

WEEKEND



INSIDE
Books to watch



TOMMY LIVE

TV star makes Hard Rock debut

MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you believe in New Year's resolutions? If so, what is yours?



Chad Pauling
Publisher
cpauling
@siouxcityjournal.com
"I think resolutions are great. You should try to always improve yourself."



Earl Horlyk
Staff Writer
earl.horlyk@lee.net
"My resolution to have a beach body by summer will be attempted and abandoned again as it has for the past 25 years."



Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
mdockter@siouxcityjournal.com
"Resolutions are for quick fixes. You don't need a new calendar to make changes in your life."

Have a question you'd like us to answer? Send it to events@siouxland.net and it may end up on this page.

MUSKETEERS HOCKEY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7



VS.



6PM PUCK DROP

TICKETS STARTING AT \$10

712-224-PUCK
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MUSKETEERSHOCKEY.COM

CALENDAR

MUSIC

Big Head Todd And The Monsters, 8 p.m., Jan. 12; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Replay - Rock N' Roll, 8 p.m., Jan. 14; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

On Your Feet!, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 16; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

ART

Sioux City Art Center: Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez: Turn of the Sea, Aug. 20 to March 5; Heavy, Nov. 1 to Feb. 12; Camera Club: Greatest Hits, Nov. 17 to Feb. 12; Larassa Kabel: Sojourn, Nov. 17 to Feb. 12; Grant Wood's Corn Room mural, ongoing; Earth-Water-Light, ongoing.

Betty Strong Encounter Center and Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center: Scraptopsaurs Traveling Exhibit, year-long.

Alcohol Ink: Beautiful Blooms with Paula Crandell (Adult Painting), 6 p.m., Jan 19, 26; Gilchrist Learning Center, 220 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-6580.

Beginning Printmaking

with Pete Licht (Adult Printmaking), 1:30 p.m., Jan. 21, 28; Gilchrist Learning Center, 220 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-6580.

OUTDOORS

Life in Denali National Park, 7 p.m., Jan. 5; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Nature Tales - Polar Bears, 10 a.m., Jan. 10; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Wild N' Woodsy Art Club - Snowflakes & Cocoa Balls, 4:30 p.m., Jan. 10; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Yoga Class, 5:30 p.m., Jan. 11; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Coffee & Conservation, 10 a.m., Jan. 18; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

THEATER

Tommy Davidson, 7 p.m., Jan. 6; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

COMMUNITY

Winter Break Camp, 7:30 a.m., Dec. 26-Jan. 3; Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA, 604 Riverview Dr., South Sioux City. Information: 402-404-8439.

True Stories + Poetry • Liminal, 7 p.m., Jan. 7; Design West Sioux City, 1014 Design Place. Information: info@allykarsyn.com.

INFORMATIONAL

Passport to FUN! Summer Camp Early Registration, 9 a.m., Jan. 1-15; Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA, 601 River View Drive, South Sioux City. Information: 402-404-8439.

CONTINUING EVENTS

Breathe Yoga & Meditation Class, 5:30 p.m., Jan. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24; 9 a.m. Jan. 7, 14, 21; Breathe Yoga & Meditation Center, 1551 Indian Hills Dr. Building C. Information: 712-293-4900.

Siouxland Discovery Barbershop Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Jan. 9, 16, 23; Friendship Community Church, 305 Sergeant Square Drive, Sergeant Bluff. Information: 712-212-3633.

Submit an event:

Do you have an event you'd like to submit to our calendar? Call 712-293-4313, e-mail events@siouxland.net or enter online at www.siouxland.net. Include event date, time, event name, contact name and phone number. Deadline: Noon the Friday prior to publication.



@SCWeekender



Become a fan!

The Weekender is published every Thursday by Sioux City Journal Communications, P.O. Box 118, 515 Pavonia St., Sioux City, Iowa, 712-293-4313, email, events@siouxland.net. The Weekender welcomes unsolicited submissions, but is in no way responsible for their safety, return or publication. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect the opinion of the Weekender, its management and employees or its advertisers. Please recycle.

Your comments welcome

Have something to say? We'd like to hear it. Seriously. Call 712-293-4229 or email events@siouxland.net.

Contributors

Tim Hynds and Jesse Brothers



ON THE COVER: Tommy Davidson can sing, tell jokes and impersonate performers like Michael Jackson and Sammy Davis Jr. He'll be bringing his stand-up act to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem at 7 p.m. Friday. Provided photo.

MLK Birthday celebration set for Jan. 16

Morningside University President Dr. Albert Mosley will be the keynote speaker at Sioux City's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration.

The event, which is sponsored by Sioux City's NAACP and opened to the public, will be held Jan. 16 at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4600 Hamilton Blvd.

Sioux City Community School District high school students will be represented in a Martin Luther King essay writing contest while School Board member Monique Scarlett will speak to this year's theme of "This is the power ... our collective voice."

Longtime civil rights advocate Richard Hayes will give King's famous "Mountain Top" speech and the MLK Community Choir – under the direction of Sandra Pearson – will provide the music.

WinnaVegas Casino Resorts donates more than \$20,500

SLOAN, Iowa – WinnaVegas Casino Resort presented four checks, amounting to more than \$20,500, to local Winnebago and Siouxland organizations.

Active in charitable giving, the casino developed a program in which WinnaVegas guests could drop slot tickets into donation boxes placed at various locations in the casino. Guests could also donate change at ticket redemption machines as well as during auctions held at several concerts.

Among the local



PROVIDED

Unity Christian High School Dance Team will be among the dance troupes appearing at "An Evening of Dance," on Jan. 14, 2023 at the Unity Christian Knight Center in Orange City, Iowa.

organizations receiving donations were Winnebago Qalib, Inc., Winnebago Reformed Church, Crittenton Center and Winnebago Native American Families Association.

"We are pleased to help out our local charities during this special time of the year when help is needed the most," WinnaVegas general manager Michael Michaud said. "We applaud our guests at WinnaVegas Casino Resort for their generosity for the past few months and we look forward to supporting those in need."

WinnaVegas Casino Resort, located at 1500 330th St., is owned and operated by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and is currently in its 30th year of operation. Opened originally as a bingo parlor in April 1992, WinnaVegas has grown over the years to become the largest gaming floor in the area. At present, its gaming floor is 54,355 square feet, has more than 767 slot machines,

10 casino table games and features Siouxland's only bingo hall.

Orange City Arts presents 'An Evening of Dance'

ORANGE CITY, Iowa — The Orange City Arts Council presents the annual "An Evening of Dance" on Jan. 14 at the Unity Christian Knight Center, 216 Michigan Ave. S.W.

The Orange City Arts Council presents the show, which features local dancers from Orange City, Sheldon, Sioux Center and surrounding communities, as a way to celebrate the art of dance.

Dance instructors will include Ashley Schiebout (Unity Christian High School Dance Team), Robin Van Es (Robin's School of Dance), Georgia Walker (Illuminate Dance Project), Julia Vander Stelt (Elite Dance and Fitness) and Natalie Schouten (MOC-FV High School Dance Team).

Dancers of various ages will demonstrate their skill and artistry through a mix of jazz, hip-hop, tap and modern dance.

Visit orangepcityarts.org or call 712-707-4510 for ticket information.

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*Must be a ClubWinn member to participate in the Game Show.

For more information: visit WinnaVegas.com or call us at 800-468-9466

SUX 6

THE BEST THINGS TO DO IN SIOUXLAND



Tomi Leppanen takes a shot at the goal during practice for the Sioux City Musketeers at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa, Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022.
JESSE BROTHERS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Shirley you jest!

The hard-rocking band Seriously Shirley will hit the stage at DOXX Warehouse, 1219 Fifth St., at 9 p.m. Saturday. Did they name themselves after "The Partridge Family's" Shirley Jones or Cindy Williams' character on "Laverne & Shirley"? Yeah, we're too chicken to ask.



Real-life 'Northern Exposure'



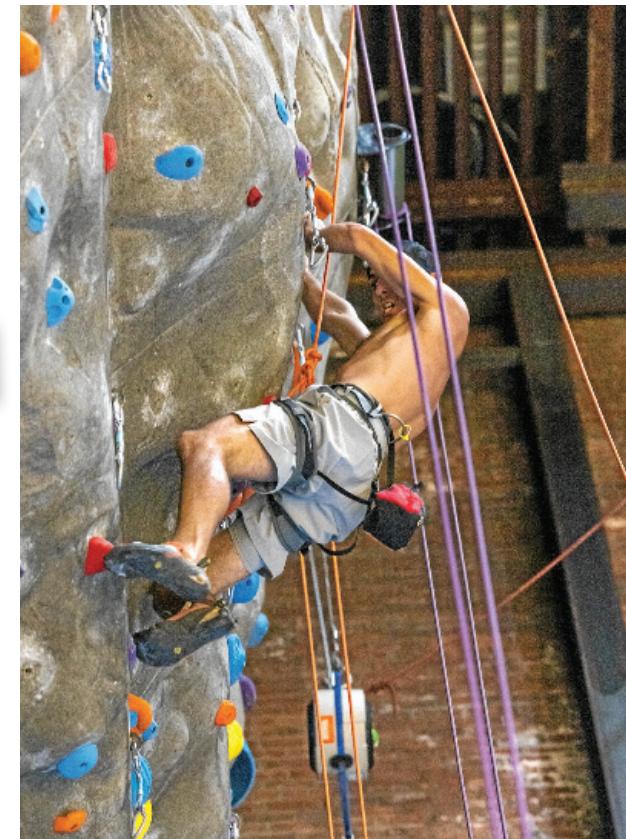
TIM HYND, THE WEEKENDER
Kari Sandage, a naturalist with the Woodbury County Conservation Board, is shown at the board's Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. The Woodbury County park has several miles of nature trails that are open year-round.

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Go Muskies!

Want a New Year's exercise regime? Hoist a beer, jump up and down on your seat while cheering on the Sioux City Musketeers as they go up against the Waterloo Black Hawks at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive.



JESSE BROTHERS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

David Salem plans his next move while climbing a difficult route at Long Lines Climbing Gym at Long Lines Family Rec Center.

Be like Spider-Man!

4

Snowflake 101!

5

Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center Kari Sandage

spent a few years working at the Denali National Park and Preserve. Hear about her experience in the 49th state at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Pecaut Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. How will Junior like to see his crumby snowflake art for the next 10 years. Payback is sweet!

True stories!

6

Former Sioux City Journal reporter Ally Karsyn will host another storytelling session at 7 p.m. Saturday at Design West, 1014 Design Place.



Karsyn

MOVIES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11



PROVIDED PHOTOS

'M3GAN' (Rated PG-13 for violent content and

terror, some strong language and a suggestive reference)

A robotics engineer at a toy company builds a life-like doll that begins to take on a life of its own.

'WOMEN TALKING'
(Rated PG-13 for mature thematic content including sexual assault, bloody images and some strong language)

Do nothing. Stay and fight. Or leave. In 2010, the women of an isolated religious community grapple with reconciling a brutal

reality with their faith.
'THE OLD WAY' (Rated R for violence)

An old gunslinger and his daughter must face the consequences of his past, when the son of a man he murdered years ago arrives to take his revenge.

'THE SUBTLE ART OF NOT GIVING A #@%!'
(Rated R for language throughout and brief violent images)

The film explores society's obsessions with the pursuit of happiness and

will be presented by author Mark Manson alongside Disappointment Panda, a character from the book whose superpower is to tell people the harsh truth.



New DVD releases for this week:

'Black Adam'
'Prey for the Devil'
'On the Line'
'The System'
'Chesapeake Shores Season 6'

SHOWTIMES

Local Theaters

Promenade 14

924 Fourth St.
712-277-8300

Avatar: The Way of Water 10:00

11:00 12:00 1:00 2:00 3:00 4:00

5:00 6:00 7:00 8:00 9:00

Babylon 10:15 2:15 6:15

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 12:00 3:30 7:00

Violent Night 10:35 1:30 4:20

7:00 10:00

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 10:15 11:30 1:00 1:45 2:15 3:45

4:30 5:00 6:30 7:15 7:45 9:00 9:45

Whitney Houston: I Wanna

Dance With Somebody 7:30

8:30

Babylon 3:00 6:00 9:30

www.amctheatres.com

Nearby Theaters

Royal 3 Cinema

33 Central Ave SW, Le Mars, Iowa;
712-564-1778

Avatar: The Way of Water 7:00

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 7:15

Whitney Houston: I Wanna

Dance With Somebody 7:30

www.acxcinemas.com

Pioneer 3 Theater

110 S. 11th St., Nebraska City, NE;
402-873-6487

Avatar: The Way of Water 2:00
6:30

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 1:30 4:00 4:30 7:00 7:30

www.acxcinemas.com

AMC Southern Hills 12

4400 Sergeant Road
712-276-3062

Avatar: The Way of Water 11:00

12:00 1:00 3:00 4:00 5:00 7:00

8:00 9:00 9:30

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 10:00 12:30 7:00 10:00

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 1:00 3:10 6:00 9:25

Whitney Houston: I Wanna

Dance With Somebody 2:00 5:10

Legacy 3 Theater

712 W Sheridan Ave, Shenandoah, IA
712-246-2245

Avatar: The Way of Water 7:00

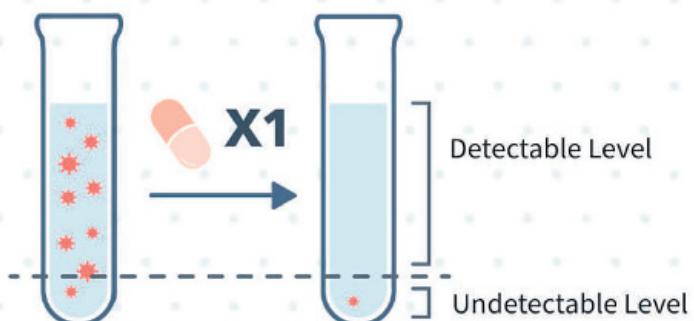
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 7:15

Whitney Houston: I Wanna

Dance With Somebody 7:30

www.acxcinemas.com

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Lasting impressions

After achieving success on TV's 'In Living Color,' Tommy Davidson finds his voice in comedy

BY EARL HORLYK

For many people, comic and actor Tommy Davidson will always be known for the spot-on impersonations he did of Sammy Davis Jr. and Michael Jackson on the iconic 1990s sketch comedy series "In Living Color."

Younger people may know him better as Oscar Proud, the well-meaning but overprotective dad from the Disney Channel's long-running animated "The Proud Family" series.

But if you ask Davidson, audiences may also know him as a Chip and Joanna Gaines lifestyle guru in the making.

"I cook and do some interior design and have my own clothing line (called Tongue in Cheek)," the self-admitted "Fixer Upper" fan noted. "Why can't I get a call from Target?"

It wouldn't surprise us one bit if the bullseye-branded retailer ended up working with Davidson, a man with a multi-hyphenated amount of talent.

A singer as well as a comedian, Davidson will bring his act to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem, 111 Third St., at 7 p.m. Friday. He may also help you dress for success, cook a post-show meal while giving the gaming floor a HGTV-worthy makeover.

Things weren't always humorous for the veteran funnyman.

A Mississippi native, Davidson, now 59, said he was abandoned in a trashcan at 18 months old.

"I was rescued by the woman who became my adoptive mom," he said.



PROVIDED

Best-known for his work in the groundbreaking sketch comedy series "In Living Color," Tommy Davidson will perform stand-up at 7 p.m. Friday at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem.

A child of an interracial adoption (meaning a Black child adopted by white parents), Davidson was raised with two older white siblings.

After his parents divorced, he, his mom and siblings moved to the Washington, D.C., area.

"Growing up poor in the city was terrible," Davidson recalled. "Growing up poor in the suburbs wasn't any better."

Indeed, Davidson was startled by the way his best friend from junior high school lived.

"After school, my friend took me to this house," Davidson said, chuckling at the memory. "I asked him

who lives in this house. He said he lived there and I wouldn't believe him until his mom confirmed it for me."

"Since I had only lived in tiny apartments inside of buildings, I never knew anybody who lived in their own house before," he continued. "That was an eye-opener for me."

Just as eye opening for Davidson was seeing the Jackson 5 in concert.

"The Jackson 5 weren't even the headliners for the show," he said. "It was during their 'Keep on Dancing/Keep on Trucking' period and they were awesome."

A true child of the 1970s, Davidson got a taste for

acting after seeing sci-fi flicks like "2001: A Space Odyssey" and the original "Planet of the Apes" at the drive-in movie theater.

"If you add James Brown: Live at the Apollo' albums into the mix, then you'll discover the performers who inspired me the most," he said.

Studying communications at the University of District of Columbia, Davidson made a name for himself on the standup comedy circuit.

Booked as the opening act for such entertainers as Spike Lee's "Bamboozled," "Ace Ventura II: When Nature Calls," opposite Jim Carrey, and "Strictly Business," which starred Halle Berry.

for "In Living Color."

Premiering on Fox in 1990, "In Living Color" gave Davidson and such future stars as Damon Wayans, Jim Carrey, Rosie Perez, Jennifer Lopez and Jamie Foxx their first big breaks.

"I think the reason we worked so hard to be successful was to keep up with Jamie Foxx," Davidson said. "We all played 'keep up with Jamie.'"

Since then, Davidson has appeared in such movies as Spike Lee's "Bamboozled," "Ace Ventura II: When Nature Calls," opposite Jim Carrey, and "Strictly Business," which starred Halle Berry.

DETAILS

Who: Comedian Tommy Davidson
When: 7 p.m. Friday
Where: Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem, 111 Third St.
If you go: All Anthems shows are for audiences 21 and older

He's even winning acclaim as a cast member of "The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder," a reboot of the classic Disney Channel cartoon from the early 2000s.

"With the new version of 'The Proud Family' now on Disney+, we're bringing the show to an entirely new audience," Davidson said. "That makes me happy."

Yet Davidson will always function best when he's working on multiple projects. He recently released a new jazz single, "I Know," featuring renowned saxophonist Richard Elliot.

Wait, Davidson is releasing music with his own voice and not somebody else's?

"I love impersonating other people but can't do very many of them," he said. "I'm just lucky that I've nailed the few impersonations that I'm best known for. I'm better off with my own voice than anybody else's."

Which is a long way from the young man who grew up poor many years ago.

"As far as I've come, I'm still Barbara Davidson's son," Davidson said. "You always want your mom to be proud of you."

Winter reads

Rum-soaked cakes and an eight-legged detective top the list for cold weather must-read

BY EARL HORLYK

Sue Owens never goes out of town without a book or two in her overnight bag. Must be an occupational habit.

"I love books," the Western Iowa Tech Community College Lifelong Learning Coordinator explained. "I was a librarian for nearly 20 years, so I do know a lot about books."

So, what is on Owens' must-read list?

"Well, I've actually already read it because it is a Lifelong Learning book club selection," she said. "But I'm a big fan of the novel 'Black Cake.'"

"Black Cake," the debut novel of Charmaine Wilkerson, is a rum-soaked page-turner revolving around two estranged siblings delving into their mother's hidden past and how it connects to a black cake, which is a traditional dessert in the Caribbean.

"As a book, 'Black Cake' has a bit of everything," Owens said. "It has betrayals, family secrets, a murder mystery and even a few recipes."

Um, recipes?

"Of course, for the black cake and few favorite Caribbean foods," Owens explained. "There is even a Spotify list for the favorite songs of the character."

Owens also enjoyed Sara Novic's "True Biz," an idiosyncratic but absorbing look at life in a school for the deaf.

"This novel takes you into a world that most



Sue Owens, Western Iowa Tech Community College's Lifelong Learning coordinator, said the best books are the ones that transports the reader, literally and figuratively, to a different place and time.

people would never know," she said of a book that delves into disability and civil rights, sign language versus lip-reading and, ultimately, celebrating the human connection.

In case you were wondering, "True Biz" is an American Sign Language (ASL) expression for "straight talk" or "keeping things real."

Talking about keeping things real — or, for that

matter, weird — is Owen's next literary selection, which was recommended by Mara Hall, who was Lifelong Learning's previous coordinator.

"Mara turned me on to (Shelby Van Pelt's) 'Remarkably Bright Creatures,' which is about a widow's budding friendship with an octopus," she said.

With a what?

No it's true. "Remarkably Bright Creatures" tells the

story of Tova Sullivan, a widow who takes a night job mopping the floors and tidying up the Sowell Bay Aquarium.

In addition to dealing with her husband's recent death, Tova is also coping with her 18-year-old son Erik, who disappeared off a boat in the Puget Sound 30 years ago.

Tova becomes acquainted with Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at

the aquarium. Surprisingly, Marcellus, an eight-armed wannabe detective, may have uncovered the truth behind Erik's long-ago disappearance.

Owens reasoned that the best books are the ones that transport the reader, literally and figuratively, to a different place and time.

Both come into play in "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.

Beginning in the 1960s,

"Lessons in Chemistry" tells the story of the life of Elizabeth Zott, who was in charge of an otherwise all-male team of scientists at the Hastings Research Institute.

Definitely a woman who was ahead of her time, Elizabeth discovered there was plenty of gender inequality in the scientific community.

Years later and now a single mom, Elizabeth becomes the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, "Supper at Six."

"Elizabeth makes the discovery that TV stars make a better living than scientists," Owens said.

But in taking a decidedly scientific approach to the culinary arts, Elizabeth wasn't just teaching women how to cook. She was also telling them it was OK to shake up the status quo.

Which is an attitude that Owen wants to bring to the Lifelong Learning program.

"When I applied for this position earlier this fall, I was ready for a new challenge," she said. "I've been getting plenty of positive feedback by Lifelong Learners who've been with the program for years."

And many of these Lifelong Learning vets have been devoted to the program's many book club options.

"As we age, books become a way to stay engaged," Owens said. "Nothing is better than cuddling up to a good book on a cold winter's day."

ADVICE

ANSWERS FOR ALL YOUR WOES



TWEEN 12 AND 20 ROBERT WALLACE

I witnessed many dangerous things

DR. WALLACE: I've become aware via direct personal knowledge that there are two students at our high school who are bringing illegal items onto our campus. I actually saw one of the items, and I overheard a conversation about the other one. None of this is rumor, innuendo or gossip from other students. This is something I accidentally saw and overheard. The people involved did not see me and they have no idea that I know anything at all. These items can be quite dangerous, and they have no positive purpose on a high school campus.

I was shocked to hear about this, so for the last few days I've said nothing, not even to my closest friends or even my parents. I want to be careful to keep myself safe from any possible consequences that disclosing this publicly might cause. I'm the type of student who stays quiet and out of trouble, so I'm definitely not looking to thrust myself into the middle of this situation.

My first instinct was just to ignore this and hope for the best that none of this would bubble up and cause any real trouble on campus. But on the other hand, I have no control or guarantee that there won't be trouble at some point. This has created a moral dilemma for me, and I'm not quite sure what to do about it. Do you feel I should stay quiet about what I've witnessed and overheard, or should I be brave and step forward and explain to our school principal what I know? — **Not Looking For Trouble, via email**

NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE: Absolutely do not "look the other way" and let this go! Ignoring something that could be dangerous to your school, its students, faculty and the administrative staff should not be an option you are comfortable with.

There is a way, depending on what these dangers are, that you can disclose this matter to the school administration, or to law enforcement. You can make an anonymous tip to notify the proper authorities. If you saw something, you should say something to keep everyone involved safe, including yourself.

Also be prepared to discuss this matter with your parents at some point soon. They also will likely share

your concerns for anonymity, and of course they love you and have your best interests at heart.

Act immediately! Do not hesitate one day or one hour further, since disclosing this matter now may make a huge difference in how things ultimately turn out. It's fine to go to law enforcement anonymously right now; they will immediately notify your school principal and administration staff, who can then act quickly. This may be your best option at this point.

He said I was 'too clingy'

DR. WALLACE: My boyfriend broke up with me last week! He told me that I was "too clingy" and that I was obsessing about him way too much. It's true that I put my focus on him with 90% of my time and my thoughts, but I thought that's what a good girlfriend would do.

I'm 17 now and this is the only guy I've ever really been interested in. I dated about a dozen losers to find him and now my only thoughts are about how to get him back. What do you feel I should do to try to get him back? I really miss him already and I feel depressed that he's gone. — **Living With a Void, via email**

LIVING WITH A VOID: Take this experience as a learning opportunity. Spending 90% of your time and thoughts on your boyfriend is indeed excessive. As a high school student, you need your life to be more balanced in terms of your studies, your family and friends and yes, when you have one, your boyfriend.

As to getting this particular guy back, there's little you can do. To chase after him now or to stalk him will only further cement in his mind that he made the right decision to get away from you. Your best bet is to send him one — and only one — message telling him that you understand how he feels and that if things change on his end that you'd talk calmly with him about things at that point. And from there, do nothing more. He'll know that you're open to talking with him again sometime, but beyond that you're better to give him space and assume he's not coming back.

Keep busy with your friends in the meantime and start the dating process again when you feel up to it. It only took you a dozen dates to find your last boyfriend, so the odds were actually pretty good back then. Think of each new date these days as putting you one step closer to finding a special guy you can relate to well. And when you do find someone special this time around, take the knowledge of what went wrong in your last relationship and apply it going forward.

Make keeping a healthy balance in your life a priority in the future and you'll be much more likely to sustain a long-term relationship successfully.



DEAR
ANNIE
ANNIE LANE

Guilty con- science: 20 years later

Dear Annie: I worked part time for good friends now over 20 years ago. The wife was in charge of the medical office; her husband was a doctor whom my husband and I had known way before she met and married him. Two other ladies worked in the office full time also and had been there years before me. After working part time for over four years, the wife hired a new lady as a receptionist. I became good friends with the new receptionist. She had a very dysfunctional life, was married to an abuser and had a young daughter who seemed mature way beyond her years and was a great kid.

She finally divorced the abuser husband and then set her sights on the doctor. I told her not to do this, as he had two young children, but she continued. The doctor fell for her hard. I had private conversations with him to stop this affair because he had a family, and I knew she was sleeping with other guys she had met in bars. He continued and said he was in love with her. His wife found out, and they divorced. He married this girl.

After all these years, I still have guilty feelings, as I think I

should have told his first wife of the affair and maybe they could have worked things out. I know the other two ladies in the office also could have said something, but no one did.

Should I sit down with the ex-wife and tell her I am sorry and that I should have told her what was happening in the office? She raised her two children and seems happy, but never remarried. We talk occasionally and meet occasionally for dinner.

— **Still Feeling Guilty**

Dear Still Feeling Guilty: Everyone involved in this affair is an adult who is responsible for making their own decisions. This man was not a faithful husband, and his marriage would have likely fallen apart with or without your interference.

If you are truly close to this woman, then she might have interpreted your silence as an act of betrayal. In which case, an apology and a chance to express herself might be exactly what she needs. But it doesn't sound like that was the situation.

Feel free to apologize to ease your own guilty conscience, but don't expect that it will make the wife feel better. In all likelihood, it will simply remind her of a memory that she is desperate to forget about.

PLEASE SEE ANNIE, PAGE 9

BRIEFS



PROVIDED

Thompson Square coming to Anthem

The Grammy Award-nominated duo Thompson Square will be coming to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem, 111 Third St., on Feb. 11.

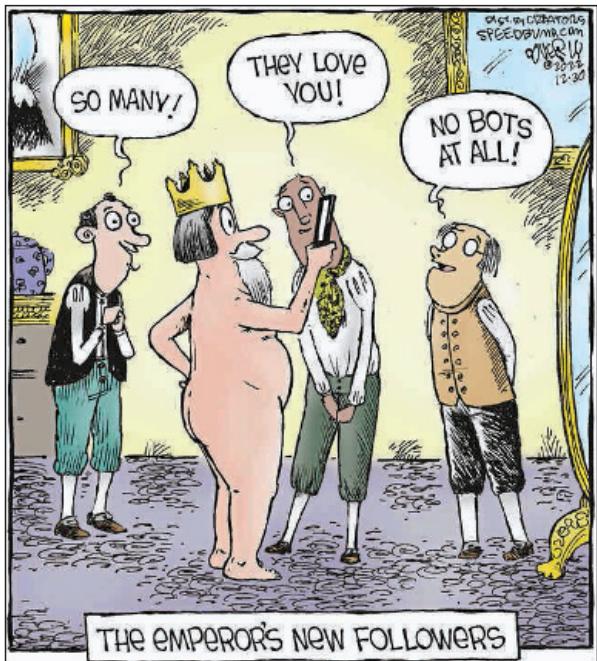
Made up of the husband-and-wife team of Keifer

and Shawna Thompson, Thompson Square exploded out of Nashville with their multiplatinum hit "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not."

Tickets may be purchased at hardrockcasinosiouxcity.com or at the hotel's Rock Shop.

All Anthem events are for guests, 21 and older.

WEEKENDER COMIC



Annie

From Page 8

three months ago to breast cancer. She was young, beautiful, kind, my best friend and secret keeper. She was just 43 years old with two beautiful kids. She was hungry for life and thirsty for her kids. This pain is unbearable. I feel like a piece of my heart is gone. Her death has left a big hole. Everywhere are signs and memories of her. I cry day and night.

I don't know what to do. I miss her every minute. Do you have any suggestions for me? I live in Sacramento and have family all around me. I have another daughter, a son and four grandkids, but nothing helps me. I don't want to think about anybody other than my beautiful "Shelby." — **Drowning in My Daughter's Death**

Dear Drowning: I'm so terribly sorry for your loss. "Shelby" sounds like an incredible woman with a beautiful spirit whose time with us was cut far too short.

Grieving any loss is painful, but that of a child is especially excruciating. There will never be a day where you don't miss her, but the burden will, over time, become easier to bear. Being in the company of others who've experienced a similar loss may bring a sense of comfort. Try attending a local grief group meeting when you're ready. I'd also suggest seeing a therapist one-on-one to begin working through your mourning.

Though it's difficult right now, do lean on your family for support and companionship. They're also adjusting to a life without Shelby and, I'd imagine, feel just as heartbroken and lost. It's together that you will begin to mend the hole her death has created. Talk about Shelby, share your favorite stories of her and keep her memory alive. While she may no longer physically be here, she will always be with you in your heart.

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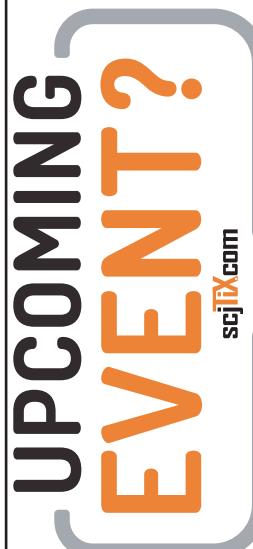
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