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## JOHNSTON POLICE WELCOME FIRST K9 UNIT

The City of Johnston, in partnership with the Johnston Police Officers Association (JPOA) and several community partners, announced the addition of the police department's first-ever police canine team.

In the spring of 2022, the Johnston City Council authorized the police department to implement a police canine program as an additional resource to better serve the growing public safety service needs in Johnston. The Johnston Police Officers Association, in partnership with multiple community sponsors, accepted a fundraising challenge to cover all start-up costs associated with the program (approximately \$100,000, which included the purchase of the animal, training for both the animal and handler, acquisition of necessary program and animal



Officer Dylan Petermeier and Buck

housing equipment, and a dedicated patrol vehicle with emergency equipment). In October, a dual-purpose canine team was launched.

"Buck," a Belgian Malinois, is certified in traditional patrol dog skillsets such as apprehension, evidence recovery, building

searches, article searches and tracking lost or runaway persons. Additionally, Buck will advance the community caretaking and homeland security mission of the police department as a certified explosives detection and terrorism pre-emption service animal. Buck's handler, Officer Dylan Petermeier, joined the Johnston Police Department in 2019 and has served as a patrol officer, bike patrol officer, field training officer, firearms instructor and QRT member. His service record also includes six years with the United States Air Force Security Forces.

Year after year, the City of Johnston is recognized as one of the safest cities in Iowa and for its continual rapid growth. Johnston is known as a hub for outdoor

**K9, CONTINUED ON BACK**

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**TUES. HIGH 44 | LOW 23**

Breezy with clouds and sun

**WED. HIGH 53 | LOW 30**

Mostly sunny; not as cool

**THURS. HIGH 44 | LOW 22**

Partly sunny and cooler

**FRI. HIGH 37 | LOW 20**

Cloudy early; then some sun

**SAT. HIGH 38 | LOW 23**

Intervals of clouds and sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# WHAT DEFINES CLASSIC ROCK?

I asked my Amazon Alexa device to play music of the classic rock genre for me, and her first three songs were from The Rolling Stones, Blue Oyster Cult and David Bowie. The next three were from Creedence Clearwater Revival, Looking Glass and Aerosmith. I knew every song by title and artist. Many of you likely would, too.

But what really defines classic rock? The Guardian published a great article on the subject in 2020, asking if it is “a sound, an era, or just any old track with guitars on it,” noting how the genre continues to be “a slippery one to define.”

The article asked, is classic rock is linked to popularity or a certain era? Is it a genre in itself, or, as time plods on, has classic rock merely come to be defined as any old track with guitars on it? They added qualifications like being “guitar-led,” being “intrinsically linked with the adolescence of boomers,” “an

amalgamation of the anthems of one’s adolescence,” and even “marketing as a means of repackaging music that is no longer deemed to be directly relevant by those of a younger generation.” Ouch.

For a more local angle, I asked a friend who knows the subject better than anyone I know: the man who introduced me to classic rock in the early 1990s as co-host of the KGGO morning show “Lou & Larry,” Lou Sipolt.

Lou told me, “Classic rock is the good stuff from the mid-1960s, 1970s and 1980s, in my mind. Artists who established themselves during that time period are also grandfathered in to having newer material considered from a classic rocker as well. Once the artists earn the title, they should always be able to wear that badge proudly.”



Fair enough.

Best-selling writer Charles Cross told American Songwriter that nostalgia born from one’s youth also plays a major force in classic rock’s popularity, and I agree.

“If we looked at the charts [today], there isn’t a rock act in the top 50,” Cross said. “So, rock is not the dominant genre in music and has not been for some time... Rock itself indeed is dead as a commercial genre, in terms of recorded record sales. But in terms of radio, rock radio is still a very successful format.”

And thank goodness for that. And Alexa. And Lou. Rock on.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

**Shane Goodman**

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# JOHNSTON HISTORY: THE CAMP DODGE POOL

By MARY JANE PAEZ

If you were in the area between 1922 and 2001, you might have had the opportunity to dip your toes in the Camp Dodge pool. This mammoth structure was purported to be one of the largest outdoor filtered pools in the world, measuring 350 feet long and 150 feet wide. It contained 300 million gallons of water when it was filled. That first dip took your breath away. It was really cold! It must not have been properly filtered all the time. Larry Madole, a long-time close-by neighbor to the pool, remembers swimming with turtles and frogs at times. Kids could come for swimming lessons after school closed for the summer. They did more shivering than learning to dog-paddle. Later in the season, it was a popular hangout.

There was one well-known visitor to the pool in the 1930s. Ronald Reagan had a job with WHO radio as a sports announcer. He loved coming to the pool when he wasn't working. Bob Thomas was a member of the Johnston Historical Society and remembered Reagan well. Bob was the son of the Adjutant General at Camp Dodge, and Bob had free rein of the camp. He said that Reagan would drive out to Johnston from



An oak tree and stumps indicating others had once stood on the hill overlooking the Camp Dodge pool gave credence to the story that Ronald Reagan would park his roadster under the trees when he visited the pool

his apartment in downtown Des Moines. He drove a sporty open roadster. On the east side of the pool was a slope and a small grove of oak trees. He would drive up the slope and turn around so that the car faced toward the pool. This gave him a shady place to protect his car and also a place where he could jumpstart the car in case the battery was weak that day.

As a young man in Illinois, he worked during the summer as a lifeguard. He reported that, at the pool, he saved a couple of kids who needed help when they headed towards the deep end. Reagan was popular at the pool.

After hearing this story from

Bob, I was curious. Sure enough, there was an oak tree on the slope above the empty pool in the early 2000s. I drove through the gate and went to the slope. Also, sure enough, I found evidence of three stumps cut off at the ground. As I was walking back down to the road, a Jeep carrying an MP drove up. I think he thought I was making up a good story until I showed him the stumps.

As Camp Dodge became the place for training Army personnel from all over the world to repair and maintain heavy equipment, a very nice billet was built on the site overlooking the filled in pool sometime around 2008. ■

## COOKIE WALK

The Messiah Lutheran Church, 6270 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, is holding a Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to noon. Choose from hundreds of homemade cookies and bars. For \$15, you get a bucket to fill with your favorite cookies. A craft and bake sale will also be held. Proceeds go towards daycare playground equipment. ■

## BLOOD DRIVE: A PIE FOR A PINT

Bishop Drumm Retirement Center, 5921 Winwood Drive, Johnston, is hosting a blood drive on Monday, Nov. 27, 12:30-3:30 p.m. All presenting donors will receive a pie for a pint. To schedule an appointment, visit [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org) or call 800-287-4903. ■

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Johnston Station Historical Society is hosting its annual holiday open house in conjunction with the Johnston Public Library's Holiday Ornament Craft event on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon. ■

# SEEN IN JOHNSTON



**GRAND OPENING OF RAISING CANE'S:** Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, 8550 Birchwood Court, Johnston, hosted a grand opening and chamber ribbon cutting Nov. 7.

## THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

The public is invited to a Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Mary of Nazareth, 4600 Meredith Drive, Des Moines. ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. Current needs going into the holidays are baby wipes, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet paper. 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.

Note, Johnston Partnership will be closed to donations and clients Nov. 22-26.

Every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. They are currently providing about 200 bags per week. Their needs are: Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, individual shelf stable milk, individual peanut butter and fruit cups. ■

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## FUNERAL NOTICES

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

### DALLAS EUGENE ROHRS

Dallas Eugene Rohrs died peacefully at Edencrest Green Meadows in Johnston on Nov. 11, 2023. He died of a broken heart after losing his wife of 68 years on Oct. 8, 2023. Dallas was born on Nov. 16, 1930, in Mitchell, South Dakota. In 1946, the family moved to Bridgeport, Nebraska, and Dallas graduated from Bridgeport High School in 1948. It was in high school he met his future bride, Gerry Berta.



He attended Chadron State College for a short time before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. He was deployed to Korea. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1952. After leaving the military, he returned to South Dakota and began work with Black Hills Power. He married Gerry Berta on June 4, 1955. In September 1961, Dallas took a job with an electrical equipment distributor, and the family moved to Des Moines. He continued to work in that field until he retired in 1997 after working several years for Cahoon Sales of Iowa City.

Dallas enjoyed his retirement years and delved into a multitude of home projects. He was a handyman who could fix anything involving his cars or his home. He attended hundreds of sporting events involving his son, grandson and great-grandson. He was a quiet, kind, generous and gentle soul who would do anything for his family and friends.

He is survived by his son, Patrick (Sally); grandson Daniel (Anna); great-grandchildren, Elijah, Rebecca and Elizabeth; cousins Dick Johnson and Connie Nelson; and several nieces, nephews and their families. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gerry; parents, Walter and Nadine; sister, Patricia Collins; and in-laws, Ray and Renie Jessen, Tony and Vera Reano, and Wilson Berta.

Funeral services were Nov. 16 at Iles Dunn's Chapel. Internment was at Glendale Cemetery with full military honors. Donations may be directed to Care Initiatives Hospice in Dallas' memory. ■

### DONELLA SUE LINT

Donella Sue Lint was born Jan. 14, 1934, in Shannon City, the daughter of Francis "Roy" and Nina (Sloan) Crowell. She grew up near Des Moines and Johnston and graduated from Johnston High School in 1953. On Oct. 16, 1954, she married Martin "Marty" Lint. Donella worked at Allied Mutual Casualty for seven years. She enjoyed bowling, playing cards and putting puzzles together. She was a member of VFW Auxiliary No. 9662 and Des Moines Women's Bowling Association. Donella died Nov. 12, 2023, at Urbandale Health Care Center. She was 89.



Donella is survived by her sisters, Joy Cummings, Ramona Ward and Dorothy Brooks; as well as sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and brothers Nathan, Gene, Ron, John and Donald.

Visitation was Nov. 15 at Iles Westover Chapel. Graveside services were Nov. 16 at Lincoln Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Grand View Lutheran Church, where she was a member. ■

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## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
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THE PEPPERMINT TRAIL

**THE PEPPERMINT TRAIL****Saturday, Dec. 9**

The Peppermint Trail will return to The Avenues of Ingersoll & Grand and The Roosevelt Cultural District. Activities will include gingerbread house decorating, Santa strolling among the shops, Bee-Merry-Line holiday trolley rides, carolers, and specials at local restaurants and retail shops. For more information, visit [theavenuesdsm.com/peppermint-trail](http://theavenuesdsm.com/peppermint-trail).

**DES MOINES COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE****831 42nd St., Des Moines**[dmplayhouse.com](http://dmplayhouse.com)**Dec. 1-17:** "All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914"**Dec. 2-17:** Kate Goldman Children's Theatre "A Charlie Brown Christmas"**IOWA STAGE THEATRE COMPANY****Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines**[iowastage.org](http://iowastage.org)**Dec. 8-17:** "A Christmas Carol"**ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE****1932 S.W. Third St., Ankeny**[ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://ankenycommunitytheatre.com)**Dec. 1-10:** "A Gift for Rebecca"**DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS****Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theatre, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines**[dmpa.org](http://dmpa.org)**Nov. 28 through Dec. 3:** "Girl from the North Country"**Dec. 12-17:** "The Wiz"**Dec. 21:** "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical"**Dec. 22-23:** "Cirque Dreams Holidaze"**TALLGRASS THEATRE COMPANY****2019 Grand Ave., Suite 100, West Des Moines**[tallgrasstheatre.org](http://tallgrasstheatre.org)**Dec. 15-17:** "Home For The Holidays, A Christmas Cabaret"**HOYT SHERMAN PLACE****1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines**[hoytsherman.org](http://hoytsherman.org)**Dec. 14:** Christmas with Lorie Line at 7 p.m.**Dec. 17:** Michael W. Smith Christmas at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.**OTHERS****Dec. 7-10:** BDM Presents "The Nutcracker" at Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; [balletdesmoines.org](http://balletdesmoines.org)**Dec. 7-9:** "The Nutcracker" by Iowa Dance Theatre, at Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines; [dmpa.org](http://dmpa.org)**Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve Pops: Cirque De La Symphonie at the Des Moines Civic Center, 221

## RECIPE

# RING IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH REGIONALLY INSPIRED RECIPES

*(Family Features)* When Thanksgiving hosts and their guests ponder must-have desserts, one of the most common favorites is an oh-so-delicious pie. More specifically, with nearly endless possibilities and its familiar festive flavor, pecan pie is one of America's most beloved holiday treats.

From nods to the Northeast's love of maple to celebrating sweet tastes of the West Coast with a citrus twist, the American Pecan Promotion Board is celebrating regionally inspired recipes. While the classic pecan pie is a hit at the Thanksgiving table, you can make it a perfect palette for creativity this year by enjoying local flavors that take the festivities up a notch. ■

## BOURBON BACON PECAN PIE

*Recipe courtesy of Emily Caruso of "Jelly Toast" on behalf of the American Pecan Promotion Board*

**Prep time: 20 minutes**

**Cook time: 70 minutes**

**Servings: 10**

- 1 pie dough (9 inches)
- 4 strips thick-cut bacon
- 1/2 cup dark corn syrup
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons bourbon
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups raw pecan halves

### Directions:

Place baking sheet in oven. Preheat oven to 350 F.

Gently line pie pan with rolled out pie dough. Press into edges and up sides. Use fingers or fork to create decorative edge. Set aside.

In skillet, fry bacon until crisp. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels then chop into small pieces and set aside. Reserve 1/4 cup bacon grease.

In large bowl, whisk dark corn syrup, light corn syrup, brown sugar, reserved bacon grease, butter and bourbon. Add eggs and salt; whisk until



mixture is even. Fold in pecan halves and chopped bacon.

Pour mixture into pie crust and spread evenly with spatula. Gently cover edges of pie crust with aluminum foil. Place pie on preheated baking sheet and bake 60-70 minutes, or until pie is set in center.

Remove pie from oven and cool completely before serving or chilling.

**Notes:** Pie can be made 1 day ahead and refrigerated overnight. Allow pie to come to room temperature before serving.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Johnston American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 728, and the Johnston Lions Club are holding Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to noon at the Lions Club, 6501 Merle Hay Road. The event features a pancake breakfast, games and activities, and Santa's reading of "The Night Before Christmas." This is a freewill donation event. ■

## 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. For ticket information, go to Johnston High School Vocal Parent website: <https://sites.google.com/view/jhsvocalmusic/vpa/>. ■

## HOLIDAYS AT THE TOWN CENTER

Enjoy Holidays at the Town Center on Saturday, Dec. 2, 4-6 p.m. Festivities include a tree lighting, free ice skating, cookie decorating, Santa and his reindeer, and the JTC businesses handing out samples or unique beverages.

Santa will arrive at 4 p.m. The tree lighting is at 5 p.m. under the arch by the new businesses. Unaccompanied Minors will perform on the stage at 5:30 p.m. Activities held during the event include cookie decorating by NorthPoint Church, Santa and two reindeer on The Yard, free ice skating, and more offerings from businesses. ■

## K9, FROM FRONT

recreation and is quickly adding public and private amenities that will draw much larger crowds and greater public interest to the region. Johnston is also home to some unique security challenges such as protecting the Iowa Army National Guard and the Iowa Law

Enforcement Academy at Camp Dodge, Joint Forces Headquarters, the State's Emergency Operations Center, as well as various corporate and non-profit business centers and agricultural research centers.

To learn more about the K9 program, visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/JPKDK9](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/JPKDK9). Also, follow Buck's Instagram @JPKDK9. ■

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