

# JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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## SEEN IN JOHNSTON



**100 WOMEN WHO CARE SUPPORT DOROTHY'S HOUSE:** On Feb. 20, Northwest Metro (Johnston and Grimes) 100 Women Who Care presented Dorothy's House with a check for \$6,110. If you want to learn more about this group, reach out to someone you know in this picture. Dorothy's House is a safe place for survivors of human trafficking, exploitation and prostitution to discover their healing journeys through the practice of life. Customized programs are designed to provide complete support for all survivors, regardless of race or gender. ■

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**WED. HIGH 51 | LOW 30**  
Mostly cloudy and cooler



**THURS. HIGH 55 | LOW 32**  
Breezy with plenty of sun



**FRI. HIGH 61 | LOW 32**  
Intervals of clouds and sunshine



**SAT. HIGH 46 | LOW 26**  
Mostly sunny and cooler



**SUN. HIGH 43 | LOW 26**  
Mostly cloudy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# 'SURE IS WEATHER WE ARE HAVING'

The phrase in the above headline comes from my friend Ian. It is his go-to comment, regardless of the weather at hand. Snow. Wind. Rain. Heat. It doesn't matter. It sure is weather we are having. Yes, Ian, it sure is.

I was out of the state for a few days during the weather we were recently having here in Iowa, and I was sad I missed it. As many of you know, I love the snow. It is part of Iowa weather. The change of seasons is refreshing to me, and I wouldn't have it any other way. To be honest, I couldn't wait to get home to the cold temps and fresh snow. I have my long johns on now, and I am enjoying it. And now, of course, the snow is gone.

I realize many of you don't share my fondness for Iowa's winters. Some of you pull the blinds, lock the doors and hibernate for the season, only venturing out when you have to. You are told by the weather forecasters that it is "treacherous" out there, so you stay home. For some of you, that makes sense. If you are 83 years old and are worried about slipping on the

sidewalk and breaking a hip, by all means, stay home. But if you feel young and are healthy and can operate a snow shovel, disregard the scare tactics of the local media and get to work. Many of you have read my rants on this before, but I have a new suggestion, and it starts with an FCC fine of \$5,000 each time a weather forecaster unnecessarily uses the word "treacherous." A few inches of snow is not treacherous. It is Iowa winter conditions, and it happens.

So, what is treacherous? Let's start with the official definitions:

1. Guilty of or characterized by betrayal of confidence or trust; perfidious.
2. Characterized by unforeseen or hidden hazards; dangerous or deceptive.
3. Like a traitor; involving treachery; violating allegiance or faith pledged; traitorous to the state or sovereign; perfidious in private life; betraying a trust; faithless.



I don't see anything in there about a few inches of snow being treacherous. A poisonous snake under your bedsheet is treacherous. An F4 tornado heading toward your home is treacherous. A faulty brake line on your car is treacherous. And, by definition, those who betray our confidence or trust are treacherous. At least in my world, weather forecasters who continually use the word treacherous seem to be treacherous.

Yes, each one of our situations is different, and we all have to use our own common sense when dealing with winter weather in Iowa. In the meantime, I encourage you to put a smile on your face and enjoy all of the elements, because it sure is weather we are having.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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# SEEN IN JOHNSTON



**ONE BIG TABLE:** Johnston Partnership held its annual One Big Table fundraising event on Feb. 20 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston. The event featured 28 silent auction items and four live auction items. The event had 142 people in attendance. Thank you to everyone that volunteered countless hours to make this a successful event. The board gathered for a photo in the event's photo booth. ■

## 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 and theater; sports tickets, memorabilia and activities; to 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). ■



## VALENTINES FOR PUPS WRAPS UP

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 home-made 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](mailto:info@woofpackresort.com). ■

## IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM PROGRAMS

**Saturday, March 1, 11 a.m.,**

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Presents Author Enfy's McMurry, who will be discussing her book, "Disaster at 39,000: How Small-Town America Came Together at a Time of Crisis." In May 1962, a plane fell from the sky over the heartland of America — Centerville and Unionville, Missouri, shaking the confidence of airline passengers nationwide. McMurry will discuss her extensive research and the minute-by-minute account of the final moments of Continental Airlines Flight 11. Books will be available for signing by the author. ■

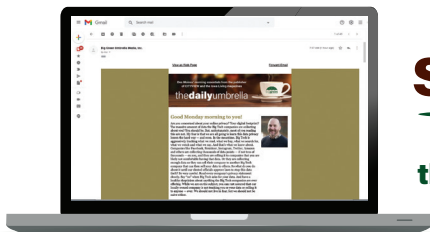
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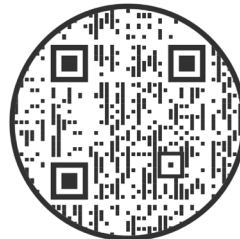
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## POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION EVENTS

Visit <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/events/> for information about upcoming programs offered by Polk County Conservation and for registration links.

### SUNSET YOGA

Wednesdays, Feb. 26, 6 p.m.; Monday, March 24, 7 p.m.; Monday, April 21, 7:30 a.m., Jester Park Nature Center. Registration due one day in advance. Cost is \$15. Program for ages 12 and older. Take time to unwind as the sun sets inside the Great Hall of the Jester Park Nature Center. This gentle yoga class will focus on creating a mind and body nature connection as the sun sets. This Rooted in Nature program is offered in sponsorship with UnityPoint. Items to bring: yoga mat and block, comfortable clothing and water bottle.

### PRESSED FLOWER BOOKMARKS WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 1, 1 p.m., Athene North Shore Recreation Area Event Building, Easter Lake. Registration due by Feb. 27. Cost is \$5. Program for ages 10 and older. Celebrate Read Across America and discover the beauty of nature through art. Participants will learn how to press and preserve flowers, then create stunning bookmarks. At the end of the workshop, each participant will leave with a beautiful, handcrafted bookmark perfect for spring reading.

### OLDER, WISER, LIVELIER, SENIORS - RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Tuesday, March 4, 11 a.m., Jester Park Nature Center. Ruby-throated hummingbirds help us mark the changing of the seasons in Iowa as they arrive in spring and depart in fall. Learn some amazing facts about these small, but mighty, feathered friends. Focus will be placed on their annual migration as well as the ever-increasing impacts of climate change on their survival. Looking for an excuse to get out of the house, make some new friends, and learn about the exciting world of nature? These programs are held the first Tuesday of each month. This free program is for ages 12 and older. No registration required.

### STORY TELLEBRATION

Wednesdays at 10 a.m., 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. ■

## 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, applesauce cups, pet food and winter coats (all ages/all sizes).

Donations can be dropped off at 5870 Merle Hay Road, Suite C, Johnston, during open hours. For more information, visit <https://johnstonpartnership.org/donate/>. ■

### Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"We're gonna need an organ donor!"

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Email your news by Friday at 5 p.m. to: [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com) or call 515-953-4822, ext. 302

## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

### SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

March 7-9

**Varied Industries Building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines**

More than 250 talented exhibitors from eight different states will be selling thousands of unique, handmade products. Admission is \$7 for anyone older than 10. Kids 10 and younger are free. Hours are 5-9 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, find the event Facebook page by searching "Callahan Promotions, Inc., Iowa's Largest Arts & Crafts Shows."

### CAP THEATRE PRESENTS "DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR"

Through March 2

**CAP Theatre, 201 First Ave. S., Altoona**

Featuring 28 youth actors on the Melissa Grooters Stage, CAP Theatre presents "Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR." Friday shows begin at 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors and \$10 for students. Class Act Productions (CAP) Theatre is a children's community theatre in Altoona that strives to give young people, regardless of experience, the opportunity to be part of and appreciate live theatre.

### "MEN ON BOATS"

Through March 2

**Des Moines Playhouse, 831 42nd St., Des Moines**

Tickets for "Men on Boats" may be purchased online at [dmpplayhouse.com](http://dmpplayhouse.com), by phone at 515-277-6261, and at The Playhouse ticket office. The year: 1869. The crew: a maniacally talkative youth, an old Civil War vet who doesn't like people, an overexcited Brit, and a hunter who wears only beaver skins, to name just a few. Led by John Wesley Powell, a one-armed crazy-faced explorer with an excitable soul, this motley bunch faces treacherous Colorado River rapids and the unexplored American frontier. Governed by ambition, hunger, and

downright insanity, they must decide when to press on and when to give in to the dangers of exploration. Note: This play contains adult language. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. A pre-show talk is 30 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets start at \$29. ASL translations can be provided with advance notice. These services are free and reasonable accommodations will be made. Requests should be made through The Playhouse ticket office. Closed captioning is available using the GalaPro app.

### ELKS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 15, 5:30 p.m.

**West Des Moines Elks No. 2752**

**2060 N.W. 94th St., Clive**

The Elks Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration will begin with the Foy School of Irish Dancers performing at 5:45 p.m. They will perform for about 20 minutes, followed by the Elks' famous St. Paddy's Day corn beef and cabbage with Irish potatoes meal for \$12 per serving.

### 2025 FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK PRE-PARTY AND PARADE

March 15 and March 17

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is back with its St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Join them on Saturday, March 15, from 2-6 p.m. at The Shop DSM, 901 Cherry St., Des Moines, for a Pre-Paddy Party, featuring live music from Black Dirt Ramblers, a food truck and cash bar for an at-will donation. The parade is on Monday, March 17, and begins at noon. Participants will proceed from E. First Street, west on Grand Avenue to Eighth Street, with the parade officially ending at Eighth and Grand Avenue. The after party will be in the Des Moines Marriott Downtown Hotel. Visit [www.friendlysonsiowa.com](http://www.friendlysonsiowa.com) for more information. ■

## RECIPE

# A LOADED CASSEROLE THAT'S QUICK AND COMFORTING

*(Family Features)* It's tough to beat an easy dinner that's equal parts comforting, convenient and delicious. This loaded hamburger potato casserole is no exception. Just brown ground beef then mix in a casserole dish with potatoes, bacon, cheese and more before baking for an hour. ■

## LOADED HAMBURGER POTATO CASSEROLE

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Servings: 4-6

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground hamburger
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 bag (1 1/2 pounds) tri-colored baby potatoes
- 1 can (10 ounces) cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup fried onions (optional)
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 1/2 ounces bacon pieces
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- chives or green onions, for topping

### Directions:

Heat oven to 375 F.

In skillet over medium heat, brown ground beef with garlic powder; drain and set aside.



Cut potatoes into small pieces. In casserole dish, mix beef; potatoes; soup; sour cream; milk; fried onions, if desired; cheese; and bacon pieces

Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bake, covered, 50 minutes then uncover and bake 10 minutes.

Top with chives or green onions.

## IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

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## CRAZY 8 PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Kiwanis clubs of Johnston and West Des Moines are hosting a Crazy 8 Pickleball Tournament March 1, beginning at 9 a.m. at Dinks Pickleball, 3800 Merle Hay Road, Johnston. Play for fun or at a competitive level. Groups of eight, with a guaranteed seven games of play. Cost is \$30 per player with proceeds going toward the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund. Prizes from Dinks and Fareway will be awarded. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3y3bjz85>, email [wdmkiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:wdmkiwanis@gmail.com) or call 515-321-6607. ■



## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR KITES ON THE GREEN

Johnston Kites on the Green will be held Saturday, May 3, and volunteers are being sought. Come help at this annual kite festival, which includes public kite flying, professional kite flyers demonstrations, kids kite building, music and more. Lots of help is needed to make this event successful, and multiple shifts are available. Among other things, volunteers may be asked to help kids/families build kites, assist at special activities, staff information or donation booths, etc. Johnston Kite's on the Green is organized by the City of Johnston and the Johnston Public Library Foundation, which is an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Sign up at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/222356076083/false#/invitation.> ■

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**JOKE OF THE WEEK**

 Why did the cell phone get glasses?  
*Because she lost all her contacts!*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**FOR SALE:** Sturdy vintage oak parlor table with glass ball and claw feet. Photos and details can be found on the Des Moines Craigs List ([desmoinescraigslist.org](http://desmoinescraigslist.org)) under "Antiques". Table is in great condition, just needs some minor refinishing. Bargain priced at \$135. Call 515-770-2307. No texts please.

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*Living*

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Meet Mariya Whitney EDUCATION

Johnston Climate Change Committee makes impact COMUNITY

Italian crusted salmon with creamy truffle Caesar salad RECIPE

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