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SEEN IN JOHNSTON



LIONS LEGACY GRANT: The Johnston Lions Club made the final installment of its \$50,000 Legacy Grant for the shelter at Johnston Commons at the City Council meeting on Monday, Nov. 20. ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

TUES. HIGH 35 | LOW 23

Sun and some clouds

**WED. HIGH 51 | LOW 30**

Sunny and warmer

**THURS. HIGH 43 | LOW 22**

Partly sunny

**FRI. HIGH 37 | LOW 25**

Times of clouds and sun

**SAT. HIGH 46 | LOW 33**

Cloudy; a bit of snow



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

A PHONE WITHOUT A CHARGER?

I bought a new smart phone this week. As you know, they are not cheap. What you may not know is that they no longer come with a charging device. The cord, yes. The brick that plugs into the wall, no. That is another \$20. I haven't purchased a new phone in almost five years, so I am told this is commonplace now. That doesn't make it right.

I learned about this problem when I asked my salesperson at the store if everything was in the box needed to charge the phone. He answered every other feasible question in his reply but avoided that one. So I asked again, adding that this was a yes/no question. I did not want to get home and find out I needed to buy something else to charge my phone. He eventually answered and told me I needed to purchase a \$20 brick, noting that the manufacturer was not including them as they were trying to avoid waste since many people already have the brick. Sure.

When I looked this up on the world wide web, that excuse was

perpetuated with a statement that the omission of the charging brick was "to reduce the environmental impact." Uh huh.

This scenario reminded me of the time I bought a clothes dryer in our first home, only to learn later than it didn't come with a power cord. I was baffled that any appliance could be purchased without the necessary cord to operate it. Imaging buying a toaster without a cord. Or a vacuum cleaner. Or a TV set. How about a refrigerator? Or a lamp? Or a hair dryer?

To be fair, some electric ranges, dishwashers and microwaves don't come with power cords. The reasons, according to the manufacturers, are that electrical codes and regulations vary across regions and that some of these appliances should be hardwired to the home circuit.

Those excuses may be justifiable for some large appliances, but smart phones? The



last I looked, I didn't need to hard wire my phone. And when I buy a product in America, I expect that it will have the appropriate charging plugs for those of us who wave the red, white and blue.

Of course, my old chargers won't work for the new phone. So I threw them in the box of other cords and chargers and wires that I will seemingly never use. Even with appliances, we are told to not use the old, unsafe cords and to buy new ones. Yep.

So, we buy charging bricks for smart phones separately, and we hopefully realize this before we have the units at home so we don't have to make separate trips to the store. But if you do have to make another trip, at least you can do a load of laundry while you are gone. Maybe.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman

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CHAMBER AFTER HOURS

THE JOHNSTON CHAMBER AFTER HOURS WAS HELD AT LASHIER GRAPHICS & SIGNS IN GRIMES ON NOV. 2.



Dillan Sprecher and Austin Jensen



Tara Rethman and Jay Mathes



Brenda Ballard and Thomas Lashier



Samantha Winebrenner and Glenn Waterhouse ■

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.

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. ■

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. ■

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. ■

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. ■

JOHNSTON LIBRARY

6700 Merle Hay Road • 515-278-5233 • www.johnstonlibrary.com

By LIBRARY STAFF

We're feeling festive here at JPL and ready to celebrate the holiday season with great events for all ages. The JPL Book Tree is up; holiday displays with books, movies and music are curated; and librarians are wearing flashing lightbulb necklaces and reindeer sweaters. As your own festivities gear up this season, make sure to save the date for these library happenings in December.

• Kids

Kick off the month with some scientific exploration. Investigate the power of magnets at JPL's Magnet Play program on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 10:30 a.m. A variety of magnet activities will be provided during this open play event. Perfect for ages 2-5, but all ages are welcome.

Next, satisfy a sweet tooth and learn a skill at the same time at our Kids Kitchen cooking class on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4:30 p.m. Kids will learn basic cooking skills and practice following a recipe. This month, we'll be making cookies in a jar. Kids will practice measuring ingredients and will come home with a mason jar layered with all the ingredients to make a batch of cookies. Registration for this



free cooking class for elementary school kids is required.

• Teens

There's no school in Johnston on Monday, Dec. 4. Teens, stop by the library at 12:30 p.m. for JPL School's Out Teen Special Interactive Movie. We'll have a special showing of the holiday classic featuring a kid who gets left alone in New York. An interactive movie script will be provided as well as a movie prop kit with tons of fun items to help teens become a part of the show. Plus, we'll serve Kevin-approved snacks during the movie. For kids in sixth grade and up. Registration is required. ■

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Police Officer Anthony Yeager was sworn in and promoted to the rank of lieutenant at the Nov. 20 Johnston City Council meeting.

YEAGER PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT

During the City Council meeting held on Nov. 20, Police Officer Anthony Yeager was sworn in and promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He has been working in law enforcement for 11 years and holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from Kaplan University. Lt. Yeager started his career in the City of Dallas Center and joined the Johnston Police Department in 2015.

During Lt. Yeager's time at the Johnston Police Department, he has served in many specialty roles such as field training officer, officer in charge, crime scene investigator, rifle and Glock armorer, defensive tactics and use of force instructor, general crimes and narcotics detective, and Quick Response Team (QRT) member. He has also served as a patrol sergeant and administrative sergeant, where he established the department's Office of Professional Standards and Training, and is currently serving as the acting field operations division commander.

Lt. Yeager has been a member of the Iowa National Guard for 15 years and was recently appointed as the first sergeant of the 833rd Engineer Company. He was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2010-2011.

Lt. Yeager's commitment to professional development is evident from his successful completion of multiple law enforcement supervisory courses and military leadership courses, including advanced, senior and master leadership courses. His exceptional service has been recognized with numerous awards and certificates, both in the military and law enforcement. ■

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BE MINDFUL OF DELIVERY PERSONNEL

*Submitted by April Brown
Graham, a carrier for 17 years*

It's that time of year again when your friendly local mail carrier will be working long days every day including Sundays and deep into the night. We gladly deliver holiday cheer directly to your mailbox during "our season." Help us deliver our appointed rounds and then return to our families safely. Keep your porch light on so we can see the steps and you can see us. If there is snow, make sure we have a path for delivery. Please don't block the mailbox with your car or any other obstacles. Remember to remove snow from the area around your mailbox so we can drive in, service your mailbox, and pull away safely. If you can, make sure your house address is visible so we can deliver correctly. Thanks for keeping us safe while we deliver!

We would like to add to please be mindful when passing us on the streets as we are focused on the delivery. When passing, move all the way over and make sure to do it safely. We have near head-on collisions daily in Johnston on my route and another route in our office.

PS. It's not just us who will be out delivering in the dark. UPS, FedEx, DHL and Amazon are out there, too. ■

EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

Through DEC. 31: Santa's Rock N Lights. Holiday-themed light show occurring daily from 5-9 p.m. at Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; lhf.org/event/santas-rock-n-lights.

Through DEC. 31: Holiday Hullabaloo. Now in its second year, experience a family-friendly holiday event with festivities and entertainment every weekend through the dates posted. Horizon Events Center, 10320 Hickman Road, Clive; horizoneventscenter.com.

DEC. 1-17: "All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914." Des Moines Community Playhouse, 831 42nd St., Des Moines. dmplayhouse.com.

DEC. 2-17: "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Des Moines Community Playhouse's Kate Goldman Children's Theatre. dmplayhouse.com.

DEC. 7-10: BDM Presents "The Nutcracker." Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; balletdesmoines.org

DEC. 7-9: "The Nutcracker." Iowa Dance Theatre presents at Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines; dmpa.org

DEC. 8-9: Winter Solstice Market. 6-9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. 116 S. First Ave., Winterset Courthouse Square; madisoncounty.com/special-events.

DEC. 8-17: "A Christmas Carol." Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines. iowastage.org.

DEC. 9: Santa 5K run. 521 E. Locust St., Des Moines; fleetfeet.com/s/desmoines.

DEC. 14: Christmas with Lorie Line. 7 p.m. at Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines. hoytsherman.org.

DEC. 15-17: "Home For The Holidays, A Christmas Cabaret." Tallgrass Theatre Company, 2019 Grand Ave., Suite 100, West Des Moines. tallgrasstheatre.org.

DEC. 17: Michael W. Smith Christmas at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines. hoytsherman.org.

DEC. 21: "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines. dmpa.org.

DEC. 22-23: "Cirque Dreams Holidaze." Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines. dmpa.org.

DEC. 31: New Year's Eve Pops: Cirque De La Symphonie. Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines; desmoinesperformingarts.org ■

RECIPE

A REGIONALLY INSPIRED SNACK

(Family Features) If you're in need of a quick snack everyone can share while mingling, opt for this Chocolate Cherry Pecan Snack Mix that takes just 20 minutes to prepare. It includes chocolate-glazed pecans tossed with yogurt-covered raisins, pretzels and dried tart cherries — a staple of the North.

When it comes to pecans, great taste is just the beginning. They're the ultimate superfood due to their flavor, versatility and nutritional benefits. Next time you're shopping for holiday ingredients, remember you can pick up a bag to add to favorite appetizers, snacks, meals, desserts and more all holiday season long. ■

CHOCOLATE CHERRY PECAN SNACK MIX

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

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 20

- 1 large egg white
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 1/2 cups pecan halves
- 1 cup dried tart cherries
- 1 cup small pretzels
- 3/4 cup yogurt-covered raisins

Directions:

Heat oven to 325 F.

In bowl, whisk egg white, brown sugar, cocoa powder, vanilla extract and salt until well blended. Add water to thin mixture slightly. Fold in pecan halves until well coated. Spread mixture onto parchment-lined baking



sheet.

Bake 15-20 minutes, or until mixture is well set. Stir mixture several times during baking. Allow pecans to cool completely and transfer to bowl. Mix in dried cherries, pretzels and raisins.

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. ■

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL IS DEC. 10

The public is invited on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 4-6 p.m. to experience the reason for the season at the Christmas Carnival at The Bridge, 10025 NW 62nd Ave., Johnston. Enjoy carnival food, cookie decorating, crafts, games and the telling of the Christmas story to highlight the real meaning of Christmas. This is a free come-and-go event for the community, and no registration is needed. ■

HELP THE BLUE DRAGON PROGRAM BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAYS

As we enter the holiday season, the Blue Dragon Program announces a magical shopping event. The Johnston Police Department is inviting the community to help create unforgettable memories for less fortunate children or those who have experienced tragic incidents. This heartwarming annual initiative pairs Johnston police officers with children, and, together, they go on a special shopping spree for gifts at the Grimes Walmart. By participating, you can play a crucial role in making this experience an unforgettable one for the children involved.

Monetary contributions can be sent to the Police Department or made online. You can send or drop off your monetary donation to the Johnston Police Department, Attn: Blue Dragon Program, 6373 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131. Make checks payable to the Johnston Police Officers Association. To donate online, visit the Donor Box at <https://donorbox.org/blue-dragon>. For more information, contact Sgt. Grandon at 515-278-2345. Your generosity ensures that, together, we create cherished moments and kindle the warmth of the holiday spirit for those who need it most. ■

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FOR SALE: Nice bunk beds. Solid built. \$175. 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.

BICYCLES WANTED: Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-3343.

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JOHNSTON *Living* NOVEMBER 2023

EARLY RISERS
Residents share experiences working while most others sleep.

Meet Kyla Burns
EDITOR

Honoring those who served
VETERANS' SUITE

Cran-raspberry quinoa pudding truffle
RECIPE