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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.



Kelli Vorrath and Amanda Dawson



Tammy and David Coslin



Marla Bundy and Annie Mielke



Rachel Lesley and Heather Lesley



Alyssa and Michael Tiffany



Paula Bierle and Carolyn Bradley

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**TUES. HIGH 57 | LOW 36**  
Partly sunny and mild



**WED. HIGH 62 | LOW 33**  
Partly sunny and mild



**THURS. HIGH 52 | LOW 29**  
Mostly cloudy



**FRI. HIGH 48 | LOW 33**  
Cloudy with p.m. showers



**SAT. HIGH 55 | LOW 36**  
Plenty of sunshine



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# THE PINK PANTHER 5-IN-1 SPY KIT

Admittedly, I don't do much grocery shopping. I will stop by a store and pick up the basics from time to time, but buying food is not on my top-100 list. It wasn't always that way, though. When it came time to buy breakfast cereal, this kid was leading his mom to the supermarket.

Lucky Charms. Frosted Flakes. Fruity Pebbles. I never met a breakfast cereal I didn't like — other than Shredded Wheat. That was awful. But, for the other cereals, what was not to like? Oats, corn, corn starch, corn syrup, dextrose and lots and lots of sugar. Well, of course, there were also ingredients like trisodium phosphate, red 40, yellow 5 and blue 1, but I was a fan mostly because of the sugar.

There was one other attraction, though, and, if I am being honest, it was often the determining factor on which box of cereal I would pick out. It was, of course, the cereal box prizes. Self-adhering tattoos, iron-on patches and stickers of any sort were popular items, but a few others stood out in my childhood years.

Anyone remember Sugar Bear Bike Reflectors that were inside packages of Post Super Sugar Crisp?

They were two-sided reflectors in the shape of the Sugar Bear gripping the spokes of my bike. Seemingly, every kid in my neighborhood had these.

How about the Cinnamon Crunch Mini-Binoculars? Cinnamon Crunch was a spin-off cereal of Cap'n Crunch. My teeth hurt just thinking about it, but the mini-binoculars were cool. They didn't magnify much, but they were fun — for a day or two.

The Honey-Comb Around-A-Corner Viewers were quite clever. These handy toys would allow users to spy around the corner. They were small, plastic periscopes that came in orange, blue or yellow. Spy toys were all the rage in 1973, and these made us kids feel like James Bond.

The Alpha-Bits Terrariums were a hit for little ones with green thumbs, and they actually worked. Depending on the terrarium that was inside your box, you could grow sweet basil, fine curled cress or violet queen alyssum. I didn't have any idea what those things were then, and I still don't, but



I did enjoy watching them grow.

My all-time favorite, though, was the Pink Panther 5-In-1 Spy Kit. The Post Pink Panther Flakes cereal didn't last long, and I don't even remember what it tasted like, but I sure liked the toy, which had a secret signal whistle, a secret magnifying glass, a secret telescope, a secret message slot and a secret shirt pocket orientation to show if you were on a secret assignment — all in the shape of the always cool Pink Panther.

You could dig in past your elbow in a box of Cocoa Puffs today, and you would be hard-pressed to find toys. Some say they were choking hazards. Others say kids today are more interested in electronics than cheap toys. I say they don't know what they are missing. Speaking of missing, which of your favorite cereal box prizes did I leave out? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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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.**



Brenda and Kurt Ballard



Pam Kucera and Mark Woodward



Mike Pogge-Weaver and Brad Zaun

## CITY SCHEDULE

- **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.
- **Wednesday, March 13:** Senior Board Meeting, 5 p.m. ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS ARE GREAT

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. They are currently in need of any and all household and personal items. They also are out of pet food, and this is something that is really important to their clients. 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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Email your news by Friday at 5 p.m. to: [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com)  
or call 515-953-4822, ext. 302



## FUNERAL NOTICE

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

### THOMAS LEE TUEL

Thomas Lee Tuel, 75, died Feb. 9, 2024, in Des Moines. He was born on Sept. 13, 1948, in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Tom was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

Tom worked at John Deere in Horicon, Wisconsin, for more than 20 years then moved to the Des Moines area in 1991. He retired from Des Moines Area Community College in 2013. He loved spending time with family and friends, competing in sports and watching his grandkids compete. Tom was an avid golfer, bowler and softball player. He especially loved his annual fishing trip to Red Lake, Canada, and his hunting trips in Wisconsin. He was a devoted fan of the Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin Badgers, Milwaukee Brewers, Milwaukee Bucks and the Iowa Hawkeyes.

He is survived by his wife, Jan (Mount) Tuel; his children: Tony Tuel, Terri (Mark) Moser, Jason (Melanie) Broich and Matt (Jodi) Broich; grandchildren: Grant Moser, Madelynne Broich, Cody Broich, Jaxon Broich and Sadie Broich; his siblings: Bill (Linda) Sonneman, Mike (DeeDee) Tuel, Gray Tuel (John Taylor), Debbie (Doug) Hoffman, Linda (Bob) Zamzow, Beth (Todd) Ehrendeldt, Jon (Joan) Tuel, Diane (Mike) Sullivan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Benton and Elinor Tuel; his sister, Suellen (Bill) Bartos; and his brother, Mark (Rita) Tuel.

A service to honor and celebrate Tom's life was held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Friday, Feb. 16. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church or the MercyOne Richard Deming Cancer Center.

Arrangements were by Iles Westover Chapel. ■



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT JOHNSTON TOWN CENTER

The City of Johnston and the Johnston Town Center are hosting family-friendly events throughout the year. Mark your calendars to ensure you don't miss out on these exciting events. For more information about the City of Johnston events, visit [www.cityofjohnston.com](http://www.cityofjohnston.com) and view the calendar. For information about the events at Johnston Town Center, visit [johnstontowncenter.com](http://johnstontowncenter.com).

- Thursday, April 18 through Saturday, April 20: Tree branch cleanup, Johnston Public Works, times vary based on the day.
- Tuesday, April 9: Annual tree sale, online only, beginning at 8 a.m.
- Saturday, April 13 Kite Building Workshop, 2-4 p.m.
- Monday, April 15 and Tuesday, April 16: Spring cleanup west of N.W. 86th Street is Monday, April 15 and East of N.W. 86th Street is Tuesday, April 16
- Saturday, May 4: Kites on the Green, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 4 – Tuesday, Sept. 24, Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m. (NOTE: Farmers Market days were listed incorrectly in the city's newsletter in Johnston Living magazine February issue but are correct here.) ■

## 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](http://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. ■

## JOHNSTON LIBRARY

6700 Merle Hay Road • 515-278-5233 • [www.johnstonlibrary.com](http://www.johnstonlibrary.com)

There's a lot to love at your Johnston Public Library this month for kids, teens and adults. Check out the second annual Read Local Author Fair. Take the whole family to a model train exhibit. Find your inner calm at our three-part mindfulness meditation series. Get your teen signed up for the Chocolate Olympics. Read on for all the details.

### KIDS AND FAMILIES

If you need a fun after-school activity to do with the kids, bring them to JPL on Monday, Feb. 26 at 4:15 p.m. for the Little Bookworms program. Kids in grades K-2 will enjoy a book read aloud by Miss Megan along with a snack and corresponding activities and crafts.

Save the date for After-Hours Family Mini Golf on Friday, March 1, at JPL. Registration begins on Friday,

Feb.16 at 9 a.m.

### ADULTS

Love local lit? You won't want to miss the second annual JPL Read Local Author Fair on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 2-4 p.m. Stop by for some refreshments, then mix and mingle with local authors. Authors will present their latest works, answer questions, and sign books in this open house style event. You'll have a chance to browse a selection of books for purchase and enter to win fun literary prizes. No registration is necessary to attend this fabulously literary and fabulously local event.

More information about all library programs is available at [www.johnstonlibrary.com](http://www.johnstonlibrary.com) or by calling the Johnston Public Library at 515-278-5233. ■

## ATTENTION SALES PROFESSIONALS!

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**CITYVIEW**



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## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
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MEREDITH WILLSON'S  
**THE  
MUSIC MAN  
JR.**

**‘THE MUSIC MAN JR.’**

Through March 3, Fridays 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

CAP Theatre, 201 First Ave. S., Altoona

The next MainStage performance by Class Act Productions is “The Music Man JR.” Performances at CAP are live theatre for families of all ages, with familiar stories condensed into 90-minute performances that appeal to audiences with shorter attention spans. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$16 for adults and \$13 for seniors. Visit [www.captheatre.org](http://www.captheatre.org) for more information.

“The Music Man JR.” follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys band that he vows to organize. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain’s fall.

**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>.

**ELKS PANCAKE BREAKFAST BUFFET, BAKE SALE AND THE EASTER BUNNY**

Sunday, March 10, 8 a.m. to noon

West Des Moines Elks Lodge, 2060 N.W. 94th St., Clive

The Easter Bunny will be at the Elks breakfast to greet the children and have treats to share. The breakfast buffet includes: biscuits and gravy, french toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage patties, cheesy potatoes, and all you can eat pancakes (including blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes), orange juice, milk, and coffee. Enjoy a bloody mary or mimosa for \$3.50. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and younger. Proceeds support our Hoop Shoot Program, other youth activities and veteran support activities.

**THE BUSINESS EXPO**

Tuesday, March 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Meadows Gymnasium, 2555 W. First St., Grimes

The public is invited to the 14th year of the Business Expo. Check out some local businesses and what they have to offer. Look for plenty of free goodies from Grimes Chamber member businesses, face painter, and a balloon artist. Free admission and kids are welcome.

**JUDY NIEMACK JAZZ CONCERT**

Sunday, March 17, 2 p.m.

Caspe Terrace, 33158 Ute Ave., Waukegan

Jazz critic Dan Morgenstern said it best — “If you want to know what real jazz singing can be (but rarely is), listen to Judy Niemack.” Niemack has perfected her beautiful voice, fearless improvisational skills, impressive musicianship and exceptional versatility for more than 40 years and on many critically-acclaimed recordings. She also enjoys a worldwide reputation as a jazz vocal teacher and author of several “must-have” vocal jazz improvisation books. Niemack will be accompanied by pianist John DiMartino, who appeared at Caspe Terrace several years ago with vocalist Jay Clayton. For more information and tickets, visit <https://jazzatcaspe.weebly.com/tickets.html> ■

## RECIPE

# COMFORT CLASSICS WITH AN AUTHENTIC MEXICAN TWIST

*(Family Features)* Soup is a wintertime staple thanks to its simplicity, and you can put a delicious spin on your next winter warmup with Mexican-inspired ingredients. Giving soup night a twist starts with Cacique Foods, one of the country's top authentic Mexican food brands, that invites friends and family to share real moments while savoring authentic flavors.

This Smoky Chorizo and Chicken Pozole relies on the bold, hearty, spicy taste of Cacique's Pork Chorizo combined with handcrafted Homestyle Salsa. Queso Fresco's crumbly, creamy texture and milky, fresh flavor adds the perfect finishing touch, making this soup a perfect way to warm up weeknights with just the right amount of heat. ■

## SMOKY CHORIZO AND CHICKEN POZOLE

**Prep time: 5 minutes**

**Cook time: 30 minutes**

**Servings: 6-8**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large white or yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional, to taste (optional)
- 1 package (9 ounces) Cacique Pork Chorizo
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon dried Mexican oregano
- 1 container (16 ounces) Cacique Medium Homestyle Salsa
- 1 quart chicken stock
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs or breasts, trimmed of excess fat and diced
- 1 can (25 ounces) white hominy, drained and rinsed
- 1 lime, cut into wedges
- 3/4 cup crumbled Cacique Ranchero Queso Fresco
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro

### Directions:

In large, heavy pot over medium heat, heat oil. Reserve 1/4 cup onion for garnish; add remaining onion to pot and season with salt. Saute until translucent, about 5 minutes.



Increase heat to medium-high; add pork chorizo and break it apart with spoon. Cook chorizo undisturbed until deeply browned and cooked through, 3-5 minutes. Add smoked paprika and oregano; cook 30 seconds, or until fragrant.

Pour in salsa and scrape up browned bits from bottom of pan. Bring to simmer 1-2 minutes, allowing it to thicken slightly then add stock and bring to simmer.

Stir in diced chicken and hominy. Decrease heat to medium and cook 8-10 minutes until chicken is cooked through. Taste and season with more salt, if necessary. Remove from heat.

Serve bowls of pozole with reserved onion, lime wedges, crumbled queso fresco and chopped cilantro.



# 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>. ■

## 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 [mshepherdgreetings@gmail.com](mailto:mshepherdgreetings@gmail.com). ■

### 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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JOHNSTON *Living* MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2024

**Golden EMPLOYEES**

Retirement age workers share why they continue to report for duty

Meet Dana Zahn, COORDINATOR

Johnston girls wrestling picks up steam

Mini Greek yogurt pancakes with cinnamon

RECIPE

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