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CHAMBER AFTER HOURS JOHNSTON CHAMBER AFTER HOURS WAS HELD FEB. 5 AT MCDIVOT'S INDOOR SPORTS PUB, GRIMES.



Maria Jordan, Samantha Winebrenner and Brenda Ballard



Dale De Jong, Thomas Edwards and Dan Fitzgerald



Lindsey Viet and Paula Bierle



Ryan Rohlf and Kyle Pieper



Sharm Sisler and Kevin McGuire

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 38 | LOW 22
A little snow; otherwise cloudy



THURS. HIGH 38 | LOW 30
Some sun, then turning cloudy



FRI. HIGH 42 | LOW 24
Winter mix; becoming all rain



SAT. HIGH 44 | LOW 27
Plenty of sunshine



SUN. HIGH 59 | LOW 33
Mostly sunny



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

UNFORGETTABLE SOUNDS

You just can't forget some sounds. At least I can't seem to. Most of the ones I hang onto were implanted in my brain as a youth. Even after years of not hearing them, those familiar sounds bring back fond memories.

I was reminded of this recently when hearing the cow-mooing sound from a Fisher Price barn door. If you had that toy as a child, you know exactly what I am referring to.

I also can't seem to forget the annoying buzzer that would go off when I failed on the Operation board game.

I truly enjoyed my Electronic Football handheld game. I would sneak it under my bed sheets and play it at night, only to have my brother in the room next door yell, "Turn it off!" when he would hear the familiar touchdown tune.

Playing Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em

Robots was a pastime in my childhood home. My brother and I would bob and weave and punch those buttons with our thumbs

to try to defeat the other robot by knocking its block off. Boing!

Familiar sounds are not all about toys, though. How about hearing the snow crunch below your feet? Or a fishing line being cast in a lake? Or the "ding, ding" of the bell when driving into a service station?

Most all of us can recognize sounds of certain foods or drinks, too. Bacon sizzling on the griddle. A champagne cork going off. Popcorn popping on the stove. And the sound of fizzy soda poured on ice.

Some familiar sounds are also from technology of days gone by. The screech of internet dial-up. The



clinking of coins dropping in a pay phone. The crackling and hissing of a vinyl record. The clicking of typewriter keys and the ringing bell from the return. And the dreaded sound of tape crinkling in a cassette player.

I also fondly recall the sound of static on the TV when no channels were available after midnight, the dialing sound of a rotary phone, and the familiar intro music to Pac-Man.

Yes, sounds can be meaningful, and I surely missed a few recognizable ones from your memory bank. Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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NOTE: This Johnston Living Weekly newsletter has been available to readers via print and digital editions. More than 89% of the readers now receive the newsletter in a digital format, while 11% continue to read it in print. This will be the last print edition. To continue to receive the Johnston Living Weekly, please sign up for the email edition by pointing your camera on your mobile phone at the QR code on the right. The complete edition can also be viewed online each week at www.iowalivingmagazines.com. Or you can follow Iowa Living magazines on Facebook. Thank you for continuing to read Johnston Living Weekly. ■



JOHNSTON
Living Weekly

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LIONS CLUB BREAKFAST

The Johnston Lions Club's annual Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, April 19, 7-11 a.m., at the Johnston Middle School cafeteria, 6501 N.W. 62nd Ave. Breakfast features pancakes (including gluten-free pancakes), sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$10 at the door, and kids 5 and younger are free. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club service projects. ■

DSF SPRING AUCTION UNDERWAY

The Dragon Scholarship Fund's annual Spring Auction is underway now through March 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 features items and experiences from dining; entertainment, concerts and theater; sports tickets, memorabilia and activities; health and beauty products and much more. Click on the QR code to register as a bidder. For more information, visit www.dragonsf.org. ■



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. ■

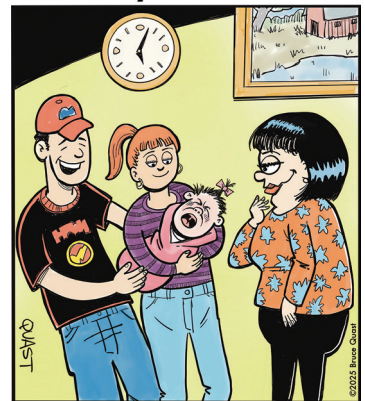
JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

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 named her 'Jennings', because she's always wailin'!"

HISTORY

HISTORY OF JOHNSTON'S HEARD GARDENS

BY MARY JANE PAEZ AND JOHN BROWN

The new LifeServe Blood Center facility at the corner of Merle Hay Road and Johnston Drive replaced what had been an empty corner for many years. However, it once was the location of one of Johnston's largest businesses: Heard Gardens.

Clyde Heard and his wife, Eunice, founded Heard Landscape Services in 1928. Clyde, known for the motto "The right plant in the right place," first ran the nursery and landscaping business from his home on Hickman Road in Des Moines, where he sold bare-root trees and shrubs. His specialties were flowering crabapples and lilacs. After developing a portfolio of landscape projects, including the Iowa State Capitol grounds, Clyde moved the business to Beaver Avenue so it could spread its roots on 5 acres of land.

Clyde's son, Bill Heard, returned to Des Moines in 1939 from the University of Nebraska to work for the family business. Bill later took over the business and purchased 14 acres of land on Merle Hay Road in Johnston, where he moved the nursery in 1956. Heard Gardens was on the north side of what is now Johnston Drive, east of Merle Hay Road.

Bill and his wife, Kay, lived in a house on the property. Bill was active in the Men's Garden Club of America and served as president of the National Landscape Association. He also served as a landscape advisor for the White House grounds under four U.S. presidents. He created and



Bill Heard created and registered the Clyde Heard Lilac.

registered the Clyde Heard Lilac and the Green Columnar Maple tree.

Many of his horticulture books and pictures are now in the Johnston (Station) Historical Society archives.

Bob Rennebohm and his wife, MaryAnne, purchased Heard Gardens Ltd. in 1991. Over the next 16 years, the couple preserved the company's reputation as Des Moines' premier landscape architectural design firm. Heard Gardens was known for having the largest selection of unique and high-quality plant material and won many local and national landscape design awards. Heard Gardens was also recognized in *The New York Times*, *Midwest Living*, *Fine Gardening*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and *Landscape Architecture*.

In addition to Heard Gardens, several other nurseries operated in Johnston, causing the Chamber of Commerce to call its annual summer festival "Green Days."

In 2001, Heard Gardens moved to West Des Moines, when Wright Service Corp. purchased Heard Gardens and merged its landscaping business and Wright Tree Care's residential tree care business to form Wright Outdoor Solutions.

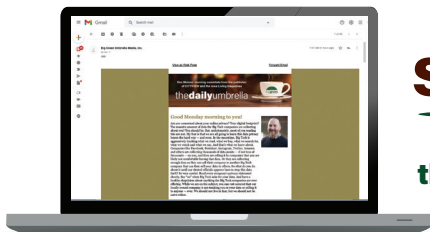
This information is taken from the records at the Johnston Historical Society 1902 Simpson House Museum. The Johnston Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to discovering, preserving and presenting the history of the Johnston, Iowa area. Founded in 1994, JHS maintains the 1902 Simpson House Museum at 6161 Northglenn Drive in Johnston. That museum is open for selected community events and by appointment. Please consider supporting the Society by becoming a member, a volunteer, a benefactor or making a donation of historical items. ■

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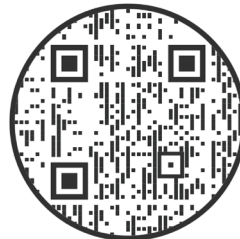
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EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR"**

March 7-23

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

The Des Moines Playhouse presents the Broadway musical "Jesus Christ Superstar." Tickets may be purchased online at dmplayhouse.com and by phone at 515-277-6261. "Jesus Christ Superstar" tells the story of Jesus in the final days leading up to his crucifixion. Loosely based on the Gospels, Superstar focuses on the conflicts between Jesus, his disciples, the people of Israel, and the leadership of Rome. Told by his wavering disciple and ultimate betrayer, Judas, the rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice features such songs as "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane" and "Superstar." Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets start at \$29.

The IRIS SensationTeam will provide audio description for the 2 p.m., Sunday, March 16, performance. The Playhouse offers closed captioning for this show. These services are free. Requests should be made through The Playhouse ticket office.

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 for more information.

DSM BOOK FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Franklin Event Center**4801 Franklin Ave., Des Moines**

Readers and book lovers in central Iowa will be thrilled to find an outstanding array of authors appearing at this free, fun-filled event, presented by Beaverdale Books and Beaverdale Neighborhood Association. In addition to author programs, panels, workshops and children's activities, the event will offer attendees the opportunity to have their books signed, visit with publishers, and enjoy mingling with fellow book lovers. For the complete schedule, visit <https://beaverdalebooks.com/dsmbookfestival/>.

Four headlining presentations will be offered in the venue's large theater, including fiction writer Claire Lombardo, historian Alexis Coe, award-winning Hanif Abdurraqib and AVID author C.J. Box.

DOME AFTER DARK

Fridays through March, 6-10 p.m.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden**909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines**dmbotanicalgarden.com

The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's lush tropical conservatory and Gardeners Show House are colorfully illuminated for Dome After Dark. Flora, the botanical garden's restaurant, serves food and drinks till 9 p.m. ■

RECIPE

SAVORY FAVORITE TO MAKE ST. PATRICK'S DAY SPECIAL

(Family Features) While some St. Patrick's Day celebrations call for green beer and large gatherings, you may instead opt for a cozy evening at home with comforting foods and close friends. Whether your shamrock spirit leads you out for a local parade or you're more of a stay-at-home leprechaun, there is one tradition all can agree on: delicious Irish food.

A hearty home-cooked meal loaded with flavor and sure to fill you with cheer, Irish beef and beer pot pie is made piping hot to warm up any St. Patrick's Day party. Full of hashbrowns, carrots, peas and beef, it's a twist on tradition served with puff pastry topping the tasty stew. A cup of your favorite stout beer, of course, will come in handy for deglazing the skillet to ensure you enjoy every bit of beefy flavor. ■

IRISH BEEF AND BEER POT PIE

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

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 cup stout beer
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato puree
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 cup beef broth
- 1 bag (28 ounces) hashbrowns with peppers and onions
- 1 can (14 ounces) carrots, drained
- 1 can (14 ounces) peas, drained
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 sheet puff pastry, thawed
- 1 egg



Directions:

Heat oven to 400 F.
In large skillet or Dutch oven, brown ground beef; drain and set aside.

Over medium heat, deglaze skillet with beer and whisk in flour. After thickening, whisk in tomato puree and add Worcestershire sauce. Mix in ground beef, garlic

powder and beef broth. Add hashbrowns, carrots and peas. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Simmer 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Place puff pastry sheet on cookie sheet. Beat egg and brush over pastry. Bake 10 minutes. Place hot puff pastry on top of beef mixture and serve.

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HOURS:

SUNDAY: CLOSED
MONDAY: CLOSED
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SATURDAY: 10AM - 2PM

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POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION EVENTS

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

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. ■

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



I told my doctor that I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places!

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Soft side car topper for traveling. Used it once. Paid \$100. Will take \$75. Call or text 641-530-4659.

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) under "Antiques". Table is in great condition, just needs some minor refinishing. Bargain priced at \$95. Call 515-770-2307. No texts please.

SERVICE: Quality home cleaning by insured individual. Call 515.675.8144.

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.

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JOHNSTON FEBRUARY 2025

Living

A Special BOND

Local grandparents share why being close to their grandkids is so important to them.

Meet Marilyn Whitney EDUCATION

Johnston Climate Change Committee makes impact COMMUNITY

Italian crusted salmon with creamy truffle Caesar salad RECIPES

WAR S DEALS ON FEB 22

