

JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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SEEN IN JOHNSTON

JOHNSTON CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WAS HELD FEB. 22
AT ADVENTURES IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, JOHNSTON.



Dan Fitzgerald, Tammy Coslin and David Coslin



Kit Mihalik and Jennifer Sayers



Paula Bierle and Brenda Ballard



Tiffany Nielsen and Christy Cline



Mandy Parrish, Annie Mielke and Joe Parrish



Josh Laraby and Samantha Winebrenner

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

TUES. HIGH 70 | LOW 41

Times of clouds and sun



WED. HIGH 67 | LOW 47

Sunny and warm



THURS. HIGH 51 | LOW 32

Cloudy; scattered showers



FRI. HIGH 54 | LOW 35

Some clouds, then sunshine



SAT. HIGH 54 | LOW 26

Cloudy and breezy



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER,
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

MEMORIZING PHONE NUMBERS

Do you know your cell phone number? How about your family members' numbers? Or your neighbors' or friends' or coworkers'? And I am not asking if you have them in your contacts. The question is, do you have their numbers memorized?

I was talking with a co-worker recently who said he paid his son \$20 to memorize his cell phone number. Why? Imagine an emergency scenario where a child loses his or her cell phone and needs to call mom or dad and has no idea what the phone numbers are. That hit home with me.

I have my cell phone number memorized, and I know my wife's, but our three daughters' numbers? I don't have a clue. My siblings? Nope. But I can recite my family's home phone number from my youth, as well as many of my friends' numbers, and even Jenny's (867-5309).

I often say the brain can only hold a certain amount of information, so why do I clog mine up with useless data like my junior high gym locker combination but

have to look at my driver's license for the zip code of the town I lived in for 20 years?

I suspect the answer is twofold.

First, we tend to remember what we repeat the most. When we had to dial phone numbers by hand over and over, we were more likely to remember them. Many of us also had our most-used numbers written down on a piece of paper that was often taped inside a cupboard door near the phone (or within reach of that tangled 20-foot cord). Second, when we are involved physically with an action, we tend to remember it more, too. There is something about manually writing things down that helps us recall them better.

Writer Thomas Oppong agrees. In an article posted at Better Humans titled "A Learning Secret: Write Things Down to Retain And Remember More," he explains why highly efficient people take notes.

He quotes author and productivity consultant David



Allen, who said, "Your mind is for having ideas, not holding them." He also shares British business magnate Richard Branson's thoughts on the importance of writing things down. "I go through dozens of notebooks every year and write down everything that occurs to me each day," Branson said. "An idea not written down is an idea lost."

Oppong writes that human memory is not a reliable way to store ideas and that the brain is an excellent tool for generating ideas but terrible at keeping them. He says the act of writing something down helps commit it to memory more accurately than trying to remember it yourself.

I wholeheartedly agree. And for \$20, I will gladly memorize your cell phone number.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



Shane Goodman
President and Publisher
Big Green Umbrella Media
shane@dmcityview.com
515-953-4822, ext. 305

JOHNSTON
Living Weekly

A publication of Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc.
8101 Birchwood Court, Suite, D, Johnston, IA 50131
www.iowalivingmagazines.com



News contact

Tammy Pearson
515-953-4822, ext. 302
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com



Advertising contact

Andrea Hodapp
515-953-4822, ext. 322
andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com

ANNUAL TREE SALE

Johnston's Annual Tree Sale starts on Tuesday, April 9, at 8 a.m. Trees can be purchased online, but remember to set up your account in advance to make the buying process smoother. Each tree costs \$75, and four varieties are available: cathedral elm, tuleo black gum, American larch and swamp white oak. For more information, visit <https://www.cityofjohnston.com/1436/Tree-Sale>. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. This week their main needs are toilet paper, lotion, body wash and dish soap. 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. Currently they pack 220 food bags each week to go home with students. They can use fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, granola bars, individual shelf-stable milk and individual peanut butter. ■

SPRING CLEANUP

The Johnston Spring Cleanup event will be Monday, April 15, for those living west of 86th Street and Tuesday, April 16, for those east of 86th Street Place your items on the curb by 6 a.m., depending upon which date is your designated trash collection day.

The Spring Cleanup allows residents to dispose of large household items on their regular trash collection day at no additional charge. All smaller items must be placed in bags or boxes. The average Johnston household pays around \$6 per year (included in your monthly utility bill) for this event, so take advantage of it. If you live in an apartment, condo or townhome with private trash collection, you may not be a part of the Spring Cleanup event. Contact your association or management to find out.

For guidance on what items can go at the curb, visit www.WhereItShouldGo.com/springcleanup or call Metro Waste Authority at 515-244-0021. For more information, visit www.cityofjohnston.com/675/Spring-Cleanup. ■

LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 20, the Johnston Lions Club is hosting its annual Pancake Breakfast at the Johnston Middle School cafeteria, 6501 N.W. 62nd Ave. Hours are 7-11 a.m., and the breakfast features pancakes (including gluten-free pancakes), sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$8 at the door and kids 5 and younger are free. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club service projects. ■

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. and 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>. ■



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WRESTLERS EARN ACADEMIC ALL STATE

Johnston made the All Academic Team List, which requires the 14 varsity district starters to achieve an average rolling cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher. Academic All State nominations in wrestling are presented by the IWCOA each season.

The team also had the following individuals listed on the All Academic Team for the 2023-2024 season: senior Braden Blackorby and juniors Jacob Helgeson and Kolby Gibbons. Results can be found at <https://sites.google.com/sbbschools.com/iwcoa/academic-information>. ■

TREE BRANCH AND TIRE DROP OFF

Johnston residents can drop off branches, limbs and passenger vehicle tires at the Public Works Facility, 6400 N.W. Beaver Drive, at no cost on April 18-20. Hours are: Thursday, April 18, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, April 19, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Saturday, April 20, 8 a.m. to noon.

Participants must present ID for proof of residency. Branches cannot be larger than 18 inches in diameter. Only residential passenger and truck tires will be accepted. Each household will be allowed to deposit a maximum of five scrap tires (off rims).

The city will not accept scrap tires generated from any business, semi tires, farm or tractor tires, solid tires or tires containing hazardous materials. ■

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 and view the calendar. For information about the events at Johnston Town Center, visit 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. ■

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. ■

KITE BUILDING WORKSHOP

The annual Kite Building Workshop will be Saturday, April 13, 2-4 p.m. at the Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road. Prepare for Kites on the Green and make a kite to fly during the festival. Veridian Credit Union sponsors the free kite kits. ■

CITY CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, March 13:** Senior Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
- **Monday, March 18:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, March 18:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 21:** Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 21:** Board of Adjustment Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, March 25:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 27:** Tree Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 27:** Park Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, March 31:** Library closed for Easter ■

FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

JERRY FRANK BURNS

Jerry Frank Burns, 89, died March 4, 2024, at Brio of Johnston in Johnston. Jerry was born Aug. 11, 1934, in Wayne County. He married Phyllis Petty Feb. 28, 1954. They were married 66 years until Phyllis' death in 2020.

Jerry graduated from Lineville High School then farmed with his father and brother until continuing his education at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. He received a bachelor's degree in education and master's degree in elementary school administration from the University of Missouri, his special education administration degree from the University of South Dakota, graduate degree in school psychology from the University of Nebraska, as well as post-graduate studies at the University of Colorado. His career spanned 32 years, retiring in 1991. He began as an elementary teacher and assistant principal in Des Moines. He later worked in Warren, Madison and Marion counties as a school psychologist and concluded his career as coordinator and assistant director of special education at Heartland Area Education Agency.

He joined the Assembly of God Church as a young adult and was a member of New Hope Assembly of God Church in Urbandale. He enjoyed volunteering, technology, photography, cooking, ceramics, gardening, following his great nephew Nick's golf tournaments, taking daily walks around his neighborhood and genealogy, which led to tracing his ancestors back to the Mayflower. He was a member of the General Society of the Mayflower Descendants.

He is survived by his sisters, Betty Empey and Karen (Jim) Pittman; brother-in-law, Ames (Thelma) Petty; cousins, Alice Lenington, Dale Burns, Donna Hopwood, Gary Burns, Cecil Barclay and Wanda White; nephews, John (Amy) Pittman and Tom (Karen) Petty; nieces Susan (Stephen) Moore, Anita (David) Kelso and Amanda (Jarrod) Martin; and many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis, and brother, Robert.

Funeral services were Saturday, March 9, at Iles Funeral Home - Westover Chapel with Rev. James Weaver officiating. Burial followed at Clio Cemetery in Clio. Memorials may be directed to New Hope Assembly of God Church, Urbandale. ■



JOHNSTON LIBRARY

6700 Merle Hay Road • For more information about all JPL programs, visit www.johnstonlibrary.com or give the library a call at 515-278-5233

Have a crafty teen? We've got you covered. Teens in sixth through 12th grade can pop into the Teen Space on Tuesday, March 12, and Wednesday, March 13, for Teen Crafternoons anytime between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to bust their spring break boredom. Teens can make cute clay creations, Perler bead pixel art and diamond art. No registration is necessary for these free craft programs.

On Thursdays, we anime. Teens in sixth through 12th grade can stop by the Teen Space on Thursday,

March 14, beginning at 2 p.m. for Anime Afternoon: Spring Break Edition. From 2-3 p.m. We'll watch the 2024 Crunchyroll Anime Awards while creating our own anime-inspired mini-buttons and taste testing Japanese snacks. Then, from 3-4 p.m., teens can compete in the Anime Kahoot! Trivia Challenge for fabulous prizes. (Bring your device or use one of the library's devices to participate.) Teens can finish up the afternoon from 4-5 p.m. battling for more fabulous prizes in a Dragonball Fighterz Tournament. ■

EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

St. Patrick's Day Parade

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

March 16, noon

Grand Avenue, downtown Des Moines

www.friendlysonsiowa.com

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick brings Des Moines its St. Patrick's Day parade, this year with a new route. The parade will proceed south on Robert D. Ray Drive to Grand Avenue and then west to Eighth Street with the parade officially ending at Eighth and Grand Avenue.

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH THE FOY IRISH DANCERS

March 16, starting approximately at 1:30 p.m.

Central Library, 1000 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Stop by Central Library after the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade for some hot chocolate and a performance from the Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance. Starting time depends on parade finishing time. Program lasts about an hour.

DES MOINES ST. PADDY'S MARATHON

March 16

E. Locust Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Des Moines

iowaruns.com/desmoinesstpaddys5k

A marathon, half-marathon and 5K will be offered. All finishers will receive a new 2024 pint glass, a finisher medal for all half-marathon and marathon runners, and the chance to celebrate eight years of the Des Moines St. Paddy's Race.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BAR CRAWLS

March 16

- **East Village Bar Crawl**, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Check-in is at Bellhop.

- **The Official Lucky's St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl**, 4-11:59 p.m. Check-in is at Hessen Haus, 101 S.W. Fourth St., Des Moines

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTIES

March 16

- **The Hall**, 111 S. 11th St., West Des Moines, starting at 11 a.m. Irish music, food, drinks and great conversations. \$5 Corned Beef and Cabbage while it lasts, along with full menu. Stein-holding contest and best dressed contest. All proceeds from food sales go directly to the Justice League of Food to support the most vulnerable members of our society.

- **Smash Park**, 6625 Coachlight Drive, West Des Moines. Embrace the Irish spirit at the St. Patrick's Day Party. Sign up for the Giant Beer Pong Tournament, purchase an Open Bar Package, or do both.

DES MOINES COMIC AND TOY SHOW

March 23-24

Merle Hay Mall, 3800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines

quadcitycon.com

This free event will be inside Merle Hay Mall. Quadcon is planning on having 100 vendor and artist spots, so get ready to get your steps in to see the available cards, comics, posters, toys, games and art.

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, a face painter, and a balloon artist. Free admission and kids are welcome. ■

RECIPE

GET CREATIVE WITH EASTER SWEETS

(Family Features) While plastic eggs may have led to a decline in good, old-fashioned egg-dyeing, there are still fun ways to bring crafts back to Easter celebrations. Consider these Kids Krafty Easter Cake Pops, which call for little ones to help dip seasonal shapes in chocolate, use cake molds and more.

Remember, these delicious crafts don't have to be perfect – having fun and making memories that last a lifetime are what make Easter truly special. ■

KIDS KRAFTY EASTER CAKE POPS

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Ingredients:

- 1 box cake mix
- 1 can frosting
- 1 bunny chocolate mold
- 1 cakesicle mold
- ice pop sticks
- 1 bag white chocolate chips or melting chips
- cake pop sticks
- 1 bag orange melting chips
- 2 tablespoons canola or coconut oil, divided
- 1 bag green melting chips
- pastel sprinkles
- 1 piece hard foam (optional)
- edible markers

Directions:

Bake cake according to package instructions and let cool completely.

Crumble cake and mix with 1/2 can frosting until dough forms. Add more frosting, if needed. Using small cookie scoop, form dough into balls and set aside. Place dough in bunny molds then pop out and set aside with balls. Place dough in cakesicle mold, insert ice pop stick in each slot and freeze 5-10 minutes.

Melt handful of white melting chips. Stick tip of each cake pop stick in chocolate then insert into every cake ball and bunny until each has one stick. Set aside to dry.

Remove cakesicles from freezer and pop out of molds. In bowl, melt orange melts then mix in 1 tablespoon oil



and transfer to cup. Dip cakesicles and scrape off excess using rim of cup. Place on parchment paper to dry.

In bowl, melt green melts then place in zip-top or piping bag. Cut tip off bag, pipe carrot leaves onto piece of parchment paper and let dry.

Melt remaining white melts and mix in remaining oil. Transfer to cup and dip ball-shaped cake pops and bunnies then tap stick on edge of cup to remove excess.

Over separate bowl, sprinkle ball-shaped pops with pastel sprinkles. To keep ball shape, let dry by sticking in piece of hard foam. Bunnies can dry face side up on parchment paper. After bunnies are dry, use edible markers to make face and color in ears.

When carrots and leaves are dry, remelt orange melts and place in piping or zip-top bag. Cut off tip and drizzle orange over carrots. Add small line of orange on each ice pop stick and place leaves on each stick. Let dry.

MAYOR'S BIKE RIDE

Join Mayor Paula Dierenfeld for the annual Mayor's Bike Ride on Thursday, May 9, at Terra Park, 6400 Pioneer Parkway near Corteva. Mayor Dierenfeld will provide comments around 11:30 a.m., and the ride will take off shortly after. A free lunch will be provided for riders at the large shelter at Terra Park. Visit www.cityofjohnston.com/DocumentCenter/View/12699/2024-Mayors-Bike-Ride to view the map of the route. Stay tuned for more details. ■

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR KITES ON THE GREEN

Volunteers are needed to help at Johnston Kites on the Green Saturday, May 4. The kite festival includes public kite flying, professional kite flyers demonstrations, kids kite building, music and more. Lots of help is needed to make this event successful, and multiple shifts are available. Among other things, volunteers may be asked to help kids/families build kites, assist at special activities, staff information or donation booths, etc. Johnston Kites on the Green is organized by the city of Johnston and the Johnston Public Library Foundation, which can receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Sign up for a volunteer spot at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/815951609/false#/invitation>. ■

MCCANN TO SPEAK AT MUSEUM

Iowa native Linda Betsinger McCann, who has published several books related to military-related history in Iowa, will speak March 23 at 10 a.m. at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum about her book, "Prisoners of War in Iowa; Prohibition in Eastern Iowa."

She will have copies of her books for sale. She has also published two books on the Civilian Conservation Corps. Her latest book, "Rosie the Riveters of Iowa," is about the women who worked at the 70 Iowa companies with military contracts during World War II. Linda was able to speak with 35 women who had worked as Rosies, and she shares their memories. ■

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

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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WANTED: Electronics, stereo receivers, guitar or amps, speakers, radios, etc. Any age or condition for parts or repair. Call 515-445-6023.

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