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SEEN IN JOHNSTON



LIONS SUPPORT BOOSTERS: Members of the Johnston Lions Club presented a check for \$6,483 to Mike Koenigs, president of the Johnston Booster Club. This money is from proceeds of advertising sold for the Johnston School sports programs and supports many Johnston school activities. The Lions serve our community. Pictured are Jill Rutz, Ron Lower, Tom Leffler, Lions members, and Mike Koenigs, president, Booster Club. ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 79 | LOW 59
Intervals of clouds and sunshine

THURS. HIGH 81 | LOW 60
Mostly sunny

FRI. HIGH 81 | LOW 61
Sunny to partly cloudy

SAT. HIGH 83 | LOW 62
Sunny to partly cloudy

SUN. HIGH 82 | LOW 63
Partly sunny

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

LEAVING THIS WORLD BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT

“Leave this world a little better than you found it.”

That quote — or some variation of it — can be attributed to many people. Leader of the Scout Movement Robert Baden-Powell. Novelist and poet Paul Aster. The Science Guy Bill Nye. Fantasy author Sarah J. Maas. Even mixed martial arts fighter Ronda Rousey.

To simply say those words is one thing, though. To do them is quite another.

When we leave a job, is the position or the company better than it was when we started? Or do we leave things in shambles for the next person?

When we sell or give something to someone else, do we clean it up and make it look good first? Or do we slough those chores off on the next owner?

When we leave a campsite, a restaurant or even a parking lot,

do we put things back the way they were, or do we leave our messes for others to deal with?

I know I can certainly do better, but I try to leave this world a little better than I found it, and I encourage others to do the same. That ruffles the feathers of some folks, but I have decided that’s OK, as the end result seems worth it, at least to me.

The real question is, why are some people inclined to leave this world a little better than they found it, and others are not? Were we taught to do this by our parents? A feeling of guilt if we don’t do it? An obsessive-compulsive disorder? All of the above?

I have learned to stay clear of people who say, “It’s not my problem anymore.” That selfish



point of view is what we need less of in our world, in our communities, in our workplaces and in our homes. Unfortunately, it is quite common.

As with most things in life, the little things add up to big things. Picking up trash on the sidewalk. Pushing a chair back in at the table. Putting a shopping cart back in the corral. The list goes on, and these small efforts most certainly lead to larger and more important ones, too.

What do you think? What other things — large or small — can we all do to leave this world a little better than we found it? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



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AUDIT RELEASED ON CITY OF JOHNSTON'S FINANCES

Bohnsack & Frommelt LLP released an audit report on the City of Johnston. The city's revenues totaled \$59,636,297 for the year ended June 30, 2023, a 3.3% decrease from the prior year.

"We are pleased with the overall audit for the City of Johnston," said Sarah Swisher, finance director. "Every year, we ensure that tax dollars are spent wisely and that there is appropriate documentation for every purchase. As the trend has shown, the city's revenues from enterprise funds, such as water, sewer and stormwater, continue to grow as the city itself expands. With recent growth over the past year, we anticipate a further increase in the 2024 audit as well."

Revenues included:

- \$17,192,586 in property tax
- \$386,887 from hotel/motel tax
- \$207,106 from utility tax
- \$4,836,032 from Local option sales and services tax
- \$9,704,496 from Tax increment financing
- \$401,974 from revenues in lieu of taxes
- \$420,141 from other taxes
- \$1,798,111 from unrestricted investment income
- \$172,930 from other miscellaneous revenues.

Expenses for the city's governmental activities totaled \$34,518,255, a 7.3% decrease from the prior year. **Expenses included:**

- \$10,718,800 for public safety
- \$9,385,503 for public works
- \$36,500 for health and social services
- \$5,025,212 for culture and recreation
- \$3,678,990 for community development
- \$1,927,733 for general government
- \$3,745,518 from interest.

Expenses for business-type activities totaled \$11,577,529, a 13.2% increase.

Expenses included:

- \$7,161,348 for water
- \$3,608,449 for sewer
- \$544,432 for stormwater

A copy of the audit report is available on the city's website within the Finance Department and the Auditor of State's website. ■

JOHNSTON LIONS CLUB BINGO

Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, 6-8 p.m.

Enjoy Bingo at the second Thursday monthly event held by Johnston Lions Club, 6501 Merle Hay Road. ■

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. ■

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. ■

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 locally owned businesses. For more information and to register, visit www.johnstonsummerseries.com.

- **July 21, 2-5 p.m.:** Vendor Fair
- **Aug. 20, 6-7 p.m.:** Dance Fitness, sponsored by Reagan Taylor, cosmetologist

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. ■

SOFT TRAIL STROLL: SYCAMORE TRAILS

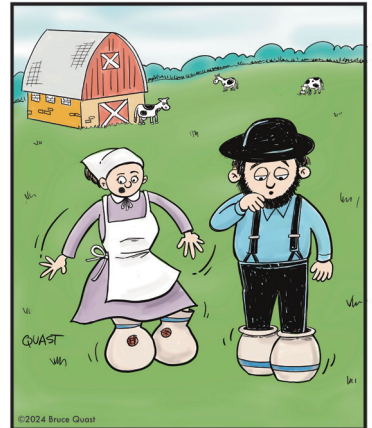
Come walk the singletrack (dirt trails) of Sycamore Trails, 4640 N.W. 66th Ave., Johnston, on Tuesday, July 23, starting at 10 a.m. This event is part of a free series for people looking for a simple way to become more active. Meet in the gravel parking lot on the south side of 66th Avenue, just east 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. ■

COMFORTABLY DUMB

By Bruce Quast



...from the makers of Good & Plenty



“You must have heard wrong. These aren’t comfortable at all!”

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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Waukee Arts Festival

WAUKEE ARTS FESTIVAL

July 19-20

Centennial Park, Waukee

www.waukeeartsfestival.org

Centennial Park in Waukee will host plenty of eye-catching local art from some of the area's best artists over the two-day-long festival. Live music and food trucks will be available to enjoy alongside the artwork.

CLIVE FESTIVAL

July 19-20

Clive Aquatics Center parking lot/Greenbelt
Landing

Highlights include the annual Thunder Over Clive Fireworks Show both evenings at 9:30 p.m., live music, the popular Clive Fire Department Slip-N-Slide, Clive Running Festival, and much more. For more details, visit https://www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/clive_festival.php.

FOUR SEASONS FESTIVAL

July 19-20

Polk City

Highlights include the parade at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20, the Bill Riley Talent Show, live music, festival food, kids activities and more. For details,

visit gopolkc.com/four-seasons-festival.

NATIONAL BALLOON CLASSIC

July 26 - Aug. 3

Memorial Balloon Field,
1136 150th Ave., Indianolawww.nationalballoonclassic.com

Just look up. Beautifully colored hot air balloons adorn the skies of Indianola. The National Balloon Classic has been dropping jaws of Iowans and travelers with its wondrous display for more than 50 years.

HINTERLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Aug. 2-4

Avenue of the Saints Amphitheatre,
3357 St. Charles Road, St. Charleswww.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 AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR GRANDSTANDIowa State Fairgrounds 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des
Moinesiowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand**Aug. 8:** Lauren Daigle at 8 p.m.**Aug. 9:** Foreigner: Historic Farewell Tour at 8 p.m.**Aug. 10:** Jelly Roll at 8 p.m.**Aug. 11:** Greta Van Fleet at 8 p.m.**Aug. 12:** Brett Young at 8 p.m.**Aug. 13:** Thomas Rhett at 8 p.m.**Aug. 14:** Mötley Crüe at 8 p.m.**Aug. 16:** The Avett Brothers at 8 p.m.**Aug. 17:** Ne-Yo at 8 p.m.**Aug. 18:** Kidz Bop at 6 p.m. ■

RECIPE

QUENCH YOUR SUMMER CRAVINGS WITH BOLD, REFRESHING BEVERAGES

(Family Features) In between summer adventures and hot afternoons spent poolside, you're likely looking to combat rising temperatures with a cool, refreshing beverage. This year, quench your thirst with drinks that play up the trendiness of bold flavors.

While many concoctions can help you beat the heat, some gems seem to hit the spot better than others. Consider one of the trendiest beverages that is increasingly becoming available at smoothie and juice bars nationwide but which you can also prepare at home: the tempting, bold taste of the Mangonada. With a harmonious fusion of sweet, spicy and tangy flavors, this thirst-quencher captures the essence of tropical indulgence with the majestic mango at the center of its symphony of flavors.

"Mango not only adds a burst of flavor but also brings a unique depth to the beverage," said Dan Spellman, director of marketing for the National Mango Board.

Central to the Mangonada is Tajín Fruity Chamoy Sauce and Clásico Seasoning — a zesty blend of chili peppers, lime and sea salt — which are must-have ingredients to make the beverage. They combine to infuse the drink with a subtle kick, balancing the mango's sweetness with a hint of spiciness that hits different. ■

MANGONADA

Recipe courtesy of the National Mango Board

Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh mango cubes, plus 5-6 cubes for garnish, divided
- 2 ounces fresh mango nectar
- 1/2 ounce lime juice
- 2 cups ice
- 1/2 ounce agave nectar
- 2 tablespoons Tajín Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce, plus 2 ounces for garnish, divided
- 1 tablespoon Tajín Clásico Seasoning, for garnish
- 1 tamarind candy, for garnish (optional)

Directions:

Measure 1 cup mango cubes, mango nectar, lime juice, ice and agave nectar into blender cup. Blend until smooth.

In separate small dishes, add 1 ounce hot sauce and 1 ounce seasoning.

Dip rim of 14-ounce Collins glass into hot sauce then seasoning to coat. Drizzle remaining hot sauce along inside of glass.



In glass, pour 1 tablespoon chamoy sauce followed by blended Mangonada. Top with remaining fresh mango cubes and sprinkle with additional seasoning. Add tamarind candy to glass, if desired.

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 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/MayorsRunfortheTrails2022KidsFunRun>. ■



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. ■

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, Aug. 24** – Mixtape
- **Saturday, Sept. 28** – The Pork Tornadoes ■

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. ■

IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM
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GARAGE SALE: 6438 N.W. 93rd St. Johnston, Friday and Saturday July 19-20, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lots of baby/toddler clothes and shoes, baby items, kids' toys, men's/women's clothes, bags/purses, household items (curtains/bedding set), books, DVDs, Radio Flyer wagon, computer monitor.

BABYSITTING: I am a Johnston Middle School associate teacher and planning to do babysitting during summer months starting June. I love being with kids and possess the caring and kind personality. I guarantee you will be satisfied with my service. Call/text me at 925-246-3816.

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