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SEEN IN JOHNSTON



RIBBON CUTTING FOR ANNIE'S FOUNDATION: A ribbon cutting was held March 28 for Annie's Foundation, 5619 N.W. 86th St., Suite 700, Johnston. The Foundation's mission is "to ensure members of our community have unhindered access to books with characters and subjects that reflect the diversity and complexity of the world around them." ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 67 | LOW 45
Mostly cloudy



THURS. HIGH 66 | LOW 42
Breezy with plenty of sun



FRI. HIGH 63 | LOW 43
Sunny



SAT. HIGH 72 | LOW 50
Warm; plenty of sun



SUN. HIGH 68 | LOW 48
Sunny



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

DOES ANYBODY REALLY KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?

The band Chicago recorded a song titled “Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?”

for its 1969 debut album “Chicago Transit Authority.” The song raised a good question. Fifty-five years later, the better question may be, “Does anyone wear a watch anymore?”

The answer is yes, but the reason doesn’t have as much to do with time as it once did. People apparently now wear watches instead as a fashion statement or for nostalgic purposes.

The data on watches is all over the board, depending on where you look and what year it was compiled, but there is no question that it is changing... and quickly. In general, it seems about seven out of 10 adults wear a watch of some sort today, and about nine out of 10 own at least one. Baby boomers have the highest rate of daily watch wear, and men tend to wear watches more than women. And, the greater your income, the more likely you are to wear a watch.

Looking back a few decades, 750 million watches were sold worldwide in 1991. That number fell to 440

million in 2014, a drop of 2% per year. For teenagers, the drop was more drastic. In 2005, 52% of teenagers wore a watch. By 2010, it was down to 25%. More than a decade later, smart watches changed watch sales significantly. In 2020, nearly one in five Americans used a smart watch or fitness tracker. Three years later, that number jumped to one in three.

Some say this massive growth in tech watches is a sign of the end of time with the smart watches being the “mark of the beast.” The King James Bible, Revelation 13:16-17, states “...it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.”

The reference to not being able to buy or sell without that mark — the smart watch — is a bit unnerving and close to home. Meanwhile, most of



us wear a watch on our left hand, so I think we are safe... for now.

I used to have a smart watch, but I was concerned about the tracking and data harvesting and quit using it. My oldest daughter said she would take it. She returned it to me with a broken face plate. I fixed it, and my youngest daughter said she would take it. She wore it in the hot tub.

Do you remember your first watch? Maybe surprisingly, I can’t. I know it wasn’t in elementary school. Probably not in junior high. It was likely one of those trendy Swatch watches from the 1980s in high school, but I am not sure. Meanwhile, through all this data and memories and watch talk, the question still remains: Does anybody really know what time it is? Or, more specifically, does anybody really care?

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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JOHNSTON
Living Weekly

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ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY

Electronic Asset Security is partnering with the City of Johnston to provide electronics recycling on Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the city hall parking lot. This is an opportunity to get rid of old televisions, radios, monitors, printers, phones, etc. This will help ensure these items stay out of the landfill. Visit www.electronicassetsecurity.com/events/spring-2024-johnston-electronics-recycling-event for more information. ■

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. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. In March, they continued to break records by serving 574 families in the food pantry, which means they are going through a lot of personal items. Their biggest needs currently are: toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, dish soap and laundry 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. ■

KITES ON THE GREEN FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Johnston Commons Park near the library and get set for a day filled with free, family-friendly activities and fun. New activities and performances have been added this year, including a magic show and balloon animals with Jonathan May, stilt walking and mesmerizing sway pole performances by Laura Ernst with Kinetic Entertainment, two obstacle bounce houses and many more fun, free activities for your family. More information and a schedule of all the activities can be found by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/kitesonthegreen. ■

CITY CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, April 10:** Senior Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
- **Monday, April 15:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, April 15:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 18:** Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 18:** Board of Adjustment Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, April 24:** Park Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, April 29:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m. ■

ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Backpocket Pin & Pixel is celebrating its one-year anniversary (three months late) with a party on April 26. Enjoy all-day specials on food and drinks, free duckpin bowling, raffles and giveaways, polaroid photo fun and more. Live music from Ted Stockton will be featured from 6-9 p.m., and you can paint your own Backpocket mini ceramic beer stein (with purchase). To save your stein, visit <https://tinyurl.com/MiniStein>. All ages are welcome until live music stops at 9 p.m. More information is available on the Facebook event Link: <https://fb.me/e/zRUNVjm33>. ■

MEET THE FINALISTS FOR LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The public is invited on Thursday, April 11 to meet the top three candidates for the Johnston Public Library director position. The library board will be conducting interviews with each candidate and would like you to be a part of it. Candidate presentations are a half hour each and will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the West Meeting Room. After each presentation, you will have the opportunity to fill out a feedback form to share your thoughts on the candidates. Your insights will greatly influence the selection process, so the library board encourages you not to miss this chance to shape the future of the Johnston Public Library. ■

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. ■

JOHNSTON 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. ■

FREE SHRED DAY APRIL 27

Get rid of your old confidential documents in a safe and secure way at Johnston Public Library's free Shred Day on Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to noon in the library parking lot. THE SHRED IT company will be there with three of their mobile document-shredding vehicles. Limit material to be shredded to three disposable boxes or containers per household. Visit <https://johnston.librarycalendar.com/event/free-shred-day-6723> for more information. ■

2024 MOVIES IN THE YARD

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable lineup of outdoor Movies on the Yard this summer at Johnston Town Center, 6245 Merle Hay Road. The lineup includes: Thursday, May 16: "Barbie"; Friday, June 21: "Kung Fu Panda 4"; Thursday, Aug. 15: "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3"; Thursday, Sept. 19: "Wonka." All screenings begin at dusk. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and loved ones for an evening of free entertainment. ■

FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

LUELLA J. VAN WEY

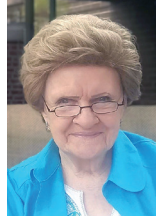
Luella J. Van Wey, 89, died at home on March 29, 2024. A funeral service was Friday, April 5 at Iles Westover Chapel. Interment was at the East Friesland Cemetery, rural Ackley.

Luella was born on July 15, 1934, in Ackley. She married Leslie Van Wey June 8, 1954. They made their home in Waterloo. They hosted foreign exchange students from France and Blackhawk hockey players. Luella was a dental assistant, skilled seamstress, a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church and a Girl Scout leader in Waterloo. She liked to travel, camp and play cards with her friends and family.

She worked at Sears in Waterloo in the men's department for several years before retiring in 1996. In 2007, she moved to Johnston to be closer to her two granddaughters. She was very active. She enjoyed meeting new people, going to casinos and was involved with several women's card groups in the Johnston area.

Luella is survived by her daughters, Lori (Deb) Van Wey and Leisha Lane; grandchildren, Jessie Kiesling Wegner (Chris Wegner), Lindsey (Tyler) Reagan and Natalie (Nick Riley) Lane; and great-grandsons, Lane and Rayden. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie, and her son-in-law, Paul Lane.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Ellipsis in Johnston. Online condolences are welcome at www.IlesCares.com. ■



JOSEPH GERALD CHLADEK

Joseph Gerald Chladek, 85, of Johnston, died at his home on Friday, March 29, 2024. Joe was born in Omaha on June 26, 1938. He received his education at Creighton Preparatory School and later attended Creighton University and Northwestern University in Chicago where he received his certificate in Orthotics.

In 1963, he married Helen Liknes. They moved to the Des Moines area where he owned and operated Iowa Orthotics. In 1987, he sold the business but continued to work for a few more years until his retirement. Joe was an avid pool player and ran many pool tournaments in the area.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Genelle Valentine, and a brother, James A. Chladek. He is survived by his longtime companion, Judy Pawell; sons, Noel and Jonas (Amber); stepson, James D. (Merlita) Barr; stepdaughter, Laurie (David) Cronin; and grandchildren, Noel Jr., Sinea, Brienna, Karrington, Breanna, Torin, Declan and Frederick; a son-in-law, Tom Valentine, and his ex-wife, Helen Roush; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial gathering was held on Saturday, April 6 at the Iles Westover Chapel in Des Moines. ■



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andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com

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CELEBRATE THE EARTH AT ANY OF THESE EVENTS**EARTH DAY AT THE
BRENTON ARBORETUM**

25141 260th St., Dallas Center

April 21 from noon to 3 p.m.

thebrentonarboretum.org

Even more fun family activities have been added to this year's popular event. Come and enjoy the arboretum grounds and make an afternoon of exploring and visiting the vendors. A variety of stations will be offered throughout the event including a Kids Planting Station, Selfie Station, OMG Bees with Bee Expert Julia McGuire, Found Object Bug Craft with Artist Jill Woodward, Experience Nature's Healing with Dennis Kelly, Hot Off The Presses Food Truck, and Erin Huiatt with Des Moines Parent talking about her new book, "100 Things To Do in Des Moines Before You Die." At 1:30 p.m., a special presentation will be made on how to plant a tree with Director Of Horticulture Andy Schmitz.

**EARTH DAY FAMILY 5K RUN/WALK
AND PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**

Fenders Brewing, 212 W. Van Dorn St., Polk City

April 20, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

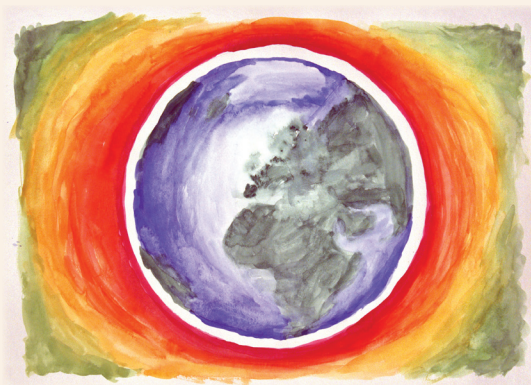
Funds raised at the Polk City Friends of the Parks' annual Earth Day Family 5K Run/Walk and the Pickleball Tournament being held in conjunction with it will go toward costs of resurfacing the tennis and pickleball courts at Miller Park. The event is Saturday, April 20. To register, visit <https://www.polkcityfriendsoftheparks.com/earth-day-5k>.

EARTH DAY TRASH BASH

April 20-27

Earthday.dsm.city

Earth Day Trash Bash is a collaboration between the cities and citizens of Clive, Des Moines, Johnston, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, West Des Moines, Boone County Conservation, Polk County Conservation, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Trees Forever, and Des Moines Water Works. Register at the above website.

**EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES - DES MOINES**

- Begin with a hike on the nature trail to find wildflowers in bloom, learn about the insects that visit these flowers and build a "Pollinator House" to take home. The event is at Grandview Park Mahaffey Enclosed Shelter on Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. Cost is \$5. Register at <https://bit.ly/EDTB2024-EarthDayPrograms>
- Building a Bee House: Look into the world of solitary bees and other pollinators that live around us, then build a simple bee house to take home and place in your yard. Helping to provide habitat for insects is a creative way to support nature and conservation. The event will be held at the East Side Library on Thursday, April 25, 5:30 p.m. The event is free. Register at <https://bit.ly/EDTB2024-EarthDayPrograms>.
- Seed Swap & Spring Gardening Workshop: Growing organic food locally is great for the Earth. Kickstart your growing season learning tips and tricks from local gardeners. Discover how to create an efficient and productive garden space, prep your soil for success, and more. The Valley High Greenhouse Club will be giving away free pollinator-friendly plants. Don't forget to bring seeds for the seed swap — a fantastic opportunity to exchange seed and enrich the gardening community. This free event will be held at Franklin Avenue Library, 5000 Franklin Ave., on Saturday, April 27, 1-3:30 p.m. ■

RECIPE

MAKE MOM'S DAY EXTRA SPECIAL

(Family Features) Don't let Mother's Day pass by as just another day on the calendar. Make this year's celebration a true ode to the moms in your life with some extra special touches at breakfast and beyond.

Whether she's the culinary expert of the home or cooking is usually a team effort, make sure her morning is one of rest and relaxation while you handle kitchen duties from prep to cleanup. These cinnamon muffins offer a one-ingredient solution that take just 15 minutes to prepare.

Add flowers: Flowers are a timeless Mother's Day gift for a reason. They provide pops of color on dining room tables, kitchen counters, end tables or even nightstands. Consider mom's favorite spot in the house and place them within eyeshot for a frequent reminder of how much she's appreciated.

Create a personalized card: Add a special final touch to an already memorable morning with a thoughtful card and handwritten message. Get the kiddos involved and create a card from scratch with construction paper, colored pencils, markers and more for a homemade gift she'll cherish. If you didn't fall from the artistic tree, don't fret — a storebought card means all the same when paired with a heartfelt message that conveys your love. ■

CINNAMON MUFFINS

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Ingredients:

- 2 tubes (8-count each) cinnamon rolls

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Grease muffin tin or line with liners. Using kitchen shears, cut each cinnamon roll into pieces and place in muffin holes.

Bake about 15 minutes, or until golden. Let cool then add provided icing.



Tip: To make icing extra special, add 2 tablespoons creamer and mix well before icing muffins.

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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. ■

TECH GIFT FOUNDATION WORKS TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY TO REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS

BY SHANE GOODMAN

Kathir Kalyanaraman presented to the Johnston Rotary group on March 19 about Tech Gift Foundation, an organization he started. Kathir is currently a junior at Johnston High School. His family has lived in Johnston for 20 years.

Kathir started Tech Gift Foundation as a 501(c)3 with a goal to connect the community digitally by donating technology to those in need.

Kathir launched Tech Gift Foundation when he was 14 and in ninth grade. He got the idea during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide digital services to the refugee and immigrant population who were in need.

Kathir is seeking gently used laptops, tablets, smartphones and smart watches. He is raising money from both businesses and individuals to buy software, batteries and other items. Kathir is seeking laptops five years or newer.

To date, Kathir has collected 372 laptops, cell phones and smart watches from people in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Johnston and Ames. The monetary value of the items donated so far totals \$55,000. Those who have benefited from the program include people from Africa, Afghanistan, Latin America and Ukraine.

Kathir has collaborated with numerous organizations including Des Moines Refugee Support, Knock and Drop Iowa, the Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance, and the Cedar Rapids African refugee organization. Kathir has also focused on English as a Second Language — the ESL Project — to help refugees learn the language. He is working to provide Chrome books and laptops and has 1,000 on a waiting list.

Kathir is the sole worker on this effort today and does so in his free time. He wants to expand this project with other students in years to come.

For more information, or to contact Kathir, visit www.techgift.org or call 515-850-0402. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED: Looking for a handyman or carpenter to tear an old fence down and rebuild in Van Meter. We have the material and have started work but would rather pay someone to do it. It is wood covered with chicken wire, attached to railroad ties. If interested please call 515-321-0301.

FOR SALE: Old rolltop antique desk for sale. Call 515-249-8664.

FOR SALE: Vertical cloth blind. Light gray color. 40" x 36" in like-new condition. Call 515-321-0301.

FOR SALE: 1981 Ford F100 Truck. Blue/white. Ran when I shut it off two years ago. For someone who wants to repair/restore. \$500 or make an offer to take it away. Call 515-238-3198.

FOR SALE: Nice bunk beds. Solid built. \$175. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

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.

BICYCLES WANTED: Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-3343.

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