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Christmas facts

From www.history.com

- Each year, 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States alone. There are about 21,000 Christmas tree growers in the United States, and trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- In the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous — a lot like today's Mardi Gras parties.
- When Christmas was cancelled: From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law-breakers were fined five shillings.
- Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.
- The first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.
- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red-and-green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.
- The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Claus-clad donation collectors into the streets since the 1890s.
- Rudolph, "the most famous reindeer of all," was the product of Robert L. May's imagination in 1939. The copywriter wrote a poem about the reindeer to help lure customers into the Montgomery Ward department store.
- Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition in 1931.

Learn more about the History of Christmas at <https://www.history.com/>

5-DAY FORECAST

TUESDAY HIGH 39 | LOW 17
Sunny, breezy in the afternoon



WEDNESDAY HIGH 43 | LOW 29
Mostly sunny



THURSDAY HIGH 52 | LOW 37
Sunshine, mild



FRIDAY HIGH 61 | LOW 27
Sunny, breezy in the afternoon



SATURDAY HIGH 46 | LOW 26
Mostly sunny



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

A GREAT LIBRARY CONTAINS SOMETHING TO OFFEND EVERYONE

“Ban that book. I don’t agree with it. No, not that book. I agree with that one. Keep it. Just get rid of the ones I don’t like.”

Sound familiar? That is exactly what is going on right now in school districts across America and right here in central Iowa.

Yes, book banning has been a hot subject as of late, especially with the changing of the guard on many local public school boards. Those who want certain books removed have legitimate points — at least from their perspective — but I fear that these efforts are damaging to free speech and, ironically, resulting in the opposite of what the book banners’ intentions are. Let me explain.

First, there should be a clear distinction between books in a public school library and books used for instructional purposes in classrooms. Books used for instructional purposes should be evaluated, scrutinized and carefully selected. Most public

school districts have curriculum processes in place to address this. You have every right to inquire about that process and judge it appropriately, but banning books that are simply available in a public school library is another matter.

Second, most of us read to learn, to exercise our brains and to grow our knowledge of a particular subject. With that in mind, how much will we learn by only reading books that fall in line with our own opinions? And how can we expect young people to grow by limiting access to all kinds of ideas?

Third, tell a child not to do something, and you can bet that the youngster will do all he or she can to explore it further. I guarantee that most any banned book will be read more after the banning than before. Believe it or not, there is this thing called the



Internet that kids are using today, regardless of what is or isn’t in a library.

And finally, it’s OK to be exposed to things we don’t agree with. Those differing views create healthy debates that we all learn from, and that includes our youth.

So if you don’t agree with books used for classroom instruction, let your voice be heard. You might want to serve on a committee or even run for school board, but we shouldn’t limit a child’s access to books that simply don’t fall in line with a certain person’s points of view. As Jo Godwin said, “A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone.” As it should.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman

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Publisher

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JOKE OF THE WEEK



Which days are the strongest?
Saturday and Sunday.
The rest are weekdays!

GVSS OFFERS LOANS OF DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Those with a need for durable medical equipment can call GVSS to see if the organization has that equipment available for loan. If in stock, it is available to borrow free of charge for as long as it is needed. For information, call 515-986-5355.

GVSS has crutches, walkers, canes, shower chairs and benches, quad canes, manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, bath scales, elevated toilet seats, bed rails, toilet safety rails, and power lift recliners. GVSS will clean, repair (if necessary), inventory, maintain and provide at no charge, loan of equipment to clients who have a need.

Donations of equipment are appreciated. If you have equipment you'd like to donate, call 515-986-5355 to schedule a time to deliver it to the GVSS office or to have it picked it up. ■

GRIMES PUBLIC LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Adult Book Club, Jan. 4, 5:30 p.m. This book club is for ages 18 and older and meets the first Tuesday evening of every month. Stop by the Library to pick up "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi.

Storytime at Home, Jan. 8. Pick up your storytime kit starting at 9 a.m. Kits will include rhymes, props and a craft for our live storytime via Zoom at 10 a.m. (link available on the website calendar and Facebook event.) Can't make it live? The storytime recording will be available until the end of day.

Family Thursdays: DIY Hand Warmers Grab and Go Kit. Stop by the Library to pick up your kit while supplies last.

Tail Waggin' Readers, Jan. 15, 9-11 a.m. Kids are invited to strengthen their reading skills with 15 minutes of reading aloud and 5 minutes of play with therapy dog Liesl. This event will take place inside and is limited to one child at a time. Call the library to reserve a spot.

Teen Tuesdays: Perler Beads, Jan. 18, 4 p.m. Join us at the Library as we get creative with Perler beads. This program is geared toward tween and teen patrons (ages 9-18). ■

DC-G SCHEDULES

Tuesday, Dec. 21

4:45 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls JV 1 @ Johnston

4:45 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys 10th Grade @ Johnston

6:15 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys 9th Grade @ Johnston

6:15 p.m. **Basketball:** Girls Varsity @ Johnston

7:45 p.m. **Basketball:** Boys Varsity @ Johnston

PREMIUM AD SPOT AVAILABLE
Contact Dan Juffer at dan.juffer@dmcityview.com

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SNOW REMOVAL

 • Can be done in AM, PM within 24-48 hours.
Grimes Volunteer Support Services, Inc. **515-986-5355**

DAILY MEALS FOR SENIORS

The Grimes Senior Center is open to the public. Two seatings are offered for lunch: 11-11:45 a.m. and 12-12:45 p.m. Clients will receive a symptom screening when they enter the meal site. Clients will need to make a reservation for the slot they want. If you are not able or wanting to dine inside, or if all serving times are at capacity, there will be an option for to-go meals. This will be available after the last serving time every day and will be picked up inside. A reservation is required to have a meal available and the same screening and mask requirements apply. GVSS clients will need to make the reservation and call to schedule transportation. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Heavyweight Ashley dining table, seats 8, 4 matching chairs and 2 bench seats \$475. London brand queen-size sleeper sofa, upholstered fabric \$450. 3-tier pie crust table \$275. Large wooden garden table on wheels - 2 shelves under work top and 3 small shelves on side \$175. Oreck bagged vacuum cleaner with 8 bags \$75. Bagged Iron Man canister vacuum with 5 bags \$50. Call 515-478-4594. Please leave a message.

FOR SALE: 2 used Magic Gumball floor dispensers with lighted spiral Gumball delivery. 1 red, 1 yellow. Both need some rewiring to light them up. Keys included. \$100 each, originally \$600. Located in Grimes, IA. Call 515-772-9287.

BUSINESS FOR SALE: Medical Equipment, Supplies and Bracing Business. Provides a variety of bracing and support products for a diverse customer base recovering from sports injuries or suffering from chronic pain. Owner is looking to retire. Asking Price: \$250,000. Call Wayne Appleton 641-799-3240.

BUSINESS FOR SALE: Plumbing & HVAC business for sale in Fairfield Iowa. Excellent business with a backlog of work and high revenue. Lots of potential and room to grow with the business. Owner looking to retire. Asking Price \$600,000. Call Wayne Appleton 641-799-3240.

FOR SALE: Three wheel double baby/toddler Stroller. \$35. Call or text for photos. 515-238-3198.

FOR SALE: 2005 Saturn Relay FWD. Gold with Gold leather interior. Fully loaded/Quad seating/Multi Disk CD player/DVD. 213,000 miles. Asking \$750.00. Call 515-238-3198. Located 5 miles from Grimes.

BABY BED FOR SALE: Has changing table on one end, 5 drawers for storage. Well Built. Needs a home to put it to use. Call 515-238-3198.

WANTED: Broken appliances & A.C.'s, 10 years old & under, repair hopefuls. Call 515-238-3343.

LOOKING TO BUY: Vinyl Records. Will pay cash for your 60, 70's and 80's rock as well as jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

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