

W weekender

INSIDE
Meeting a mystery writer



COLD CASES

Want to solve an unsolved mystery?

MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK

SIoux CITY'S FREE READ | NOVEMBER 10-16 2022 | VOL. 23 ISSUE 50 | AT WWW.SIOUXLAND.NET: EVENTS, MOVIE LISTINGS, BANDS & MORE

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When to put up Christmas decorations: a) week after Halloween; b) week after Thanksgiving or c) week before Christmas?



Chad Pauling
Publisher
cpauling
@siouxcityjournal.com
"D) the day after Thanksgiving."



Earl Horylk
Staff Writer
earl.horylk@lee.net
"I procrastinate. I'll do it the week before Christmas if I remember to do it at all."



Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
mdockter@
siouxcityjournal.com
"The week after Thanksgiving."

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



@SCWeekender

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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: Already a fan of true crime podcasts, local history librarian specialist Sarah Enright jumped at the chance in creating a "Sioux City True Crime: Historic Cold Case Files" at the Aalfs Main Library. Since the exhibit proved to be so popular, Enright has turned it into a Institute for Lifelong Learning, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Western Iowa Tech Community College. Photo by Jesse Brothers.

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CALENDAR

MUSIC

Drowning Pool, 7 p.m., Nov. 12; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Sioux City Symphony Mahler's Resurrection Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 12; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-277-2111.

Michael Charles - Blues Legend, 8 p.m., Nov. 12; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

Fool House - The Ultimate 90's Dance Party, 8 p.m., Nov. 18; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Dirk Quinn Band - Funk, Jam, Jazz, 8 p.m., Nov. 18; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

Dueling Pianos, 8 p.m., Nov. 23, 25; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Cirque Musica: Holiday Wonderland, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 25; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

A Musical Journey of the Land and its People, 2 p.m., Nov. 27; Stanley Auditorium, Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Rd. Information: 712-224-5242.

Jill Miller Shine: A Benefit for Sunrise Retirement Community, 7 p.m., Dec. 2; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Great White, 8 p.m., Dec. 2; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Disney Princess - The Concert, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Christmas with the Nelsons, 8 p.m., Dec. 3; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

John Primer & The Real Deal Blues Band, 8 p.m., Dec. 3; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

New Horizons Band of Sioux City Holiday Concert, 2 p.m., Dec. 4; Stanley Auditorium, Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Rd. Information: 712-224-5242.

Zach Williams: I Don't Want Christmas to End Tour, 7

p.m., Dec. 7; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

ART

Sioux City Art Center: Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez: Turn of the Sea, Aug. 20 to Nov. 27; 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: Terri McGaffin Exhibit, Oct. 4 to Nov. 13; Scraposaurs Traveling Exhibit, year-long.

Growing Pains - Art Exhibition by Brutal Doodles, 7 p.m., Nov. 11; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

OUTDOORS

Yoga Class, 5:30 p.m., Nov. 10; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Turkey Trek, 9:30 a.m., Nov. 19; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Turkeys for Tots, 11 a.m., Nov. 19; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Energizing Yoga Flow, 9 a.m., Nov. 22; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

THEATER

Menopause The Musical, 5 p.m., Nov. 13; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Is This Heaven?... An Evening With Dwier Brown, 5 p.m., Nov. 15; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Annie, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 17; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

The Le Mars Community Theatre Presents: The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 1-7; Le Mars Community Theatre, 105 1st St. NE, Le Mars, Iowa.

A Charlie Brown Christmas: Live On Stage, 7 p.m., Dec. 6; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

COMMUNITY

STEMM 25th A Night of Hope Auction, 5:30 p.m., Nov. 10; South Sioux City Marriott Riverfront, 385 E 4th St., South Sioux City. Information: 712-261-5554.

Onawa's Fall Craft & Vendor Fair, 9 a.m., Nov. 12; Onawa Community Center, 320 10th St., Onawa, Iowa. Information: 712-251-5309.

Siouxland Community Health Center's Marathon Challenge, 11 a.m., Nov. 14; Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-279-4850.

The Community Speakout, 5 p.m., Nov. 17; Sioux City Public Library, 529 Pierce Street. Information: 712-203-7738.

Annual Holiday Collections Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Nov. 19; 10 a.m., Nov. 20; Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-279-4850.

SPORTING

Legacy Fighting Alliance, 6 p.m., Nov. 18; WinnaVegas Casino, 1500 330 St., Sloan, Iowa. Information: 800-468-9466 x6128.

HISTORICAL

The First Thanksgiving That Wasn't, 2 p.m., Nov. 13; Stanley Auditorium, Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Rd. Information: 712-224-5242.

Roads and Rails, Rivers and Trails: Traveling in the Past, 2 p.m., Nov. 20; Stanley Auditorium, Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Rd. Information: 712-224-5242.

KIDS

ACTIVITIES

Build-A-Map: Learn Navigation, 1 p.m., Nov. 12; Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, 900 Larsen Park Rd. Information: 712-224-5242.

Make Holiday Ornaments, 1 p.m., Nov. 19; Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, 900 Larsen Park Rd. Information: 712-224-5242.

Learn About and Make Presidential Peace Medals, 1 p.m., Dec. 3; Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, 900 Larsen Park Rd. Information: 712-224-5242.

SUX 6

THE BEST THINGS TO DO IN SIOUXLAND

1 'Resurrection' connection!

For the first time in its 107-year history, the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra will perform Gustav Mahler's legendary "Resurrection Symphony" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Orpheum Theatre, 528 Pierce St. Requiring close to 300 orchestra and chorus members, you'll see why the piece isn't performed more frequently.



2 So hot, he burns!

When it comes to the Sioux City country music scene, nobody is as talented or as hard working as Briar Burns. See this prolific singer and musician at Beer Can Alley, 1109 Fourth St. at 8:30 p.m. Friday.

JIM LEE,
SIOUX CITY
JOURNAL

3 Saluting our Vets!

For Veterans Day Friday, Sioux City Freedom Fest will host a special 8 p.m. show at The Marquee, 1225 Fourth St., featuring live music by Above the Covers, Steven Blaney and the Flatland Band, a raffle and a live auction, with the proceeds going towards Support Siouxland Soldiers, which connects local military families.



4 'Pool' sharks!

No, the guys from the hard-rocking group Drowning Pool won't be wearing life vests when they do their 7 p.m. Saturday concert at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem, 111 Third St. How about water wings or a water noodle? Afraid you'll have to find that out on your own.

Charles in charge!

5 Last week, we introduced you to Michael Charles, an icon in the Chicago blues scene with an accent that doesn't sound "Chitown" to us. Nope, Charles is a native of Australia. Hear him and his power trio at 8 p.m. Saturday at Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St.

6 Doodling for a good cause!

And while we're at it, an art show featuring the work of Jessica Hammond (aka "Brutal Doodles") will taking place at 7 p.m. Friday. Alex Erwin (Ghostcat) will provide the music for this event highlighting Women Aware.

It's the season for

4 BROTHERS GRILL & BAR

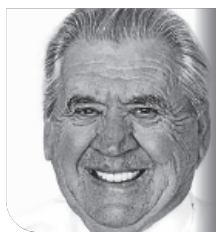
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4BROTHERSGRILL.COM
3322 SINGING HILLS BLVD, SIOUX CITY

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I need reliable transportation



**ROBERT
WALLACE**
TWEEN 12 AND 20

DR. WALLACE: I turned 18 and I'm quite interested in buying a car. I need it to travel back and forth to my weekend job and also to use for my social life as well.

I'm a decent student and have never been in trouble at school, but my father remains hesitant to become a co-signer on a loan that will allow me to purchase a reasonable used car. His concerns basically center around the fact that I have never been particularly good

at managing money. Although at one time I had a pretty good savings account established, I dipped into it several times for various social events with my girlfriend and now I have very little money left in the bank.

How can I convince my father to help me purchase a car? — **Need Transportation, via email**

NEED

TRANSPORTATION: Your best bet at this point would be to prove to your father that

you're going to be immediately serious about budgeting your resources.

Start by calculating how much money you can put into the bank each month, and begin doing so immediately. After two such deposits, sit down with your father and show him your new plan. Tell him that you'll stick with this plan going forward and that you would truly appreciate his assistance in backing you up.

And when it comes to your girlfriend and paying for your dates, you need to implement a budget there as well. Find less expensive ways to date, and make your large expenditures more infrequent and only for truly important occasions like birthdays and anniversaries.

Look at your situation as

an opportunity to learn the important task of creating and sticking to a budget. Don't be afraid to sit down with your father and help him work together with you to create a budget you feel you can stick with. Having your father involved in the process may lead to him being more amenable to helping you achieve your goal.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY MOM'S BOYFRIEND

DR. WALLACE: I live with my mother and I'm a 15-year-old boy who is an only child. My father lives over 2,000 miles away and he's now a resident of Canada, since his job is there.

My dad remarried over four years ago, and he and his new wife already have two

babies, so he's pretty busy these days. In fact, he does not communicate with my mom and me at all. It's been over two years since I heard from him, plus he has stopped mailing me birthday cards for my last two birthdays. So now, I basically figure I only have a mother but no father.

The good thing is that my mom is a great mother. She loves me a lot and she treats me really well. For the past two years, Mom and I have had a mentality that "it's us against the world," and we've done really well sticking together and working hard to keep our home nice. Mom works two jobs, and I also mow some neighborhood lawns on weekends to make extra money for us.

But recently, Mom started dating again and she's spending time with a guy that I don't really trust. This guy is about seven or eight years younger than my mother and he drinks and smokes all the time. He even gets drunk at our home on weekends. I've never seen him without noticing the strong stench of alcohol on his breath. He's never harmed me or even spoken to me at all, but sometimes when he's really drunk, he will yell loudly at my mom. I even saw him shove her once, but he did not hit her. He did get right up in her face and kept on yelling for something like a full 45 seconds about what was making him mad. It was beyond uncomfortable for me to hear.

BE KIND & GENEROUS. Be a Goodfellow!

Journal Goodfellow Charities, Inc. is a 108 year old local tradition that provides gifts and books to thousands of underprivileged Siouxland children during the Christmas season every year.

This local non-profit is led by Sioux City Journal employees, supported by volunteers and completely funded by generous businesses, organizations, and individuals with strong ties to our community.

Show your support for Siouxland and become a Goodfellow by choosing to support in any way you can.



Journal Goodfellow Charities, Inc.
515 Pavonia St. • Sioux City, IA 51101
712-293-4291 • mschmith@siouxcityjournal.com
siouxcityjournal.com/goodfellows

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

Volunteer opportunities are available.

Contact us to learn how you can get involved with Journal Goodfellow Charities, Inc.



SAVE THE DATE: 87th Annual Little Yellow Dog Auction • Saturday, December 10, 2022 • Ho-Chunk Centre in Downtown Sioux City • 12:00 PM Noon

ADVICE

ANSWERS FOR ALL YOUR WOES



DEAR ANNIE
ANNIE LANE

Relationship with sister causes regrets

Dear Annie: Three weeks ago, my oldest sister passed away. Her passing was not expected.

Her children told me she had a fall several months ago. She fractured a disc in her back and had been in a great deal of pain. A week before she passed away, she woke up very confused and was not making sense. They called an ambulance and took her to the hospital. She had a urinary tract infection. When she was discharged, she was sent home with hospice care and passed away a week later. Had I known she was not well, I would have gone to see her.

My family and I went for her service. She stated that she wanted a closed casket. Evidently, she had lost a great deal of weight. It was a sweet service.

When my sister's husband passed away several years ago, I could not attend his service. He was cremated. She originally planned for his service to be held on a Saturday. My family and I made plans to attend. She changed her plans and moved the service to a night service held in a city about an hour from where they lived. I would have been driving home by myself at 11 or 12 at night, and I did not think that was wise.

I gave a memorial in his name, and she received a note making her aware of the memorial. She sent a thank-you note.

I called her several times a week checking on her. I continued to call at least once a week. She was very short with me.

Several times, she told me she was busy. Then she told her son to tell me she was not there. I knew something was wrong, but I had no idea she was angry with me. Finally, this spring she mentioned

to me that none of our family members attended her husband's memorial service. I explained why. She said I could have stayed with her. I told her she did not invite me to stay with her. She ended the conversation.

I continued to call at least once a month to say hello.

We always remembered each other's birthdays with a card and a call. This year, she did not remember my birthday. On her birthday, I called, but she did not answer her phone. I left a message on her answering machine. I also sent a card. She did call and thank me for the card.

I feel badly that I did not get to see her before she passed away. She had told her children not to tell me about her fall. I told my niece I would have come to see her had I known. She said my sister did not want me to see her because she had lost so much weight.

Surprisingly, she wrote to her friend who lives in the same city as I do and told her about the fall and also that my nephew had prostate cancer. I find it odd that she shared with her but kept it from me.

Could I have done anything to make things better between us? — **Sad Sister**

Dear Sad Sister: I am very sorry for your loss. And having regrets about your relationship when someone has passed away is really difficult. Try to focus on all the happy memories you had with your sister when you were younger and the good times. Also, try to make amends and repair the relationship with her children. What you can do now is enjoy each day and stop beating yourself up for something that cannot be changed.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave. #280, Santa Monica CA 90405 or email AdviceAmy@aol.com

WinnaVegas
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LIVE MMA FIGHTS ARE BACK!

LFA

LFA 147: Sloan, IA
Friday, November 18th, 2022
Main Card at 8:00pm CST

UFC FIGHT PASS

BLUE CORNER

Melquiza Costa
18-5
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Rafael do Nascimento
7-1
Los Angeles, CA

Rickey Furar
7-2
Ontario, CA

Omoyle Gonzalez
3-1
Chicago, IL

Jeremiah Curtright
5-3
St Louis, MO

Aline Pereira
0-0
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Henrique Silva
5-2
Boston, MA

Will Starks
7-3
Kansas City, MO

Jasmin Pouncy
1-2
Los Angeles, CA

Amanda Macloce
0-0
Atlanta, GA

Antez Howard
4-1
Minneapolis, MN

Shalie Lipp
3-1
Fargo, ND

MAIN CARD BOUTS

Main Event Lightweight Bout
3x5 rds

Co-Main Event Bantamweight Bout
3x5 rds

Co-Main Event Bantamweight Bout
3x5 rds

Feature Welterweight Bout
3x5 rds

Welterweight Bout
3x5 rds

Flyweight Bout
3x5 rds

Heavyweight Bout
3x5 rds

PRELIMINARY BOUTS

Lightweight Bout
3x5 rds

Strawweight Bout
3x5 rds

Strawweight Bout
3x5 rds

Lightweight Bout
3x3 rds

Bantamweight Bout
3x3 rds

RED CORNER

Junior Melo
12-5
Fortaleza, Brazil

Justin Wetzell
7-1
Sterling, IL

Askar Askar
14-3
Chicago, IL

Haris Talundzic
5-1
Omaha, NE

Ryan Leininger
8-3
Omaha, NE

Helen Peralta
5-2
Des Moines, IA

Braxton Smith
4-1
San Antonio, TX

Ben Halder
5-3
Des Moines, IA

Leslie Hernandez
0-1
Phoenix, AZ

Jasmine Montoya
0-0
Denver, CO

Cameron Raines
4-0
New London, IA

Liz Goodman
3-9
Des Moines, IA

Preliminary Bouts begin at 6:00pm CST
*Blue Corner Walks Out First

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

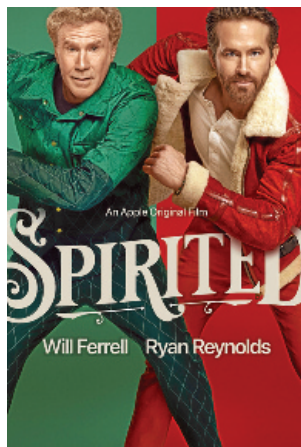
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MOVIES

THURSDAY, NOV. 10 - WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16



'BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER' (Rated PG-13 for sequences of strong language, action and some language)
The people of Wakanda fight to protect their home from intervening world powers as they mourn the death of King T'Challa.



'SPIRITED' (Rated PG-13 for language, some suggestive material and thematic elements)
A musical version of the classic Christmas story by Charles Dickens. A miserly man who treats everyone around him with terrible selfishness finds himself on a fantastical adventure into the three phases of time: past, present, and future, in order to discover how he ended up so miserable and alone.

SHOWTIMES

Local Theaters

Promenade 14

924 Fourth St.
712-277-8300

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

10:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 1:30 3:00
3:30 4:00 5:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:30
10:00 10:30

Black Adams

10:15 4:05 7:00 9:55

Ticket to Paradise

10:45 1:40 4:15
6:55 9:25

Armageddon Time

4:00 6:45
www.acxcinema.com

AMC Southern Hills 12

4400 Sergeant Road
712-276-3062

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 2:00
2:30 3:00 3:30 4:00 5:00 6:30 7:00
7:30 8:00 9:00

Black Adam

11:40 1:45 3:10 6:10
9:30

Prey for the Devil

10:15 12:45 3:20
9:20

Ticket to Paradise

10:05 12:35 3:15
6:05 9:05

Halloween Ends

6:15

Smile

6:25 9:30

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile

10:25 1:05
3:45

www.amctheatres.com

Nearby Theaters

Royal 3 Cinema

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

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

7:00

Black Adam

7:10

Prey for the Devil

7:20

www.acxcinemas.com

Pioneer 3 Theater

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

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

6:30 7:30 10:00

Ticket to Paradise

7:00 9:30

Prey for the Devil

7:20

www.acxcinemas.com

Legacy 3 Theater

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

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

7:00

Black Adam

7:10

Prey for the Devil

7:20

www.acxcinemas.com



87th Annual LITTLE YELLOW DOG AUCTION

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 • 11:00 AM

— Ho-Chunk Centre • Sioux City, IA —

A fundraiser for Journal Goodfellow Charities, which buys christmas toys and books for local children in need. The All-America Concert Band will begin a program of Christmas music at 11 a.m. and will play throughout the event. The auction will begin at noon.

Watch live online at facebook.com/SiouxCityJournal
and listen live on KSCJ 1360 radio.

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'MATILDA THE MUSICAL' (Rated PG for thematic elements, exaggerated bullying and some language)

An adaptation of the Tony- and Olivier-award-winning musical. Matilda tells the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a sharp mind and a vivid imagination, dares to take a stand to change her story with miraculous results.



'THE FABELMANS' (Rated PG-13 for some strong language, thematic elements drug use)

Growing up in post-World War II era Arizona, a young man named Sammy Fabelman discovers a shattering family secret and explores how the power of films can help him see the truth.



'SAM & KATE' (Rated R for some drug use and language)

A life affirming family dramedy that takes place in a small town in the heart of the country. Dustin Hoffman plays a larger-than-life Father to Sam (Jake Hoffman) who has returned home to take care of Bill and his ailing health.



New DVD releases for this week:

'Lost Illusions'
'After Ever Happy'
'Dig'
'Moonhaven Season One'
'Young Rock, Season Two'

SHOWTIMES

Main Street 7

866 E. 23rd St., Fremont, NE; 402-727-8986

www.acxcinemas.com
See website for showtimes

Majestic Theatre

310 Main St., Wayne, NE
402-833-1833

www.majesticcinemas.org
See website for showtimes

Coyote Twin

10 E Main St.,
Vermillion, SD; 605-624-3331

vermilliontheaters.com
See website for showtimes

Holland Plaza Theater

717 Eighth St. SE
Orange City, IA; 712-737-8866

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 6:00 7:30 9:35
Black Adams 6:30 9:30
Ticket to Paradise 6:35 9:20

krullcinemas.com

Main St. 3

401 Ninth St., Sheldon, IA
712-342-2344

Luck 7:30

Ticket to Paradise 7:40

Prey for the Devil 7:50

krullcinemas.com



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Sioux City: Confidential

True crime buff's interest in local unsolved mysteries inspired lifelong learning presentation

BY EARL HORLYK

On a warm night in June 1917, Thecla Gerken, a young school teacher from Woonsocket, South Dakota, was walking along the quiet intersection at Ninth and Jones streets in Sioux City with her friend Mabel Houlihan.

Houlihan said good night, turning east toward her house while Gerken proceeded to the west.

Out of nowhere, a shot was fired, striking Gerken once in the chest, killing her with a .38 caliber bullet.

Was the murder of Thecla Gerken a case of mistaken identity or a senseless act of a spurned boyfriend?

Nobody can be sure, according to Sarah Enright, since this 105-year-old mystery remains one of Sioux City's most perplexing cold cases.

"Major crimes were only supposed to happen in big cities," said the local history library specialist with the Sioux City Public Library. "When it happens in smaller communities, it becomes more noteworthy."

Which is why Enright will be presenting "Sioux City True Crime: Historic Cold Cases" as an Institute for Lifelong Learning program, from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday at Western Iowa Tech Community College, 4647 Stone Ave.

In addition to the Gerken case, Enright will also examine the case of Donna Sue Davis who was kidnapped from her Sioux City home. The 22-month-old's body was subsequently found on a gravel

road near Dakota City.

Ten months earlier, Jimmy Bremmers, an 8-year-old boy, was kidnapped from his westside Sioux City before being found, decapitated in a pasture.

"Having two kidnappings and murders of children in less than a year sent shockwaves throughout Sioux City," Enright said.

While no one was ever charged in Donna Sue Davis' murder, Ernest Triplett, an itinerant salesman for Flood Music, was convicted of the second-degree murder of Jimmy Bremmers.

"At one point, Ernest Triplett actually confessed to the crime but the confession was coerced after he was involuntarily admitted into a mental institution, given drugs by medical professionals while not having legal representation," Enright explained, noting that Triplett was sentenced to life in prison.

Seventeen years after Jimmy Bremmer's murder, a University of Iowa law professor represented Triplett, questioning the legalities of the case.

In October 1972, Triplett's conviction was overturned and he was released from prison immediately.

"Like Thecla Gerken, the murders of Donna Sue Davis and Jimmy Bremmers will probably never be solved," Enright said. "They will remain cold cases."

An admitted true crime buff and an avid listener to podcasts like the Peabody Award-winning "Serial," Enright said real-life mysteries have



JESSE BROTHERS PHOTOS, THE WEEKENDER

Newspaper clippings from local unsolved mysteries are shown at the Sioux City Public Library in Sioux City. According to the Sioux City Public Library's Sarah Enright, newspaper archives are a great way to research cold cases.

DETAILS

WHAT: "Sioux City True Crime: Historical Cold Case Files," an Institute for Lifelong Learning Presentation by Sioux City Public Library's Sarah Enright

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. to noon, Thursday

WHERE: Western Iowa Tech Community College, 4647 Stone Ave., Cargill Auditorium, Entrance 14

a unique appeal.

"It's the 'truth is stranger than fiction' aspect," she said. "For an audience brought up on years and years worth of 'Dateline NBC' episodes, we always want to find that one elusive piece of the puzzle."

Indeed, the case of Thecla Gerken got plenty of lurid headlines in archival copies of the Sioux City Journal.

Keep in mind that, in 1917, Sioux City was still a river town with the nickname of "Little



Sarah Enright, local history librarian specialist with the Sioux City Public Library, examines evidence in several local unsolved mysteries at the library in Sioux City.

Chicago."

"The Gerken case was so memorable that The Journal revisited the case in a front page investigative piece on the 25th anniversary," Enright said, taking out a yellowed article with a pulpy headline, "Thecla Gerken's

Rendezvous with Death," from 1942.

Similarly, the brutal murders of Donna Sue Davis and Jimmy Bremmers were covered extensively at a time when paranoia over Communism and antigay hysteria was rampant.

"Even though people think of the 1950s as being such an innocent time, they really weren't," Enright said. "While we think that the media is bad nowadays, they were bad back then as well."

However, some crimefighting tools have improved, like DNA and the presence of cameras.

"With so many technological advances, you'd think new cold cases would be obsolete," Enright said, shaking her head. "But they still exist."

And so do the fans of true crime stories who believe that truth may be stranger – and more lethal – than ever.

"People will always try to get away with murder," Enright said. "But there will also always be people who will want to find the missing pieces of the puzzle."

Murder, She Writes

Le Mars native pens mysteries with a Northwest Iowa connection

BY EARL HORLYK

Let's say the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" s Mary Richards decided to eschew the TV newsroom, becoming a teacher in a rural South Dakota school.

And what would happen if mystery followed her at every turn?

Well, that is the life of Jane Newell, a 21-year-old first-year teacher-turned-sleuth, the lead character in "See Jane Sing!" the second entry in the West River Mystery book series.

"I joked that is was the 'Mary Tyler Moore Show' meets 'Little House on the Prairie' meets 'Murder She Wrote' but it fits," said author Jolene Stratton Philo, who loosely based Jane Newell's character after her own experience as a teacher in the tiny town of Camp Crook, South Dakota.

"I named the Little Missouri, South Dakota in the books," Philo explained. "Another difference is that I was married to my husband but poor Jane was always being fixed up with every eligible man around."

That where the Mary Richards comparison came in.

Philo, a native of Le Mars, Iowa and a graduate of the community's former Westmar University, spent seven years teaching in Camp Crook. Eventually, she and her husband Hiram moved to Boone, Iowa, where Philo ended her career as an educator for the school district's Talented and Gifted program more than 15 years ago.

"I left education to pursue a career in writing and public speaking," she said.

Eventually, Philo began writing nonfiction books, based on her experience as a mom of a child with

DETAILS



"See Jane Sing!" the second in author Jolene Stratton Philo's West River Mysteries series of book, may be purchased from online book retailers like Amazon.com or at jolenephilo.com.

special needs as well as a daughter whose dad suffered from MS.

Yet she always has a desire to write a mystery.

"I wrote a book called 'See Jane Run!' which introduced Jane Newell and the quirky character who inhabit her world," Philo said of a book that was published in April 2022. "That book followed Jane through the start of the school year."

Incidentally, its sequel "See Jane Sing!" follows the young teacher when she goes home for the holidays to her parent's house in Sioux City.

"I chose Sioux City because it represented a different world than a town like Little Missouri, South Dakota," Philo said. "Sioux City, believe it or not, was a big city through Jane's eyes."

Philo experienced a similar epiphany.



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Le Mars, Iowa native Jolene Stratton Philo used her backgrounds as a teacher in a rural South Dakota school district as inspiration for "See Jane Sing!" the recently-released second book in the West River Mystery series.

"Growing up in Le Mars, I loved coming to Sioux City," she said. "Sioux City meant shopping at big stores, going out to eat at fancy restaurants like Normandy and going to the Sioux City Stockyards, which was considered one of the finest in the world."

While Philo said "See Jane Dance!" the third in her West River Mysteries series of books, won't be

out until late 2023, she is already well into the writing process.

"I started writing as a second career and I loved it," she said. "My advice to budding writers is to write as much as possible. It doesn't have to be a novel. It can be a short article for your local newspaper. By having a portfolio of published pieces will show you know how to meet a strict deadline."

Also Philo recommends attending writers conference as a way to network with publishing professionals.

"It's sometime who you know that is so important," she said.

After a while, you may even have a novel series under your belt.

"I think Jane will get involved in a few more mysteries along the way," Philo suggested.

ETC.

SIouxLAND STRANGE

A roundup of
bizarre
happenings
from Siouxland's
police logs.

Driver topples utility pole

A Sioux City man was arrested after he drove his pickup into a power pole in Plymouth County, knocking it over.

At around 4:19 a.m. Nov. 1, Plymouth County Dispatch was alerted to a downed power line near the intersection of Pioneer Avenue and County Road C70 near Kingsley, according to a press release from the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office and a criminal complaint document. It was soon determined that a vehicle had struck and knocked down a power pole.

Nineteen-year-old Joseph Alin Brummond of Sioux City was found "standing near the area of the power pole,"

according to the criminal complaint, and admitted to driving and going into the ditch, though a vehicle was not immediately located.

The Kingsley Fire Department subsequently found the vehicle involved in the collision, a 1995 Ford F-250 pickup truck.

While speaking with Brummond, a Plymouth County Sheriff's Deputy detected a "strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the defendant's person," according to the criminal complaint, and he was reportedly unsteady while standing.

A blood-alcohol breath-test on Brummond came back at 0.131, according to the criminal complaint.

Brummond was charged with operating while intoxicated, first offense. He was also subject to a Plymouth County warrant for failure to appear on a charge of minor armed with dangerous weapon - concealed on person. That case resulted from an incident earlier this year when he fired a pistol into the air during an argument in Akron, Iowa.

He was booked into the Plymouth County Jail and held on bond, according to the press release.

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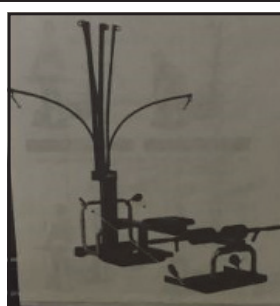
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