SLIDING IN

Cone Park readies for winter fun

MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK
**Question of the Week**

**White Christmas: Yay, nay and why?**

Earl Horlyk
Staff Writer
earl.horlyk@lee.net

“Snow is only pretty when you’re inside and don’t have to shovel any of it. I’d prefer to pests Santa Claus, while asking for a global warming Christmas.”

Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
mdockter@siouxcityjournal.com

“Christmas is a fine time to have snow, which in general I don’t really mind. Better than the blistering, evil summer heat and humidity.”

Chad Pauling
Publisher
cpauling@siouxcityjournal.com

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

**Continuing Events**

**Line Dance Classes**, 10 a.m., Dec. 29, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 801 W. 13th St., South Sioux City. Information: 712-204-4500.

**Library Storytime**, 10:30 a.m., Dec. 29; Sioux City Public Library - Morningside Branch, 4005 Morningside Ave. Information: 712-255-2933.

**Couple’s Dance Class**, 12 p.m., Dec. 26, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 801 W. 13th St., South Sioux City. Information: 712-204-4500.

**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. (Early deadlines in effect the week before holidays.)

**OUTDOORS**

Winter Break Camp Day for 3rd-6th graders, 9 a.m., Dec. 28; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

**Owl Pellets for 3rd-6th graders**, 9 a.m., Dec. 29; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

**Snowshoeing Hike**, 10 a.m., Dec. 30; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

**Winter Storytime**, 10 a.m., Jan. 8; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

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Room mural, ongoing; Artists of the Upper Midwest, ongoing; Artists in the Permanent Collection, ongoing.

**ART**

Sioux City Art Center:
Al Harris-Fernandez:
Abstracted, Oct. 9 to Jan. 9; Red Plus White, Oct. 30 to Jan. 23; Molly Wood: The Poison Garden, Nov. 13 to Feb. 6; Sioux City Camera Club: Renewal, Nov. 13, Feb. 6; Grant Wood’s Corn Room mural, ongoing; Artists of the Upper Midwest, ongoing; Artists in the Permanent Collection, ongoing.


Marbin - A Night of Progressive Jazz, 8 p.m., Jan. 8; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: http://www.vangardearts.com/events

Martina McBride, 7 p.m., Jan. 13; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Avey Grouws Band - Blues, Rock and Soul, 8 p.m., Jan. 15; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: http://www.vangardearts.com/events

**MUSIC**

4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

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

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**Question of the Week**

**White Christmas: Yay, nay and why?**

Earl Horlyk
Staff Writer
earl.horlyk@lee.net

“The only time I want some snow is on Christmas. The rest of the year? Bah humbug!”

Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
mdockter@siouxcityjournal.com

“Christmas is a fine time to have snow, which in general I don’t really mind. Better than the blistering, evil summer heat and humidity.”

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**Movies**

**THURSDAY, DEC. 23 - WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22**

***THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS***
(Rated R for violence and some language)
Return to a world of two realities: one, everyday life; the other, what lies behind it. To find out if his reality is a construct, to truly know himself, Mr. Anderson will have to choose to follow the white rabbit once more.

***SING 2***
(Rated PG for some rude material and mild peril/violence)
Buster Moon and his friends must persuade reclusive rock star Clay Calloway to join them for the opening of a new show.

**NEW DVD RELEASES FOR THE WEEK**
‘No Time to Die,’ ‘Demon Slayer: Mugen Train,’ ‘The Many Saints of Newark,’ ‘Blue Bayou,’ ‘Every Last One of Them’

**SHOWTIMES**

**LOCAL THEATERS**

**Promenade 14**
924 Fourth St, 712-277-8300
www.acxcinema.com

West Side Story 11:45 2:45 6:15
Nightmare Alley 11:40 3:10 6:30

**Spider-Man: No Way Home**
11:00
11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 1:00
1:30 2:00 2:30 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45
4:00 4:30 5:00 5:30 6:00 6:30
6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00
9:30 9:45 10:15 10:30

**American Underdog**
4:30 7:00

**Main Street 7**
866 E. 23rd St., Fremont, NE
402-727-8986
www.acxcinemas.com

**NEARBY THEATERS**

**Royal 3 Cinema**
33 Central Ave SW, Le Mars, Iowa
712-564-1778, www.acxcinema.com

**Spider-Man: No Way Home**
1:00
1:30

**Sing 2**
1:15

**Pioneer 3 Theater**
110 S. 11th St., Nebraska City, NE
402-873-6487, www.acxcinema.com

**Spider-Man: No Way Home**
1:00
1:30

**Sing 2**
1:15

**Legacy 3 Theater**
712 W Sheridan Ave, Shenandoah, IA
712-246-2245, www.acxcinema.com

**Spider-Man: No Way Home**
1:00
1:30

**Sing 2**
1:15

**Main St. 3**
401 Ninth St., Sheldon, IA
712-342-2344, krullcinemas.com

**Spider-Man: No Way Home**
1:00
4:05 7:00

**Sing 2**
1:15 4:15 7:45

**Encanto**
1:30 4:30 7:30

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**Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.**

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. Early numbers show a **75% increase** in syphilis cases in Iowa from 2020 to 2021.

It’s more common and easier to get than you might think.

Syphilis is **curable** but can cause serious health problems without treatment. Talk to your doctor about whether you are at risk.

Find a testing location near you:
gettested.cdc.gov

Free and low cost options available

Learn more about syphilis at ashasexualhealth.org/syphilis

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[(QR Code)](https://gettested.cdc.gov)
Easy rewriter

At a dinner, a woman asked how my husband and I met. He says he spotted me in the campus dining hall, deliberately bumped me and spilled my drink on my tray, and used getting me a refill to ask me out. This never happened. (We met in class, and he asked me out.)

What does it mean that he has such faulty recall about the entire origin of our marriage? — Disturbed

There is such a thing as “total recall,” and it’s what automakers rush to do after they sell a car that is not only self-driving but self-destructing: dropping parts like breadcrumbs as it tools down the highway.

What total recall is not is a feature of the human mind — despite the widely believed myth that memory is a form of mental videotape: faithfully preserving our experiences for playback. Ideal as this would be for spouses with prosecutorial tendencies, our minds are, in fact, hotbeds of fragmented, distorted, partial recall.

We create this mess ourselves, simply by remembering — and remembering again. “Using one’s memory shapes one’s memory,” explains psychologist Robert Bjork. Basically, the more we tell a story, the more we believe it — along with all the embellishments (aka big fat lies) we added to funny it up and otherwise impress (so social situations feel less like reenactments of being picked last for dodgeball).

And when I say “we,” I mean me. When I lived in Manhattan, I’d brag about my response to a street-corner flasher: “Looks like a penis — only smaller.” I’m now pretty sure this never happened. I did see an escaped trouser snake or, uh, five on the subway. (New Yorkers think of this as “Tuesday.”)

That was probably my sourdough starter for the cleverbrag I trotted endlessly at parties — till I was snidely informed that my “original” circa mid-’90s line appeared in the 1978 movie “Bloodbrothers.”

Consider that your husband’s memory might not be the only one that’s been, um, redecorated. Also consider (see my cleverbrag above) that we tend to “remember” events in self-serving ways. Any guy can ask a girl out after class, but in your husband’s version, he goes on a mini-quest to get a date with you. Not exactly what life has to offer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Study situations thoroughly before you act. How you deal with partners, colleagues or superiors will lead to a change. You’ll want to ensure that what takes place is beneficial.

PIRCE (Feb. 20-March 20) -- A lifestyle change is overdue. Consider what makes you feel good about yourself and the direction in which you’re heading, and put a strategy in place. It’s time to get down to brass tacks.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Enjoy the company of others, you will be disappointed. Look for an opportunity to show what you have to offer. Problems at home will develop due to a lack of information.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Fix up your surroundings and enjoy the comforts of home. The changes you make should ease stress, not add to your anxiety. Stop worrying and start enjoying what life has to offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Your emotions will vary due to outside influences. Maintain dignity and common sense, regardless of what others do or say. Put your heart and soul into something that you can control.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Set limits and stick to your budget. Put in place last-minute preparations that will position you for a brighter future. Follow your heart and commit to a plan. Make up your mind and get moving.
Take a hike!
OK, maybe that sounded a bit harsh, but the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road will be hosting a Winter Break Day Camp for 3rd - 6th grade kids from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday. Build your birdhouse, go for a nature walk or, if weather permits, go out for some snowshoeing.

Or stay inside!
A better bet may be the Can You Make It! Winter Camp taking place at Launchpad Children’s Museum, 623 Pearl St., at various times, Monday through Thursday. Kids can make crafts, play games and do TikTok science experiments. More importantly: everybody gets to stay inside!

Climb a scary wall!
Unleash your inner Spider-Man! The climbing wall at the Long Lines Family Rec Center, 401 Gordon Drive, will be open a few days during Christmas break. Call 712-224-5124 for hours.

Slippin’ & slidin’
We admit to be klutzes on ice. But if you glide like an NHL star, be our guests. The IBP Ice Center, 3808 Stadium Drive, has a humongous ice skating rink in its 38,000-square-foot facilities. Plus they’ll be open during the holidays. Call 712-279-4880 for additional info.

Celebrate Kwanzaa!
Running Sunday through Jan. 1, Kwanzaa celebrates African-American heritage during this secular week-long holiday. In case you were wondering, Kwanzaa means “first fruit” in Swahili.

The holidays are a time for whiners!
Also starting on Sunday (aka the day after Christmas) is National Candy Cane Day, National Thank You Note Day and National Whiner Day. Which holiday will you be observing?
By Earl Horlyk

By the time you read this, Cone Park will either have plenty of the white stuff for sledgers and tubers wanting to play in the snow.

Or, perhaps, it won’t. “Actually, it could go either way,” Sioux City recreation supervisor John Byrnes explained. “We’ve targeted Thursday as our opening day, since school kids will be on their holiday break by then. But we’re always at the mercy of the weather.”

Specifically, Siouxland’s warmer-than-normal December has kept Byrnes and his crews guessing what will happen on a day-to-day basis. For instance, Dec. 15’s daytime high in the low 70s gave way to heavy northerly breezes that dropped the temps down to a chilly 20-something degree high on Dec. 18.

Before you say brrrr, remember this is ideal snowmaking weather. “Outdoor temperatures can’t be any higher than 26 or 27 degrees in order for us to run our snowmaking guns,” Byrnes said.

Actually, snowmaking began at 3800 Line Drive park on Dec. 5. While the 700-foot main hill currently has about two feet of snow.

Byrnes said between 25-to-30 feet is needed at its base to slow down tubers.

Once the snow is there, it will stick around for a while. “I’ve become surprisingly knowledgeable about the melting rate of snow,” Byrnes explained.

“Warm weather will impact our hill, but it’s not as bad as you think. “When you’re driving around in May, you can still see snow piles in parking lots,” he continued. “Same principles apply here. We keep our snow piled high knowing that temps will fluctuate. That way, it will have a minimal impact on what we lose on the hill.”

According to Byrnes, the Christmas holidays are often a make-or-break time when it comes to revenue.

“For the past couple of years, we’ve been able to squeak by and open the tubing hill by Christmas break,” he said. “If we can’t, we lose those few weeks when kids are out of school and parents want ‘em out of the house.”

Awarded the “outstanding attraction” honor from the Iowa Tourism Bureau and the Travel Federation of Iowa in 2019, Cone Park has its main hill plus a shorter, Blue Bunny hill.

Federation of Iowa in 2019, Cone Park has its main hill plus a shorter, Blue Bunny hill.

For people who neither tube nor sled, Cone Park also has a 5,400-square-foot ice skating rink and a two-mile trial loop that goes from Cone Park to the adjacent Sertoma Park.

More sensible people – at least in the opinion of the Weekender – may prefer the Cone Park Lodge, which seats up to 80 guests, two humongous flat screen TVs, food, drinks and, get this, panoramic views of the great outdoors.

See, you get to experience the beauty of Cone Park without, you know, freezing your butt off.

However, Byrnes said that many people aren’t aware that Cone Park is open year-round. “We have splash pads and a trail that is perfect for walkers, hikers and runners,” he said. “We will soon have a mountain bike trail which will incorporate jumps, berms, you name it.”

Despite that, Byrnes like Cone Park best when it is frigid. “There is something exhilarating about the cold air hitting your face as you race down our hill,” he said. “It really is cool.”

Even though it is now in its fifth winter, Cone Park still has residents who haven’t been there, Byrnes said. “No matter how much time you spend here, I guarantee you’ll have a blast,” he said.

But can Byrnes guarantee Cone Park will be open during the winter break? “Well, it is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas.”
Located on 35-acres at 3800 Line Drive, Cone Park is best known for its 700 tubing hill. Enjoy three-hour sessions with unlimited rides down the hill. But leave your personal snow tubes at home. Snow tubes will be provided at Cone Park and only 250 tubers will be allowed in during each session. Five years old is the minimum age on the main hill. All ages are welcome on the Blue Bunny Hill. Closed Monday through Wednesday, Cone Park is open from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., 6 to 9 p.m. and 9 to 11 p.m. Saturdays; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. on Sundays. Cone Park’s Ice Skating Rink is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. You may use your own ice skates or rent some for an extra fee. For Cone Park ticket and pricing info, call 712-222-CONE (2663) or 712-279-6126 or coneparksiouxcity.com.

Guests line up to ride the conveyor belt up the hill with their inner tubes Sunday at Cone Park in Sioux City.
JESSE BROTHERS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL
Haybales galore

Turkey in the straw, turkey in the hay – wait, why’s there hay all over the place?

A Sioux Center man was hospitalized with what were described as minor injuries last week after his haybale-laden semi truck collided with a train carrying grain.

At around 8:32 a.m. Dec. 14, the Sioux County Sheriff’s Office was called to a crash that had occurred on 360th Street, three miles northwest of Sioux Center, Iowa, according to a press release from the Sioux County Sheriff’s Office.

Harvard Sandbulte, 59, of Sioux Center, was driving a 2015 International Prostar semi-truck pulling a flatbed trailer loaded with haybales eastbound on 360th Street when he struck a northbound BNSF locomotive in the railroad crossing, according to the release. Sandbulte was transported by the Sioux Center Ambulance to Sioux Center Health for treatment of minor injuries.

The truck sustained approximately $40,000 in damage, while the train suffered an estimated $100,000 worth of damage. The truck’s freight of haybales was a big mess, and photos from the aftermath show some of the hay stuck in various places on one of the BNSF locomotives.

Sandbulte was cited for failure to stop at a railroad crossing.

Rash of mailbox vandalisms

Plymouth County authorities are seeking the public’s help to find suspects who have damaged more than a dozen mailboxes earlier this month in rural Plymouth County.

Deputies are investigating 16 incidents believed to have occurred Dec. 3-5, the Plymouth County Sheriff’s Office said in a recent news release.

The vandalism occurred in the area of Lynx Avenue and 300th Street, approximately 10 miles south of Le Mars and six miles east of Hinton. Authorities are looking for five people in a four-door passenger car or smaller SUV/crossover-type vehicle.

Anyone with information can call the sheriff’s office at (712) 546-8191.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains digits 1 to 9.

If you must cheat, the answers are in the classified section on page 9.
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- Comprehensive Benefit Package
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WellsCareers.com

*Pre-employment background check & drug test required

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