

# JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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## KITES ON THE GREEN



The Johnston Commons — and the sky above — were splashed with color during Kites on the Green May 6. Kite shows and battles, kids activities, and kite-making were enjoyed, among other activities. *Photo by Mike Chiston.*

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**TUES. HIGH 78 | LOW 53**  
Warmer; variable clouds



**WED. HIGH 78 | LOW 58**  
A t-storm in the p.m.



**THURS. HIGH 78 | LOW 57**  
A shower and a t-storm



**FRI. HIGH 68 | LOW 47**  
Not as warm; breezy



**SAT. HIGH 72 | LOW 48**  
Sunny and pleasant



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# NO FENCES

“No Fences” was a 1990 album by Garth Brooks that reached No. 1 on Billboard’s Top Country Albums chart. In a world where we commonly separate ourselves from each other with fences, his choice for this album title had a deeper meaning.

Consider this. According to [grandviewresearch.com](http://grandviewresearch.com), the U.S. fencing market was estimated at \$8.2 billion in 2021 and was expected to expand at 5% per year from 2022 to 2030. That’s a lot of fences.

The site says the growth can be accredited to the availability of high-quality materials, consumer affordability, and varied designs and is primarily driven by factors such as increasing housing construction and growing demand from end-user industries such as the residential, industrial and agricultural sectors. But there is more to it than that.

Fences made sense when early pioneers needed a way to gather and hold livestock. Those fences changed the West from vast

prairies to a land of farming and settlements. They were a necessity, but, interestingly enough, the Native Americans seemed to survive just fine without them — until the barbed-wire fence changed their lives dramatically.

Michael Kelly twisted two wires together and formed a cable for barbs known as the “thorny fence.” This design made fences stronger and forced cattle to keep their distance. Joseph Glidden improved on this with a simple wire barb locked onto a double-strand wire. As a result of the mass use of barbed-wire, the lives of the nomadic Native Americans were radically altered. Just imagine how they discovered barbed wire, or what they called “the Devil’s rope.”

Today, we construct fences to distance ourselves from outsiders, both in our rural areas and in our cities. But why? Is it because we are



not as willing to share? Is it because we are too territorial? It is out of fear? Or is it simply because we are packing too many people in too small of an area? I tend to think it is mostly the latter.

Some people say we need more fences. Others say they are unnecessary. In many ways, it may be difficult to imagine a world without fences. But, if you are really curious what it would be like, venture across the wide swaths of land in Montana.

Fences may be great for keeping animals in place. But people? As a society, I would like to think we could learn from the Native Americans and make “No Fences” more than an album title.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

**Shane Goodman**

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# SEEN IN JOHNSTON

**THE JOHNSTON CHAMBER EDUCATOR APPRECIATION EVENT WAS HELD MAY 3 AT THE CAMP DODGE FREEDOM CENTER.**



The 2023 Planning Committee: Paula Bierle, Jenni Buchanan, Brooke Ruddy, Michael Tiffany and Andrea Hodapp. Not pictured, Brenda Ballard



Chris James, Justin Russell, Derek Trobaugh and AJ Gordon



Julie Dodd and Angie Butler



Stephanie Toot and Dawn Canova



Sharon Vickery and Paula Bierle



Nathan Shivers and Mary Dunn-Hayward



Michael Tiffany and Annie Mielke

## IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

515-252-4531

### HOURS:

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

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## EVENTS IN THE AREA

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## CARLISLE BIKE NIGHTS

Third Saturdays through September, 5-10 p.m.  
School Street, Downtown Carlisle

Bike Nights will be hosted by the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce along with music, raffles, beverages and food from Carlisle restaurants. May 20 features music by Joe Inman. June 17 features Richard Arndt; July 15 features Joe Inman; Aug. 19 features Luke Farland; and Sept. 16 features Adam Whitehead. Activities include Best Bike Contest and Best Audio Contest May 20 and Sept. 16. Prize is a free oil change donated by Smart Sound and Cycling. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the evening, even if you don't have a bike!

CAMP DODGE SUMMER  
CONCERT SERIES 2023

These free concerts are held Thursdays in June from 7-9 p.m. at the Pool Complex at Camp Dodge. Food trucks will be serving starting at 6 p.m. Entertainment on June 1 is Jason Brown; June 8, Standing Hampton, along with a car show; June 22, Pianopalooza Dueling Pianos; and June 29, 34th Army Band will perform for Alumni Night.

## MORE EVENTS

**May 19-20:** Greenbelt Music Festival in Clive just off the Greenbelt Trail will feature headliners Jameson Rodgers and The Infamous Stringdusters to kick off



Greenbelt Music Festival

warm weather returning to the state.

**May 20:** Mid America Cage Bird Society will host a Feather Fair at Merle Hay Mall, 3850 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$4 adults and \$1 children. Look for the raffle table. Birds and bird-related items will be for sale and a bake sale held. Mid America Cage Bird Society is a nonprofit.

**May 20-21:** Spring Fling Sleepy Hollow Renaissance Faire. A weekend in the past at Iowa's only permanent renaissance village will see events of old such as jousting, circus acts and live music. 4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines; [www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com/#/select](http://www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com/#/select)

**May 21:** Des Moines Community Orchestra performs its spring concert with a salute to the Big Bands and a tribute to Duke Ellington at 2 p.m. at Sheslow Auditorium, 2507 University Ave., Des Moines.

**May 21:** Valley Junction Arts Festival will be held in the 100-200 Blocks of Fifth Street, West Des Moines. The Valley Junction Art Committee has helped give the public the opportunity to meet, interact with and purchase original work by more than 50 artists.

**May 23:** Urbandale Summer Performance Series invites the public to enjoy a free concert featuring The Rivieras starting at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Bring a lawn chair and relax. Held at Charles Gabus Memorial Tree Park, 3400 86th St., Urbandale.

**May 26-27:** CelebrAsian. Celebrate the largest Asian American event in Iowa as this festival will bring a wealth of Asian history, food, performances and other activities that will allow all to experience much that Asian culture has to offer. Held at Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines.

**June 4:** 13th Annual Garden Art Show starts at noon, 4320 Franklin Ave., Des Moines. Mature shade trees and ornamental plantings provide a natural showcase for works in all types of media — pottery, paintings, jewelry, sculpture, tie-dye, metal, glass beads, mosaics and sculpture. ■

## RECIPE

# FRESH SUMMER FLAVORS FIT FOR THE PATIO

*(Family Features)* Gatherings in the summer sun are all about easy, convenient recipes combined with the joy warm weather brings. Keeping cooking simple means more time on the patio or in the backyard engaging with guests, and these Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads let home chefs skip complicated kitchen duties without skimping on flavor.

When dining outdoors with family, friends and neighbors, there are few things better than a tasty dish the whole family can enjoy — like these Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads.

Perfect for al fresco entertaining when served alongside a fresh salad, they're simple to make and allow guests to personalize with preferred toppings before popping in the oven. As a colorful and fresh dish, it's an ideal meal for get-togethers on the patio. ■

## CHIPOTLE CHICKEN FLATBREADS

*Recipe adapted from [butteryourbiscuit.com](http://butteryourbiscuit.com)*

### Sauce:

- 2 flatbreads
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 clove garlic, diced
- 4 chicken tenders, cooked and cubed
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup ranch dressing
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chipotle seasoning
- 2 tablespoons cilantro leaves, chopped

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Place parchment paper on baking sheet and add flatbreads. Sprinkle cheese on flatbreads. Top with garlic, chicken and tomatoes. Season with salt and



pepper, to taste. Bake 16 minutes until cheese is melted.

In small bowl, mix ranch and chipotle seasoning.

Drizzle ranch dressing on flatbreads and sprinkle with cilantro leaves.



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## VIETNAM LIVING HISTORY EVENT

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum will host a Vietnam Living History event featuring displays of Vietnam gear and equipment, a CH-47 helicopter flyover, Vietnam War-era military vehicles, military police patrol boat, and museum tours. The event is June 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and June 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the museum, located at 7015 N.W. 70th Ave., Johnston. ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides personal hygiene products to those in need. Currently, the organization is in most need of baby formula, baby food, laundry detergent and shampoo. 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. ■

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church – Knights of Columbus Council No. 11643 will serve a hearty pancake breakfast on Sunday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee and juice. Cost is a freewill donation. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity. ■

# GREEN DAYS QUILT AUCTION



The Crown Point Senior Center Sewcial group will be raffling off this beautiful, handmade quilt (84-inches by 76-inches) to benefit the Johnston Partnership food pantry. View the quilt and purchase a raffle ticket June 1-16 at 6300 Pioneer Parkway from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday - Friday. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five. Help the group raise funds to fight hunger by purchasing tickets for this one-of-a-kind piece. ■

## COLLECTING WORN OUT AMERICAN FLAGS

The Knights of Columbus want to collect your worn out American flags for proper disposition. Worn out flags will be given to the VFW and/or American Legion for their flag retirement ceremonies. Flags will be collected at church May 20-21 and May 27-28 at St. Mary of Nazareth, 4600 Meredith Drive. ■





**2023** MEMORIAL DAY

# OBSERVANCE

**MONDAY, MAY 29TH**

MUSEUM LOCATED AT CAMP DODGE

Come out to this family friendly event  
and honor those who sacrificed  
everything so that we can enjoy the  
freedoms we cherish today.

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**LIVE MUSIC | VENDORS**

*Free military style breakfast 6AM-9AM or until gone!*

**Memorial Day Hours: 5am-1pm FREE ADMISSION**



**Iowa Gold Star Military Museum**

**7105 NW 70th Ave, Johnston | (515) 252-4531**

*Photo identification is required for adults (age 16 and older) to gain  
admittance to Camp Dodge (State Issued I.D.)*

# FAMILY FEST IS JUNE 3

Family Fest will be held at the Johnston Town Center on Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities include splash pad, bingo, shuffleboard, face painting, balloon artist and more. Food trucks will be present at the event for you to enjoy the afternoon. This event is free to attendees. More information is available at [www.johnstontowncenter.com/events](http://www.johnstontowncenter.com/events). ■

## GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

The Dragon Scholarship Fund Golf Outing Fundraiser four-person best shot will be Monday, June 19 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start at Jester Park Golf Course. Proceeds support Johnston seniors in their post high school education. Cost, which includes 18 hole green fees and cart, are \$400 per foursome and \$200 per twosome. Register and pay by June 5 at [bit.ly/DSFgolfouting2023](http://bit.ly/DSFgolfouting2023). ■

## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Boy Scout Troop 44 will hold a flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Grimes Public Works facility, 1700 S.E. Destination Drive, in Grimes. A record number of worn flags will be appropriately destroyed. The public is invited to attend this event and need to bring a folding chair, as there is no seating available. Tired flags may be brought to the box at the rear of the Johnston Fire Station building on Merle Hay Road at any time. ■

## TREES FOR KIDS PLANTING EVENT

Join the Johnston Parks Department and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Saturday, May 9 at 9 a.m., for a Trees for Kids planting event. The planting will take place at Johnston Commons Park, 6700 Merle Hay Road. The trees will be planted as part of the Johnston Commons Park Improvement Project and will be planted around the new shelter/restroom. Please bring your own gloves, and closed-toed shoes are required.

The Trees for Kids program aims to educate children, teenagers and young adults about the importance of trees and their myriad benefits, as well as to offer hands-on planting and maintenance experience. The program requires youth involvement in planting, mulching, and initial watering. A demonstration on proper planting, mulching and watering will be provided at the beginning of the event. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** 1996 Ford F-150. De Soto Asking \$5,600. Call 515-974-9203.

**FOR SALE:** Nice TV stand cabinet for sale. Lots of space above and below the TV area. \$75. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

**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:** Electronics, stereo receivers, guitar or amps, speakers, radios, etc. Any age or condition for parts or repair. Call 515- 445-6023.

**FOR SALE:** Nice bunk beds. Solid built. \$175. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

**FOR SALE:** Softball/Baseball Pitching/Hitting net. \$25. Call/Text 515-238-3198.

**FOR SALE:** Older China Cabinet for sale. Antique and in great usable shape. \$50.00. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

**BICYCLES WANTED:** Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-

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