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# ON TO STATE!



**VOLLEYBALL TEAM PUNCHES TICKET TO STATE:** The Dragons beat Waukee 3-0 to advance to the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHS AU) 2023 state volleyball tournament, which began with the quarterfinals Monday, Oct. 30 at the Xstream Arena in Coralville. The first round will be against Pleasant Valley. ■

## JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**TUES. HIGH 35 | LOW 19**

Sun, then turning cloudy

**WED. HIGH 48 | LOW 29**

Mostly sunny and breezy

**THURS. HIGH 54 | LOW 39**

Partly sunny

**FRI. HIGH 60 | LOW 41**

Mostly cloudy and breezy

**SAT. HIGH 59 | LOW 40**

Mostly cloudy



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# IS SELF-CHECKOUT A FAILED EXPERIMENT?

What do you think of self-checkout kiosks at retail stores? More than likely, you either love them or hate them. Few are in between.

The Atlantic published an article recently called “Self-Checkout Is a Failed Experiment” and detailed the problems with this technology and why some retailers are ready to scrap it.

The self-checkout concept made great sense to me at first, as I am one who becomes annoyed while waiting in lines. If I can scan my own items, pay for them and get out the door a few minutes faster, then I am all for it. But, as most of us know, that’s not how these scenarios typically play out. More often than not, a store employee comes over to the self-checkout kiosk to address something that went wrong. The kiosks seem to malfunction more than the ice cream machines at McDonald’s, which makes me wonder, how is this helping anyone? Well, there are a few ways, apparently.

According to one survey, 66% of consumers say they prefer self-service over interacting with a store employee.

Why? Because, like me, they think it is faster. Of course, if 66% of customers like self-checkout, that means 34% do not. That’s one-third of customers who are clearly annoyed by the technology.

Retailers apparently like these self-service options because of space and personnel reasons. Some claim as many as six self-checkout kiosks can fit in the space that is needed for one traditional cashier system. Retailers also thought they could operate with fewer employees, as one employee can oversee several self-checkout kiosks.

Meanwhile, the up-front costs to install self-service systems are significantly higher than standard cashier lanes. That may work for the mega-retailers that can justify



the investment, but it can be cost prohibitive for smaller stores.

The elephant in the room, though, is theft. A recent study examined 12 million shopping trips over two years. Of them, 1 million trips were audited, accounting for 6 million items, according to The New York Times. The study found that 850,000 of those items were never scanned, and this accounted for 4% of the total merchandise value. For stores that operate on low single-digit profit margins, that’s concerning. And if you can’t turn a profit, you won’t be in business for long — with or without self-checkout kiosks.

How about you? What do you think about self-checkouts? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

**Shane Goodman**

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# SEEN IN JOHNSTON

TRICK OR TREATING WITH FIRST RESPONDERS WAS HELD OCT. 25.



Isaiah, Huxley, Ryland, Crosby, Aiden, Grace and Hope



Rylee Henry, Zoe Officer, Abigail Owen, Kelli Bosch, Abby Hitchcock, Tammy Gregory, Tempe Borey and Hailey Boicourt



Alena Wagner, front, and, in back: Amelia, Amy and Aaron Wagner



Alex and Emily Heddley with kids Hailey and Henry Heddley



Adaline and William Pearson



Mara and Owen Uhlenhopp



Dr. Jonathan Karch and Hayes



James, Ellie and Kalli Hoben

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## 44TH ANNUAL JHS MADRIGAL

The Johnston High School Madrigal will be held Nov. 29 and Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Johnston High School Auditorium. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Nov. 6. For ticket information, go to Johnston High School Vocal Parent website: <https://sites.google.com/view/jhsvocalmusic/vpa/>. ■

## HALLOWEEN BINGO

The public is invited to Halloween Bingo, a fundraiser for the Dragon Scholarship Fund, on Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. at Johnston High School. Costumes are encouraged. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and cards are \$5. Concessions are available at this fun event for all ages. ■

## CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION END DATE

The fall season is here, which means it's time to start raking up the leaves and dealing with yard waste. As a reminder, the Compost It! program's curbside collection of yard waste will end on Nov. 20 and 21 on your regular collection day. ■

## ALL SAINTS DAY MASS

The public is invited to St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church for All Saints Day Mass on Nov. 1. Mass times are 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The church is at 4600 Meredith Drive. ■

## FUNERAL NOTICES

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

### ANN FRONING DICKINSON

Ann Froning Dickinson, 88, died Oct. 19, 2023, two days shy of her 89th birthday. She was born on Oct. 21, 1934, in Des Moines. She graduated from Roosevelt High School and attended William Woods University and the University of Iowa. She married Warren Wilmot Dickinson, and they raised their four children in Des Moines before moving to Johnston in 1982.



Ann enjoyed her friendships in Tri Delta sorority, Junior League and PEO. She liked to lunch with friends, spend time at the pool, needlepoint, knit and vacuum. Ann was a loving wife and mother, and a stellar grandmother to her nine grandchildren.

Ann is preceded in death by husband, Warren, and brother, Herman David Froning, Jr. She is survived by brother, John Otis Froning (Jean Redding Froning); children, Deborah Barry, Pamela Garbett (Tim Garbett), Diana Dickinson (Mark Green) and William Dickinson (Amanda Hartman); grandchildren, Diana Mahoney, Nick Barry, Ruth Barry, Sam Garbett, Anna Garbett, Walter Davis, Emma Davis, Garin Dickinson and Vance Dickinson; and great-grandsons, Conor and Nicholas Mahoney.

In lieu of flowers, Ann would like friends and family to make donations to their favorite charity. Private services were held. ■

## FLAGS TO BE PLACED ON GRAVES

Again, it is an honor for Johnston American Legion Post 728 to place flags on veterans' graves in recognition of Veterans Day 2023. They will gather at Ridgedale Cemetery on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 1:30 p.m. to begin the flag placement. Organizers hope this activity will again involve as many of the youth in the community as possible to instruct them on why they honor the veterans with flags at this time. It would be very special if they could have as many of the youngest youth participate as possible, such as Bownies, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Participation by city officials, police, and other employees is encouraged to show support to the youth participating. ■

## KIWANIS NOVEMBER LUNCH MEETING

The Kiwanis of Johnston invite the public to their November lunch meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 11:30 a.m. at Cozy Cafe in Johnston. The speaker will be Damonte Stogner, founder and CEO of Coffee For a Cause. Non-members are always welcome. RSVP to: Barb Allen, 515-577-2194 or [bjallen713@gmail.com](mailto:bjallen713@gmail.com). ■

## FUNERAL NOTICES

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

### JACK OTTO KRAMER

Jack Otto Kramer, 85, died Oct. 20, 2023. Funeral services will be at noon on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at Iles Westover Chapel. Interment will follow at 2 p.m. at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery near Van Meter.

Jack was born May 11, 1938, in Klemme and graduated from Garner High School with the class of 1957. He entered the U.S. Navy after high school and was honored to serve six years on the USS Renville. After serving, he married Judy, and they had just celebrated 60 years of marriage in September. They traveled the world with many trips Judy earned from her business and made some beautiful memories. They lived in Des Moines for more than 50 years before moving to Johnston.

Jack worked at Owen Christ Body Shop for many years and had his own auto repair business, JOK Auto. "Jack of all trades" was an appropriate title. His passion and incredible talent was restoring and painting show cars. He earned several car show awards. He could fix anything car related and made sure his grandkids had vehicles. He also could build anything and remodeled several homes. Jack had a generous heart and was willing to lend a hand to family, friends and neighbors.

Jack is survived by his wife, Judy Kramer; daughter, Anne (Larry) Hyler; son, Dan (Jan) Kramer; sisters Judy Smith, Diane White and Tammy (Tim) Allison; five grandsons, Andrew (Kayse) Hyler, Kevin (Sarah) Hyler, Jeffrey Hyler, Joel Hyler and Gabriel Kramer; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arlene and Art Kramer, and a sister, Sharon Smith.

Memorial contributions in memory of Jack may be made to a veteran organization of the donor's choice. Online condolences are welcomed at [www.IlesCares.com](http://www.IlesCares.com). ■



### STEVEN 'STEVE' F. SCHAEER

Steven "Steve" F. Schaer, 50, died unexpectedly at home in Johnston on Oct. 7 due to a heart attack. A celebration of life service will be held at First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines, 8250 NW 62nd Ave., Johnston, on Friday, Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. Visitation will be one hour prior at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow.

Steve was born on March 31, 1973 in Des Moines. He grew up in Beaverdale and attended King-Perkins, Callahan, and graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1991. He attended William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, and graduated from Upper Iowa University in Fayette with a business degree. He worked at Sprint in Overland Park, Kansas, before returning home to work with his dad at Investor's Realty. Steve was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines. He will be remembered for his kindness to, and caring for, his family and friends, and his appreciation of the simple pleasures of life, including conversation and laughter, boating, fishing, and watching the Chiefs games.

Survivors include his mother, Martha; sister, Mindy (Jim) Sawtelle; brother, Dave (Vicki) Schaer; nieces, Anna Sawtelle, Samantha (Jesse) Rose, Caroline Sawtelle, Allyson Schaer and Natalie Schaer; nephews, Joseph Sawtelle and JD Schaer; extended family; and many friends. Steve was preceded in death by his grandparents, his father, and his nephew, Tristan Sawtelle.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church or the American Heart Association. Arrangements are by Iles Westover Chapel. ■





## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

Nurse Blake



Roomful of Teeth

**NOV. 4: Live Jazz at The Continental in the Historic East Village.** From 8-11 a.m. at 407 E. Fifth St., Des Moines; [ongrand0.wixsite.com/the-continental](http://ongrand0.wixsite.com/the-continental).

**NOV. 4: Nurse Blake is back on the road for his stand-up comedy tour.** From 8-10:30 p.m. at Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; [hoytsherman.org](http://hoytsherman.org).

**NOV. 4-5: Pumpkin Destruction.** Normally pumpkins are put on a pedestal during the fall months, but not at Center Grove Orchard. From 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 32835 610th Ave., Cambridge; [centergroveorchard.com](http://centergroveorchard.com).

**NOV. 11: Living History Farms race.** Run for 5 miles and see 300 years of history. Beginning at 9 a.m. at 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; [lhf.org](http://lhf.org).



Living History Farms race

**NOV. 12: Jazz at Caspe Terrace by Sparks.** From 2-4:30 p.m. at 33158 Ute Ave., Waukee; [jewishdesmoines.org/our-community/caspe-terrace](http://jewishdesmoines.org/our-community/caspe-terrace).

**NOV. 15: Roomful of Teeth.** The Grammy-winning octet performs 7:30- 9:30 p.m. at the Sheslow Auditorium, 2507 University Ave., Des Moines; [calendar.drake.edu/sheslow\\_auditorium](http://calendar.drake.edu/sheslow_auditorium).

**NOV. 18: Fall into Wine and Art.** Fall-themed arts and crafts show. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Summerset Winery, 15101 Fairfax St., Indianola; [summersetwine.com](http://summersetwine.com).

**NOV. 19: Fall Makers Market.** Local vendors, crafters, artisans and more will be available for your shopping needs right before the holidays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jester Park Nature Center, 12130 N.W. 128th St., Granger; [www.jesterparknaturecenter.com/calendar-events/fall-makers-market](http://www.jesterparknaturecenter.com/calendar-events/fall-makers-market).

**NOV. 22: A Night Under the Lights.** Waukee's second annual light parade, with activities, local food vendors and entertainment. From 6-9 p.m. at Centennial Park, Waukee; <https://fb.me/e/3nnUYFKhy>.

**NOV. 23: Des Moines Turkey Trot.** Voted "Top Trot" in Iowa five years in a row by Runner's World Magazine, the 5K and 5-mile race takes over Des Moines on Thanksgiving. Starting at 9 a.m. on Court Ave.; [desmoimesturkeytrot.com](http://desmoimesturkeytrot.com). ■

## RECIPE

# WARM, COLD-WEATHER MEALS

*(Culinary.net)* When the winds howl and the chill of changing seasons brings a crispness to the air, one way to warm up from the inside out is with favorite foods. Filling up on comforting recipes like hearty soups and stews can be the solution you need to fight off cold temperatures.

Consider quick and easy ingredients that add a little warmth to your plate as the cravings for comfort kick in.

A family favorite in recipes year-round, ooey-goey cheese is a hallmark of cool-weather recipes. Consider creamy mac and cheese mixed with your preferred protein, homemade Mexican cuisine topped with melted chile con queso or an appetizer plate with options like brie, Manchego, aged cheddar, Parmesan and more.

Available in many varieties, curry paste is a common ingredient in South Asian dishes. It typically consists of ingredients like garlic, chiles or peppers, ginger and lemongrass. When you'd like to add some spice to your menu without bothering with takeout, this Thai Chicken and Rice Soup calls for green curry paste, which is generally spicier than red or yellow versions, but any can be substituted based on your heat tolerance. You can take the dish up a level with lightly seasoned Minute Cilantro & Lime Jasmine Rice for zesty flavor in a BPA-free, microwaveable cup for a simple solution when life gets hectic and preparing a time-consuming meal becomes challenging. ■

## THAI CHICKEN AND RICE SOUP

**Prep time: 2 minutes**

**Cook time: 5 minutes**

**Servings: 1**

- 1 Minute Ready to Serve Cilantro & Lime Jasmine Rice Cup
- 1/2 cup (3 ounces) cooked rotisserie chicken, chopped
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon Thai green curry paste
- 3 small shiitake mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced

### Directions:

Heat rice according to package directions.

In medium, microwave-safe bowl, combine chicken, broth, coconut milk, curry paste and mushrooms.

Microwave on high 3 minutes. Stir in rice and garnish with green onion.



# ROORDA NAMED SUPERINTENDENT

The Johnston Board of Education has named Dr. Nikki Roorda district superintendent. Dr. Roorda is currently serving as the interim superintendent of the Johnston Community School District. She will assume her role as superintendent of the Johnston Community School District on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Her contract is expected to be up for approval at the school board's regularly scheduled meeting, which begins at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6 at the District Office.

She has served the district since August 2019, previously in the roles of associate superintendent and executive director of teaching and learning. She was the regional director for Heartland AEA for 12 years and previously worked as a K-12 literacy coordinator in Ankeny and as a classroom teacher in Highlands Ranch, Colorado; West Des Moines; Ankeny and Montezuma.

"I am deeply honored by the district's selection of me as the permanent superintendent of the Johnston Community School District," Dr. Roorda said. "As many of you know, it has been a longtime goal and dream of mine to be a superintendent. I am so proud of the work we've done here together these past four years, and we've only just begun. Johnston is a great place, and I am so excited to continue leading us to be even better. Thank you so much for this opportunity."

Dr. Roorda holds a doctorate in education from Walden University in Minneapolis and a superintendent certification. She is an active member of several professional organizations including The School Superintendents Association (AASA), Learning Forward, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) and Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB).

"We have appreciated Dr. Roorda's leadership as interim superintendent these past few months, and are excited to welcome her as the long-term leader of our district," said Dr. Alicia Clevenger, president of the Johnston Board of Education. "We are confident that her expertise and dedication will propel the district to new heights in both educational excellence, as well as in developing a culture here where everyone feels welcome, valued and heard." ■

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