingmagazines.com](http://www.iowalivingmagazines.com).