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SEEN IN JOHNSTON

THE 40TH JOHNSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL DINNER WAS HELD FEB. 8 AT STONEY CREEK HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER.



Matt Hickey, Allan Graham and Paul Vogtlin - Johnston Fareway Meat & Grocery, Johnston Chamber Business of the Year



Samantha Winebrenner, Allan Graham and Sharon Vickery toasting to 40 years and to a successful 2024.



Allan Graham and Mayor Paula Dierenfeld, recipient of the Johnston Chamber Special Recognition Award



Andrea Hodapp presents award to Brenda Ballard for Johnston Chamber Ambassador of the Year



Samantha Winebrenner presents award to Pam Kucera for Johnston Chamber Citizen of the Year

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

TUES. HIGH 46 | LOW 28
Periods of sun and clouds



WED. HIGH 51 | LOW 27
Mostly cloudy and mild



THURS. HIGH 39 | LOW 23
Mostly cloudy and colder



FRI. HIGH 32 | LOW 14
More clouds than sunshine



SAT. HIGH 34 | LOW 18
Breezy with plenty of sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

PATRIOTISM SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE A LAW

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America." I have said those 12 words and the 19 that come after them many times in my life, mostly in the classrooms of my youth. They had meaning to me then, and they still do today. As they should.

If I am wearing a hat, I remove it when the flag is present.

When I see American soldiers, I thank them for their service.

I respect our president and commander of our Armed Forces, regardless of who it is.

I flunked choir in eighth grade, yet I still sing our national anthem every chance I get. And when the words "gave proof through the night that our flag was still there" are sung, I get goosebumps.

I never served in our military, but, at times, I wish I would have. I believe the experience would have made me a better American and a better person.

I don't know why I feel the way I

do about patriotism.

It was probably instilled in me by my father and my teachers and my coaches and my pastors. I never felt it was forced on me or that I was guilted into it. I am quite proud to be an American, and I am forever thankful to those who sacrificed to allow me to have the freedoms I have.

Even so, when Iowa legislators discuss enacting a law to require students in public schools to stand and sing portions of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on a daily basis, I am torn. I don't know that yet another law is needed. (I have a strong feeling that when any new law is enacted, an old law should be eliminated. That goes for new taxes, too.) Even though a law requiring this may be excessive, encouragement to sing our national anthem certainly seems appropriate.



If a public school teacher doesn't want to do this in his or her classroom, so be it. That decision will say a lot on its own.

I walked into a public high school the other day, and the ceiling in the commons area was draped with dozens of flags from other countries. I didn't see an American flag at first glance, but I certainly hope one was there. Americans don't need to be disrespectful to other countries to show patriotism for their own, but there should be no question where one's loyalties need to be. If a person truly despises our "land of the free and the home of the brave" that much, there are 194 other options.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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Living Weekly

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BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT

SENIOR NIGHT WAS HELD FOR JOHNSTON BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL ON FEB. 2.



Cade Boten, Dalen Huston, Quincy Siemer, Trovary Cavil, Ben Heaberlin and Alec Bauer. Photo by Tara Bauer



Kamryn Jilek, Aili Tanke, Aaliyah Riley, Averie Ryan and Isabella Balsley



Mike, Josh (manager) and Sally Derkenne. Photo by Dan Mennen

FUNERAL NOTICE

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

JERRY ALAN KUTZNER

Jerry Alan Kutzner, 76, of Marshalltown died Jan. 29, 2024, at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston. He was born on March 4, 1947. He graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1965. He owned a woodworking and cabinet making business, Kutzner Cabinets. He was also in the Army Reserves at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.

Jerry married Cynthia Swartz on June 17, 1972. They just recently were able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at Greenbriar in Johnston.

Jerry had a full life with his three children and eight grandchildren. He enjoyed being a father and grandfather and was always helping them with any and all home projects. He and his wife enjoyed traveling to Las Vegas and often invited friends and family to come as well.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Cynthia Kutzner; three children, Angela (Mike) Trachta, Jamie (Edina Sabic) Kutzner and Julie (Charles) Hill; eight grandchildren: Emma, Molly and Alice Trachta, Hart and Mallory Kutzner, Lillian, Hendrik and Oliver Hill; and a brother, Gary (Pam) Kutzner. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elvin and Barbara Kutzner.

Memorial funds can be mailed to Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home & Crematory, 8201 Hickman Road, Urbandale, IA 50322, for equipment for the Industrial Arts program at Marshalltown High School. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25, at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston in the chapel. A celebration of life follows at Backpack Pin & Pixel from 4-6 p.m. ■



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church, 4600 Meredith Drive, Des Moines, offers Ash Wednesday Mass on Feb. 14. Mass times are 8 a.m., noon and 6:30 p.m. Lenten Fish Fries begin on Friday, Feb. 16, with serving from 5-6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross will be on Friday during lent at 5:30 p.m. ■

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Johnston Community Greetings would like to welcome anyone new to Johnston with a welcome bag including discounts at local businesses and city information. Contact Missy Shepherd by phone, text or email at 515-991-5014 or mshpherdgreetings@gmail.com. ■

VALENTINE'S BINGO NIGHT

Dragon Scholarship Fund is hosting a Valentine's Bingo Night fundraiser Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. at Johnston High School Cafeteria. Enter at Door 2. Cash prizes and progressive jackpots included. Cost is \$5 per card. All ages are welcome. Concessions will be available. ■

DRAGON SCHOLARSHIP FUND AUCTION

The 21st annual Dragon Scholarship Fund auction is the group's flagship fundraising event for the current year. This year's auction will be conducted exclusively online, commencing on Feb. 25 and concluding on March 2. More than 100 packages are expected to be offered and have been gathered from the metro to as far away as Omaha and Kansas City. Visit www.dragonsf.org for the link to the auction and to view the packages. Visit [dragonscholarshipfund](https://www.facebook.com/dragonscholarshipfund) on Facebook for previews of packages and more. ■

WE WILL RUN YOUR JOHNSTON NEWS ITEMS FOR FREE.

Email your news by Friday at 5 p.m. to: tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com or call 515-953-4822, ext. 302

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. Current needs are winter coats, dish soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner and lotion. The Johnston Partnership has gone through 900 winter coats and still have families in need. People can feel free to bring us new or good used condition winter coats of all sizes, and they will go to people who haven't gotten one yet this season. 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. ■

CITY SCHEDULE

- **Thursday, Feb. 15:** Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, Feb. 15:** Board of Adjustment Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, Feb. 19:** City Offices and Library closed for Presidents' Day
- **Tuesday, Feb. 20:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21:** Senior Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
- **Monday, Feb. 26:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, Feb. 28:** Park Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, March 4:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, March 4:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Monday, March 11:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m. ■

ATTENTION SALES PROFESSIONALS!

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CITYVIEW



Call me, Jolene Goodman, on my cell at 515-326-0082.

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

"Les Misérables"

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTIONS

Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

dmpa.org

Feb. 17: The Peking Acrobats

Feb. 20: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Feb. 27 through March 3: "Les Misérables"

Feb. 27 through March 17: "Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull"

IOWA BEEF EXPO

Feb. 10-18

3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines

iowastatefairgrounds.org

An entire week of beef packed into the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Parades, shows, sales and banquets, all in the name of Iowa beef.

YMCA RED FLANNEL RUN

Feb. 17

501 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Dmymca.org

The Red Flannel Run is great for a fun freezing run. After starting 35 years ago when two single guys didn't have Valentine's Day dates, it is credited with being the longest consecutively produced race in the Des Moines area.

CITYVIEW CHOCOLATE WALK

Friday, Feb. 23, 5-9 p.m.

West Glen Town Center, 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines

Like chocolate? Like chocolate drinks? Then you'll love this event. For a ticket price of \$25 (\$35 at the door), attendees will receive 10 drink tickets that can be redeemed for sample cocktails at participating venues. Attendees will also be provided tickets for chocolate dessert samples at participating retail stores. A shuttle bus from Majestic Limousine will be providing transportation to each location, although most are only a short walk away. For a link to purchase tickets, visit <https://chocolatewalk.dmcityview.com>.

MORE EVENTS

Feb. 17: Ari Shaffir: The Wrong Side of History Tour. Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; hoytsherman.org/events

Feb. 27 through March 3: Les Misérables, one of the world's most popular musicals. Starting at various times at the Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines; dmpa.org

Feb. 28: Coldest Night of the Year Fun Run/Walk. Held by Central Iowa Shelter and Services at Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines; centraliowashelter.org

Feb. 29: Greensky Bluegrass. Val Air Ballroom. 301 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines; firstfleetconcerts.com/events

March 1: Iowa Deer Classic. Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com

March 4-8: IHSAA Iowa State Boys Basketball Tournament. Wells Fargo Arena, 223 Center St., Des Moines; iahsaa.org/basketball

March 8: Iowa Home Expo. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; iowahomeexpo.com

March 15: All Iowa Auto Show. Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com

March 15: Mateo Lane: The Al Dente Tour. Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; hoytsherman.org/events ■

RECIPE

GIVE COMFORT FOOD CLASSICS A MEXICAN TWIST

(Family Features) If winter evenings have you stuck in a dinner rut, heat up the kitchen with family favorites everyone can look forward to. Shaking off the chill can start with a cozy blanket and comforting food that warms you from the inside out.

For a flavorful side that complements a variety of main courses while adding Mexican flair, consider Mexican loaded mashed potatoes. This recipe is a familiar favorite with the unique twist of bacon and pork chorizo for a meat-infused recipe that will become a menu mainstay.

Plus, for an extra creamy texture, it calls for cacique crema Mexicana — an everyday table cream with a neutral, fresh-tasting flavor ideal for balancing out spice — and Oaxaca, a semisoft cheese with a mellow, buttery flavor. ■

MEXICAN LOADED MASHED POTATOES

Prep time: 35 minutes

Cook time: 40 minutes

Servings: 10

- 3 pounds russet potatoes (about 9 medium potatoes), peeled and cubed
- water
- 6 bacon strips, chopped
- 1 package Cacique Pork Chorizo
- 12 ounces Cacique Crema Mexicana
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1 1/2 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup Cacique Oaxaca or Queso Quesadilla, shredded
- 1/2 cup Cacique Crema Mexicana Agria, for topping (optional)
- 3 green onions, chopped

Directions:

In Dutch oven, add potatoes and cover with water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; cook, uncovered, 10-15 minutes, or until tender.

In skillet over medium heat, cook bacon until crisp. Drain on paper towels, chop into small pieces and



set aside. Remove bacon grease from skillet and cook chorizo over medium-high heat, 6-8 minutes.

Drain potatoes; add to pan. Mash potatoes, gradually adding crema Mexicana, butter, onion powder, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Transfer to greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish; sprinkle with cheese, chorizo and bacon. Refrigerate, covered, up to 1 day.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Remove potatoes from refrigerator and let stand while oven heats. Bake, covered, about 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 10 minutes, or until heated through.

Drizzle with crema Mexicana agria and chopped green onions.

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. ■

BIKE TO BREWS: SINGLESPEED EDITION

Backpocket Pin & Pixel, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Suite 100, Johnston, will host Bike to Brews: SingleSpeed Edition on March 16. Riders will depart from Backpocket at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a self-guided and self-paced 10-mile ride from Backpocket to SingleSpeed Brewing on Saturday, March 16. The route should take about an hour, and there will be food and drink specials at both locations. No registration or ticket required. The Facebook event link is <https://fb.me/e/1O6MT8CcU>. ■

PRESIDENTS' DAY NOTES

Johnston city offices, including the library, will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents' Day. Trash and recycling pickup days are not affected by this holiday. The regularly scheduled Johnston City Council work session (6 p.m.) and meeting (7 p.m.) will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Visit www.cityofjohnston.com/831 to view the agendas. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 2014 Toyota Corolla. This car is great on gas mileage and it's great for a school car for a teenager or anyone who wants good gas mileage. Color-silver with Black interior. All new tires and a new radiator. Must see. Call me if you have any questions or want to see it. Call 515-490-6921. Ask for Janet.

FOR SALE: MTD 2-stage Snowblower, 5 hp, 28 inches wide, runs great, everything works great and has good scraper. Asking \$290. Call 515-707-2087.

FOR SALE: vertical cloth blind 40" x 36" It is a very light gray color \$75. Text or call 515-321-0301.

WANTED: Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-3343.

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