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 A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

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QUEEN AND KING OF GREEN



Amy O'Brien and Sharm Sisler were crowned the Queen and King of Green at the opening ceremonies of Green Days. ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 85 | LOW 62
Mostly sunny; not as humid



THURS. HIGH 83 | LOW 66
Sunny with high clouds



FRI. HIGH 88 | LOW 68
Mainly cloudy, windy and humid



SAT. HIGH 79 | LOW 55
Intervals of clouds and sun



SUN. HIGH 75 | LOW 60
Clouds yielding to sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

MY MOTHER'S CLOTHES LINE POLES

They were nearly 5 feet tall. Two of them. Connected with four strands of coated wire in 15-foot lengths. Planted in cement below the frost level in the yard of my childhood home. These were my mother's clothes lines, and she knew them well.

These poles and lines were not the store-bought expandable versions. Dad made these out of iron and welded them into T shapes with a support brace on each side. Nothing was moving these things. I know this because I climbed them most every day and would proudly sit on top. Mom was OK with that, although I knew better than to even think about hanging from the lines.

Mom painted the clothes poles gray, probably every year, as I don't ever recall seeing rust on them. She had a plastic ice cream pail with a handle that she stored her old wooden clothespins in, and she would carry that bucket out with each load of wet clothes from the washing machine in the basement.

Mom would hang most all of our laundry on those lines to dry.

She said she loved the smell of the fresh air on the sun-dried clothes. She might also have been trying to save a few cents by not running the dryer. All I remember is that my size 7 Toughskins were crisp as cardboard, and I would need a few hours of wear to break them in. I also remember Mom instructing me to do the 50-yard dash to get the clothes off the line whenever an unexpected rain shower would arise.

The birds seemed to be attracted to those clothes lines as much as I was, often perching on them and doing their business, which created quite a contrast in color on those freshly painted gray poles. Mom clearly didn't approve of their behavior. When on the poles, those birds also made good target practice for my brother and me with our BB guns. Mom didn't approve of that either. Before you criticize us too much, though, you should know that we usually missed. Usually.

One of my childhood chores



was to fold the clothes on the line, and this was an easier task than folding clothes out of the dryer due to the aforementioned crispness. Once set, those fold lines weren't moving. Bed sheets were a trick, though, especially the fitted mattress covers that I still can't seem to figure out how to fold today.

Jolene and I don't have clothes lines in our yard, and I don't know if we would use them if we did. The thought of freshly washed clothes being covered with pollen doesn't sound pleasant to me or to my olfactory. Oddly, I don't remember this being a problem in my youth.

Although it is rare, I do occasionally see clothes hanging outside on lines today. I still have the desire to climb those poles, but, instead, I simply smile.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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SOFT TRAIL STROLL: SYCAMORE TRAILS

Come walk the singletrack (dirt trails) of Sycamore Trails, 4640 N.W. 66th Ave., Johnston, on Tuesday, July 23, starting at 10 a.m. This event is part of a free series for people looking for a simple way to become more active. Meet in the gravel parking lot on the south side of 66th Avenue, just east of the soccer fields and west of the Des Moines River. The group will walk slowly, think “stroll,” and no one will be left behind. The walk distance will be about 1.6 miles. If the dirt is muddy, the group will walk on the paved trails instead. More information and updates are available online at www.roccasecca.fitness/stroll. ■

SENIOR RECEIVES MEDIACOM SCHOLARSHIP

Mediacom Communications announced the selection of four Des Moines metro-area high school seniors as recipients of the company’s 2024 World Class Scholarship program. Among the recipients is Courtney Sweet, a senior at Johnston High School. Each student earned a \$1,000 scholarship for academic accomplishments and leadership.

The Des Moines-area scholarship recipients are among 60 high school seniors selected from more than 350 applications Mediacom received from students in 21 states. Iowans graduating from eight other high schools across the state were also chosen to receive Mediacom scholarships. ■



SIGN UP FOR THE MAYOR’S RUN FOR THE TRAILS

The Mayor’s Annual Run for the Trails 5k + Kids Fun Run will take place on Saturday, Aug. 10. The registration fee includes a short-sleeve dri-fit T-shirt. However, if you register after July 7, your shirt size cannot be guaranteed. The Kids Fun Runs and 5K walk will start at 8 a.m., followed by the 5K Run at 8:15 a.m. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/IA/Johnston/MayorsRunfortheTrail-s2022KidsFunRun>. ■

MERLE HAY ROAD CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH OPEN HOUSE

An open house will be held Thursday, July 11, 5-6:30 p.m. at Johnston City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road, to unveil the preliminary design plan for the new Merle Hay Road Canoe/Kayak Launch. This is an excellent opportunity for community members to review the design and provide valuable input. Your feedback is crucial to the development process, and city officials encourage everyone to participate. The project is expected to be under construction by fall and continue into the winter. ■

CAMP DODGE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

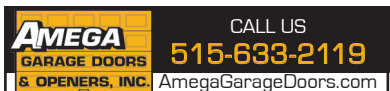
The Iowa National Guard’s Summer Concert Series has begun. Join them at Camp Dodge on June 27 to hear the 34th Army Band from 6-9 p.m. This great event will feature free live music and food trucks. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and beverage coolers. ■

**THIS SPOT IS
AVAILABLE.**

Contact Andrea Hodapp at
andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com



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FUNDS BEING RAISED AFTER VANDALS STRIKE

Johnston Little League needs the community’s help after vandals broke into a storage shed and damaged thousands of dollars worth of property while stealing several items.

A GoFundMe was set up to help the sports facility recover. According to the fundraiser, the criminals damaged the storage sheds and the four golf carts used around Lew Clarkson Park. Additionally, their Gator Utility Vehicle and several other items were stolen.

“While equipment has been stolen, property damaged, and the sense of safety and security that we feel at our fields compromised, we refuse to let this setback define us. With your assistance, we can help restore our facility, improve our security and rise above this difficult setback,” the fundraiser reads. The Little League Club is sharing the GoFundMe on their Facebook. ■

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, 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. ■

JOHNSTON SUMMER SERIES

Formerly the Summer Yoga Series, this Summer Series has expanded with a broader range of activities as well as a vendor fair, all in support of the Johnston Partnership Food Pantry. The series will highlight and promote not only women-owned businesses, but many different local Johnston owned businesses. For more information and to register, visit www.johnstonsummerseries.com.

- **June 25, 6-7 p.m.:** Fun Family Fitness, sponsored by Casee Woodley, Realtor
- **July 9, 6-7 p.m.:** Social Drumming, sponsored by Adventures in Social Development
- **July 21, 2-5 p.m.:** Vendor Fair
- **Aug. 20, 6-7 p.m.:** Dance Fitness, sponsored by Reagan Taylor, Cosmetologist
- **Sept. 3, Sept. 17:** TBD

All events are held at 5870 Merle Hay Road, Johnston. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. Almost 600 families are being served per month, so the need is high. In particular need at this time are baby food, toilet paper, shampoo 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. ■

TUNES OF TWILIGHT SERIES AT THE YARD

Enjoy live music in The Yard, 6245 Merle Hay Road.

- **Thursday, July 18,** featuring the duo Snacks
- **Thursday, Aug. 8,** featuring the all-female quartet June Bugs
- **Thursday, Sept. 12,** featuring The Sons of Gladys Kravitz.

The concerts will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. More information is available by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/1439/Tunes-at-Twilight-Series. ■



GREEN DAYS VOLUNTEERS



Shane Goodman, Stacy Knoup, Dan Knoup, Wayne Johnson, Al Meyer, Tracy Grasso, Brad Lundquist and Steve Grasso, members of the Johnston Rotary club, volunteered at the beer tent during Green Days on Friday night. ■

SOUNDS OF SUMMER AT THE YARD

The music will begin at 7 p.m. on the stage, just west of Johnston City Hall. Bring your lawn chair and blanket and enjoy the free music. More information is available by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/1438/Sounds-of-Summer.

- **Saturday, June 29** – Back in Black is America’s leading AC/DC cover band based out of Dallas
- **Saturday, Aug. 24** – Mixtape is a Nashville-based 1980s rock band
- **Saturday, Sept. 28** – The Pork Tornadoes is Des Moines’ No. 1 summer party band ■

JOHNSTON BASKETBALL CLUB 2024 TRYOUTS

The Johnston Basketball Club (JBC) girls and boys tryouts are scheduled on Sunday, Aug. 11, at Johnston High School Gym, 6500 N.W. 100th St. Grades eligible for tryouts are first through eighth (grade they will be attending in the fall of 2024). Check the JBC website (johnstonbasketballclub.com) to register for tryouts in July. Specific times for tryouts per grade will be on the website in August. ■

FARMERS MARKET

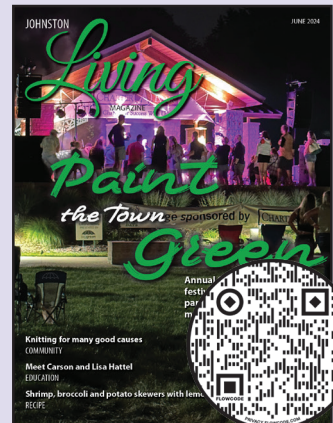
Johnston Farmers Market will be held on Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. through Sept. 24 at the Johnston Town Center just north of City Hall, 6245 Merle Hay Road. Shop for fresh produce and homemade products while being entertained by live music. www.cityofjohnston.com/farmersmarket. ■

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. ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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MUSIC FESTIVALS

- **80/35 MUSIC FESTIVAL, JULY 12-13**
Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Parkway,
Des Moines

80/35 is moving out of downtown and into Water Works Park. The new location allows the festival to include camping for the first time. Headliners: Killer Mike and OK go.

- **HINTERLAND, AUG. 2-4**

Avenue of the Saints Amphitheatre, 3357 St. Charles Road, St. Charles
www.hinterlandiowa.com

Just a half hour outside of Des Moines is the state's largest music festival that continues to draw nationally renowned names to the small city of St. Charles. More than 20 musical acts will take the main stage and entertain travelers, campers and music lovers alike. Headliners: Aug. 2: Hozier; Aug. 3: Vampire Weekend; Aug. 4: Noah Kahan.

LIVE MUSIC

- **HOYT SHERMAN PLACE**

1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines
hoytsherman.org

July 31: Steve Earle: Alone Again at 7:30 p.m.

- **WELLS FARGO ARENA**

223 Center St., Des Moines
iowaeventscenter.com

Aug. 1: Barry Manilow at 7 p.m.

- **WOOLY'S**

504 E. Locust St., Des Moines
firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys

July 16: Citizen Soldier at 7:30 p.m.

July 19: Wilderado at 8 p.m.

July 23: Bowling For Soup at 7 p.m.

- **WATERWORKS PARK**

Lauridsen Amphitheater, Des Moines Water Works Park, 2251 George Flagg Parkway
dsmwaterworkspark.com

July 11: Brantley Gilbert at 6:30 p.m.

- **XBK**

1159 24th St., Des Moines
xbklive.com

July 13: Mountain Grass Unit at 6 p.m.

July 19: Modern Life Is War at 7 p.m.

July 24: An Evening with Stick Men

- **VIBRANT MUSIC HALL**

2938 Grand Prairie Parkway, Waukee
www.vibrantmusichall.com

July 7: The Kid Laroi First Time Tour at 7:30 p.m.

- **DES MOINES METRO OPERA**

Pote Theatre, 513 N. D St., Indianola
www.desmoinesmetroopera.org

July 20: 2024 Stars of Tomorrow Concert

- **JASPER WINERY**

2400 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines
www.jasperwinery.com

July 11: Funk Trek & Mind@Large

July 18: Rhino

- **DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN**

909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines
www.dmbotanicalgarden.com

Thursdays through Aug. 29: Summer Concert Series. ■



RECIPE

PEANUT BUTTER CUPS ADD A 'POP' TO INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES

(Family Features) Break out the red, white and blue and (safely) set off your favorite fireworks – it's time to honor America's birthday. Along with all the booms and blasts, make sure your crowd is satisfied with one of the country's most beloved snack foods and a true firecracker in the kitchen: popcorn.

Celebrated for its seed-to-snack simplicity, popcorn's smell, taste and versatility mean it can enhance any occasion as a budget-friendly solution for family gatherings. As a timeless treat nationwide, it is an especially perfect partner for Fourth of July get-togethers as it bursts while cooking and brings a thrill to the senses.

These Peanut Butter Cups are an ideal summer snack that's easy to prepare with everyday ingredients. All you need to do is melt together peanut butter, butter and marshmallows then mix in popcorn, shredded wheat, peanuts and raisins. Bake in individual paper liners for grab-and-go convenience then share with your nearest and dearest. For added flair, use American flag-themed liners or finish your creation with toothpicks connected to miniature American flags. ■

PEANUT BUTTER CUPS

Yield: 24 cups

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 package (10 1/2 ounces) miniature marshmallows
- 6 cups freshly popped popcorn
- 6 cups spoon-size shredded wheat
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts
- 1 cup raisins

Directions:

Preheat oven to 250 F.

In microwave on high heat using large, microwavable bowl, melt peanut butter and butter 1 minute.

Add marshmallows and microwave on high 1 minute, or until marshmallows puff; stir.

Add popcorn, shredded wheat, peanuts and raisins;



stir gently.

Place paper liners in two 12-cup muffin pans. Divide mixture into 24 cups.

Bake 10 minutes.

Remove from oven and store "cups" in airtight container.

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SUNDAY: CLOSED
MONDAY: CLOSED
TUES. - FRI.: 9AM - 3PM
SATURDAY: 10AM - 2PM

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