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HOLIDAYS AT THE TOWN CENTER: A variety of festivities were held at the Johnston Town Center to celebrate the holiday season. Many businesses and organizations participated in the event including Dancer's Theatre/Midwest Youth Performing Arts Center, Dunkin' Donuts, Unaccompanied Minors, Northpoint Church, Johnston Public Library, First Baptist Church and Neon Heart Salon. Businesses in the Town Center offering specialty items during the event included Backpacket Pin & Pixel, Blue Bean, and The Cork 50131. Photo courtesy of City of Johnston ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

TUES. HIGH 36 | LOW 24
Sunshine mixing with clouds



WED. HIGH 46 | LOW 26
Partly sunny and mild



THURS. HIGH 49 | LOW 33
Mostly sunny and mild



FRI. HIGH 52 | LOW 35
Cloudy and mild



SAT. HIGH 48 | LOW 32
Periods of clouds and sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

DOES HAT ETIQUETTE STILL EXIST?

Hats off to you. Or maybe hats on. The answer primarily depends on where you are at, what sex you are, and what generation you are from. Or does it?

Many people wonder if it is wrong to wear a hat indoors. According to Southern Living, hat etiquette does still exist. The story cites the Emily Post Institute, which says removing hats “traces back to medieval times when knights would remove their helmets to identify themselves” and to show a “gesture of respect.” Hat etiquette also has roots in Christianity, the story claims, as it has long been considered customary for men to remove their hats upon entering a church. But that’s just men. For women, apparently, it is OK to wear hats in church.

I remember the church pews of my youth having metals clips on them, and I would click them up and down during the service until Mom threatened to put my nose in one. Those clips, I was clearly told, were for men’s hats. Yet, I never saw a hat in one.

The U.S. Flag Code says men

— not including those in military service uniform — are to remove their hats during the National Anthem, the pledge of allegiance and when a United States flag passes by during a parade. Once again, women are not required to do so.

Historically, men’s hat etiquette designates that all hats should be removed upon entering indoors. Historically, women’s hat etiquette designates that dress hats are allowed to be kept on indoors. And, of course, hats are always welcome at the Kentucky Derby.

Baseball caps, beanies or berets. Trucker hats, turbans or top hats. Hats are certainly not in short supply. In fact, Wikipedia lists more than 140 types of hats with photos.

Meanwhile, when to wear or not wear a hat is seemingly all over the board. Pro golfers remove their hats to shake hands. Orthodox Jewish men wear hats, even in church. In 1983,



the Catholic church removed its mandate that prohibited men from wearing hats in church. And some teachers and principals have given up asking kids to remove their hats in the classrooms.

My father, like most men from his generation, almost always wore some type of hat when outdoors. Indoors? Never. And the men of his time seemingly always removed their hats whenever the American flag was involved. I try to follow suit, but I find fewer and fewer people joining me.

Bad hair day? Supporting your favorite team? Covering up a bald spot? It doesn’t matter. Wearing — or not wearing — a hat today seems to be, for the most part, a personal decision.

Who knows? Those hat clips on church pews might even make a comeback.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



Shane Goodman

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CIWOA PARTNERS WITH JOHNSTON WRESTLING FOR TOYS 4 TOTS DRIVE

The Central Iowa Wrestling Officials Association (CIWOA) has been a longtime supporter of the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys 4 Tots campaign. The group will once again be conducting a toy drive and fundraiser for Toys 4 Tots in conjunction with Fareway Stores this holiday season.

This year, CIWOA partnered with the Johnston High School Athletic Department and the Johnston Wrestling Program during the Annual Frank Baltzley Wrestling Invitational on Dec. 9 to support the Toys 4 Tots campaign. This is one of the premier tournaments in the state of Iowa, and CIWOA officials said they are honored to have the opportunity to pull together the wrestling community for such an important cause. They thank Johnston Athletic Director Heather Semelnacher and Wrestling Head Coach Aaron Tecklenburg for their support in this collaboration.

The public can get involved and contribute to the cause, outside of the tournament in Johnston, by making monetary donations through the CIWOA Venmo Account, @ciwoadsm, or dropping off toys at a local Fareway Store collection bin. Donations are being accepted through Dec. 18. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. The biggest current need is winter coats. They have given away more than 600 and are in need of 600 more to make it through the winter months. The goal is to ensure each of their clients gets a warm winter coat. People can donate used coats of all sizes or shop their Amazon wishlist. Also needed 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. ■

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Ring in the New Year with an evening of music and fun Dec. 31 at Backpocket Pin and Pixel, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Johnston. The public is invited to the taproom for a night filled with fun, live music with DJ Jaide Knight, a champagne toast at midnight, and a special signature cocktail. Music starts at 9 p.m. No registration is required. This is a 21 and older event. ■

HOT COCOA WITH SANTA

Brrrrrr! What better way to warm up a Monday than by having a cozy mug of hot cocoa, topped just the way you like it, while telling Santa how good you've been this year? Stop in at Backpocket Pin & Pixel, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Suite 110, on Monday, Dec. 18, 5-7 p.m., for a hot cocoa bar, pictures with Santa, and a cookie decorating bar. No registration required, just bring your holiday spirit. See the Facebook event page at <https://fb.me/e/1tNVgHLyy>. ■



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HOLIDAYS AT THE TOWN CENTER

A variety of festivities were held at the Johnston Town Center to celebrate the holiday season. Many businesses and organizations participated in the event including Dancer's Theatre/Midwest Youth Performing Arts Center, Dunkin' Donuts, Unaccompanied Minors, Northpoint Church, Johnston Public Library, First Baptist Church and Neon Heart Salon. Businesses in the Town Center offering specialty items during the event included Backpocket Pin & Pixel, Blue Bean, and The Cork 50131. Photos courtesy of City of Johnston ■



Santa and his reindeer were on hand to visit with families.



Free ice skating was enjoyed at The Yard.



Mayor Paula Dierenfeld and Santa Claus kicked off the celebration.



Among the activities offered for children was the chance to feel animal fur.



Tables of goodies and activities were set up in The Yard for kids.



Among the performers were members of Dancer's Theatre/Midwest Youth Performing Arts Center. ■

CHRISTMAS MOVIE TRIVIA

From *BuzzFeed.com*

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/laurafrustaci/christmas-movie-trivia>

1. In the film "The Nightmare Before Christmas," what holiday does Jack Skellington discover?
2. What is the Grinch's loyal dog's name?
3. In the film "Elf," what is the main character Buddy's favorite type of pasta?
4. In the movie "Home Alone," what is the name of the young boy left behind by his family during Christmas vacation?
5. What is the name of the Grinch's love interest in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?
6. What does George promise to give to Mary at the beginning of "It's a Wonderful Life"?
7. Which reindeer do Jingle and Jangle take to Southtown, USA, in "The Year Without a Santa Claus"?
8. What does Susan Walker tell Kris Kringle is the thing she wants more than anything in the world in "A Miracle on 34th Street" (1994)?
9. In "The Santa Clause," on what date does Bernard say Scott is due back at the North Pole?
10. What is the name of the evil magician in "Frosty the Snowman"?
12. Complete this famous line from "Elf": "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is _____"
13. In "Elf," when Buddy runs away, what does he apologize for in the note he leaves behind? ■

ANSWERS: 1. CHRISTMAS, 2. MAX, 3. SPAGHETTI, 4. KEVIN MCCALLISTER, 5. MARTHA MAY, 6. THE MOON, 7. VIXEN, 8. A FAMILY, COMPLETE WITH A FATHER AND YOUNGER BROTHER, AND THE HOUSE FROM THE COLE'S CATALOG, 9. THANKSGIVING, 10. PROFESSOR HINKLE, 11. JACOB MARLEY, 12. "SINGING LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR.", 13. RUINING THEIR LIVES AND CRAMMING 11 COOKIES IN THE VCR.

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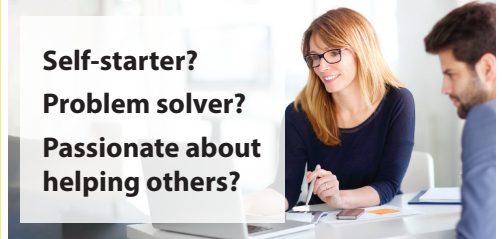


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Prairie Ridge Church

825 N.W. 36th St., Ankeny
www.ridgelife.org

Winter Wonderlights

Uptown Ankeny, 715 W. First St., Ankeny
www.uptownankeny.org

Winter Wonderscape

Reiman Gardens, 1407 University Blvd., Ames
www.reimangardens.com

Beaverdale

Ashby and Wallace Avenues near Beaver Avenue, Des Moines
www.beaverdale.org

Dogtown Lights

University Avenue between 23rd and 25th streets in Des Moines' Drake neighborhood

Facebook @ Dogtown Business and Entertainment District

First Church of the Open Bible

2200 Beaver Ave., Des Moines
www.firstchurch.org

Miracle on 86th Street

3600 86th St., Urbandale
www.urbandale.org

Santa's Rock N Lights

Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale
www.santasrocknlights.com

Historic Valley Junction

Fifth St., West Des Moines
www.valleyjunction.com

Lights in the Heights

Franklin Ave., Marylynn Drive, 72nd St., and other streets in Windsor Heights
www.windsorheightsfoundation.org

HOLIDAY FUN

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," at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 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 at the Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines; desmoinesperformingarts.org ■

RECIPE

A FESTIVE PEPPERMINT SNACK WITH A FLAVORFUL POP

(Family Features) Among the many enchanting elements of the holiday season, the family traditions and familiar flavors of favorite foods enjoyed year after year bring loved ones together better than perhaps any other occasion. From decorating wreaths and trees to crafting ornaments and preparing classic recipes, it's a season of cherishing memories and creating new ones.

While there are countless ingredients that harken to the taste of holidays past, there's one sweet favorite that truly symbolizes the season: peppermint. Whether enjoyed in the familiar shape of a candy cane — the original kid-favorite — or added to recipes from beverages to desserts and everything in between, it's a delicious way to connect generations.

For example, these Jingle Balls provide a perfect kid-friendly project to keep them busy rolling popcorn balls in sparkling colored sugar for bite-size bits of holiday magic. They're equal parts holiday spirit and sweet appetizer, snack or dessert. Just be sure to have an adult melt together the butter, marshmallows and peppermint extract before letting little ones show off their creativity.

This favorite is made possible by the versatility of popcorn, one of America's most beloved snack foods. Celebrated for its seed-to-snack simplicity, popcorn's smell, taste and versatility mean it can enhance any occasion as a budget-friendly solution for family gatherings. ■

JINGLE BALLS

Recipe courtesy of the American Pecan Promotion Board

Cook time: 24 minutes

Servings: 8

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 12 cups popped popcorn
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 3 cups mini marshmallows
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- assorted colored sugars

Directions:

Lightly spray large mixing bowl with nonstick cooking spray. Add popcorn.

Spread plastic wrap on cookie sheet; set aside.

In medium saucepan, melt butter and marshmallows; stir until mixture is smooth. Stir in peppermint extract. Pour over popcorn, mixing until well coated. Let cool 2 minutes.

Spray hands with cooking spray and form popcorn



mixture into 3-inch balls. Gently press colored sugar onto balls. Let sit on prepared cookie sheet until cool and set.

JOHNSTON LIBRARY

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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:

Ring in 2024 with Escape the New Year Escape Room on Wednesday, Dec. 27. Can you follow the clues to escape the room before time runs out? Kids will work together to solve the puzzles and find hidden objects. For kids in kindergarten through fifth grade. Register online for one of the three sessions.

ADULTS:


Know someone in your life who is learning English? JPL offers two free classes per week for English speakers of other languages. Let's Talk meets every Monday from 6:30-7:45 p.m. and is a casual program designed for non-native English speakers to practice their English conversation skills with a native English speaker. Discussions focus on current news, events and American culture.

Everyday English meets every Thursday evening from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Lessons focus on functional English — learning basic phrases and expressions useful in everyday conversation. Both classes are available in person or via Zoom. No registration is necessary for either class but for Zoom sign-in information, email us at esol@johnstonlibrary.org.

More information about all library programs is available at www.johnstonlibrary.com or by calling the Johnston Public Library at 515-278-5233. ■

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