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SEEN IN JOHNSTON

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INSIDE

LUNCH AND CONVERSATIONS: Johnston police officers visited residents at McAuley Terrace the week of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and joined them for lunch and conversation. Jerry, a retired police officer, is pictured with the visiting officers: Sgt. Zach Grandon, Community Affairs Coordinator Josh Kennedy, Officer Bertalisia Rodriguez and Officer Sarah Taylor. ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

TUES. HIGH 35 | LOW 26

A little snow in the morning

**WED. HIGH 36 | LOW 29**

Low clouds

**THURS. HIGH 35 | LOW 27**

Cloudy

**FRI. HIGH 34 | LOW 28**

Low clouds

**SAT. HIGH 35 | LOW 25**

Low clouds


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FROM THE PUBLISHER

MR. SNUFFLEUPAGUS, SAM THE BUTCHER AND WRONGWAY FELDMAN

The younger generation today is often criticized for spending too much time on their cell phones. Kids in my generation were criticized for spending too much time watching TV. Same problem. Different devices.

But is too much time with electronics really a problem? Or is it just a fad? Today, I watch very little television. But, as a kid, I spent many hours plopped down in my bean bag chair on the shag carpet as close as I could get to our console TV.

I believe we had an RCA television set. It was built like a tank and weighed about the same, too. It looked like it had a dark wooden cabinet, but it was probably hard plastic. Mom had it so polished with Pledge, it was difficult to tell.

In all honesty, I spent more time with that TV in my youth than I did with anything else. It introduced me to Mr. Snuffleupagus and Mr. Hooper, and I learned about interjections,

adverbs and Conjunction Junction from it.

I got to know Sam the butcher, Sgt. Schultz and Wrongway Feldman from our TV. Lenny and Squiggy connected with me through its screen and made me laugh, but I never understood why Shirley kept telling Carmine to take a cold shower. I watched Fonzie jump the shark on it — over two episodes.

I discovered the Na-No Na-No handshake and why the man put the car in the oven. I learned about the suffering of Kunta Kinte, and I watched Evel Knievel take many spills.

Our TV didn't have a remote control, but it did have a set of pliers to turn the channels when the plastic knob broke.

The TV screen was a perfect square, unlike the rectangle versions of today. When we watched the ABC Sunday Night Movie, we were often introduced



with the “formatted to fit your screen” message, which meant the edges were cut off.

Speaking of those Sunday night movies, seeing them on TV was a big deal. If you didn't catch the movies at the theater (and we rarely did), then you relied on the TV premier, which was typically a year or two later. No streaming. No DVDs. No VHS rentals. Just heavy edits and a lot of commercials.

You may say I was attached to our TV. I would guess Dad said that a time or two, much like I have said about my kids and their phones. One has to wonder, though, what memories will today's kids have of the content on their phones 50 years from now?

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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SEEN IN JOHNSTON

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION: NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY WAS ON JAN 9. SGT. ZACH GRANDON VISITED WITH RESIDENTS AT BISHOP DRUMM CARE CENTER ON THAT DAY.



Sgt. Zach Grandon with Betty P.



Sgt. Zach Grandon with Anna T.



Sgt. Zach Grandon with Catherine G.



Sgt. Zach Grandon with Tom W. ■

ONE BIG TABLE 2024 GALA AND AUCTION

Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community will hold its One Big Table Gala and Auction annual fundraiser Feb. 22 at Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston. Tickets are now on sale and available online at <https://givebutter.com/cZQIKC>. Help fight hunger and give a gift that makes a difference in the community. ■

FUNERAL NOTICE

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

RUTH SCHULER

Ruth J. Schuler, former mayor of Johnston, died on Jan. 11, 2024, after a brief illness. Ruth was born on Sept. 17, 1935, in Hampton to Esther and Ernest Winter. She graduated from Iowa Falls High School in 1953 and attended the University of Iowa for one year. On Nov. 26, 1955, she married her high school sweetheart Donald "Dean" Schuler. They had two daughters, Christina and Kathleen, after moving to Des Moines.

She was a legal secretary and administrative assistant in Des Moines until the early 1970s when she became a buyer and retail seller of fine gifts and quality merchandise for Josephs Jewelry in Des Moines. She worked there for more than 25 years until she retired in the mid 1990s. During her time in Iowa, she lived with her family in Johnston.

Ruth was involved with local politics in Johnston and held many positions, including being mayor in 1980 and 1981. She was the first of three women who have served as the mayor of Johnston. For many years, she also served on the Johnston City Council, as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission.

She and her husband, Dean, spent their early retirement years in Marco Island, Florida. She was elected to the first city council of Marco Island in 1997 and served until 2001 when they moved to Naples, Florida.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Donald Dean Schuler. Ruth is survived by her sister Mary (John) Leonforte, a nephew and nieces, and Ruth and Dean's two daughters, Christina (Gregory) Woods and Kathleen (Warren "Shep") Sparks. She is also survived by her four grandsons, Jeffrey and Zachary Woods, Warren and Winter Sparks.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association. Cremation has been entrusted to The Beachwood Society in Naples. ■



KIWANIS LUNCH MEETING FEB. 6

The Kiwanis of Johnston lunch meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m. at Cozy Café. The speaker will be Wesley Franklin, community impact director for the American Heart Association in West Des Moines. He collaborates with companies and organizations to create a culture of health for their patient population or workforce. His presentation is entitled, "Building a Healthy Lifestyle: For Ourselves, For Our Families & For Our Communities."

Non-members are welcome to attend. RSVP to: Barb Allen, 515-577-2194 or bjallen713@gmail.com. ■

CITY MEETINGS

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Tree Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Park Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 29: Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5: City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5: City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 12: Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15: Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. ■

TAYLOR SWIFT THEMED BINGO

Swifties unite! On Tuesday, Jan. 30, put all of that super-important Taylor Swift musical knowledge you have to good use while playing bingo at Backpocket Pin & Pixel, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Suite 110, Johnston. Prizes will be awarded. Get all your friends out and all your friendship bracelets on, cause this one is gonna be a blast. See the Facebook event link at <https://fb.me/e/3kZ2aCFVG>. ■

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JOHNSTON LIBRARY

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KIDS

Looking for a fun after-school activity? We've got you. Kids in grades K-2 can join us each month for the Little Bookworms program. Kids will enjoy a snack and a book from a beginning reader series read aloud with corresponding activities and crafts. For children ages 8 and younger, a parent or caregiver is required to remain inside of the library during this program. Registration required.

TEENS

Have a teen who loves board games? JPL's Teen Board Game Club meets the second Thursday of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. Teens have a chance to hang

with other game enthusiasts and play a new game each month. Snacks and drinks will be provided. This program is for kids in sixth grade and up. Registration required.

Keep the board-gaming going with Dungeons & Dragons for teens. D&D for teens meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30 p.m. Beginners and experienced adventurers welcome. Bring a character or use one of our pre-made characters. This event is for teens in grades 6-12. Registration required.

Registration is required. 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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EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
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SCIENCE CENTER OF IOWA

Saturday, Jan. 27

401 W. Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, Des Moines

A world of scientific wonders and activities awaits downtown. A steady stream of programs for all ages and interactive exhibits keep children of all ages engaged and ready to learn while also being entertained. Permanent exhibits will allow kids to learn about zoology, outer space, building, designing and more. This is what's going on just one day at SCI. Visit www.sciowa.org to see the full calendar of events for each day.

- **9:30-10 a.m.:** Planetarium, Story Time Under the Stars
- **10:30-11 a.m.:** Planetarium, Solar Odyssey: Journey Through Our Cosmic Neighborhood
- **11-11:30 a.m.:** Cold Blooded Critters. Meet and get the chance to touch some of SCI's resident reptiles and amphibians.
- **noon to 12:30 p.m.:** Deep Freeze. Get chills and thrills from cryogenic demonstrations.
- **12:30-1 p.m.:** Planetarium, Global Soundscapes. Join a team of soundscape ecologists to learn how the sounds around us can tell us more than we think about the environment in this full dome interactive presentation! Program and location subject to change.
- **1:30-2 p.m.:** Planetarium, Solar Odyssey: Journey Through Our Cosmic Neighborhood.
- **2-2:15 p.m.:** Snapping Turtle Feeding. Come check

out a feeding demonstration of one of SCI's most ravenous reptiles. The snapping turtle feeding may be too intense for some visitors.

- **2:30-3 p.m.:** Planetarium, Iowa Skies Tonight
- **3-3:30 p.m.:** Fireworks. From things that glow to things that explode, this program is a real blast!
- **3:30-4 p.m.:** Planetarium, Two Small Pieces of Glass. Go on an adventure through history to learn about the creation of the telescope and the discoveries this invention has helped humanity make. Program and location subject to change.

"HAVANA HOP"

Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (sensory-friendly performance)

Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

Des Moines Performing Arts presents Havana Hop: a children's tale of culture and confidence. The audience gets to dance along in this dynamic participation play where one actress creates three generations of lively women. Journey with Yeila as she discovers the fun of her multi-cultural heritage. Show is one hour. Tickets are \$10, available at <https://desmoinesperformingarts.org/events/havana-hop/>.

WINTER JAM 2024

Feb. 2, 6 p.m.

Wells Fargo Arena, 223 Center St., Des Moines

Tickets for this event are \$15 at the door. Jam Nation Entry is at 5 p.m. with general admission and pre-show at 6 p.m. Event starts at 7 p.m. For lineup, visit <https://jamtour.com>.

DOME AFTER DARK

Fridays, 6-10 p.m. through March

Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines

Enjoy the conservatory and gardeners show house which will be illuminated with unique and colorful lighting. Details at dmbotanicalgarden.com ■

RECIPE

SOLVE WINTER BLUES WITH COZY RECIPES

(Family Features) Cozying up with a bowl of warm deliciousness is a perfect way to ward off the chill of winter, and it's made even better when shared with those you love. Turning to favorite chilis and soups with comforting ingredients and smoky spices can transport your family from snow and sleet to warmth and paradise. ■

SMOKY GERMAN POTATO, SAUSAGE AND BACON CHILI

Recipe courtesy of "Dad with a Pan" on behalf of READ

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 40 minutes

Servings: 8

- 4 strips thick bacon, cut into cubes
- 1 pound smoked sausage, sliced into 1-inch segments
- 1 small onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 Fresno peppers, diced
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 can READ German Potato Salad, drained
- 1 cup beef broth
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

Directions:

In large saucepan over medium heat, cook bacon until crispy. Remove and set aside, leaving about 2 tablespoons drippings in saucepan.

Add smoked sausage and cook until browned.

Once sausage is cooked, add diced onion and



minced garlic, cooking until onion is translucent.

Drain excess fat then stir in chili powder, coriander, cumin, cayenne pepper, oregano and Fresno peppers until well mixed.

Add drained diced tomatoes, German potato salad and cooked bacon to saucepan.

Add beef broth and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Bring mixture to simmer and let cook about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until flavors are melded.

Substitution:

Jalapenos can be used for Fresno peppers.

WINTER WEATHER IMPACTS LOCAL BLOOD SUPPLY

Nearly 3,000 were impacted recently due to a blizzard warning that brought many parts of LifeServe Blood Center's service area inches, if not feet of snow last week. While weather often brings cancellations, the need for life-saving products for transfusion and treatment never stops.

In a recent week alone, LifeServe had to cancel multiple mobile blood drives and adjust hours or close donor centers resulting in close to 1,000 units lost. The good news is... you can help. If you had to cancel your donation, please make plans to reschedule. If you didn't have an appointment to donate, the good news is you can still make one today to assist in replenishing the blood supply. To schedule, visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org, or call 800-287-4903. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. Current needs are winter coats, lotion, shampoo and laundry detergent. 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. ■

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WANTED: Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-334.

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS: Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

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