



W
weekender

FINDING 'AMELIE'

**Morningside University stages
musical version of hit film**

MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is your go-to snack food?



Chad Pauling
Publisher
cpauling@siouxcityjournal.com
"I'm a candy guy. Any gummy is yummy to me!"



Earl Horlyk
Staff Writer
earl.horlyk@lee.net
"Twix, Kit Kats as well as any member of the Reese's Peanut Butter corporation."



Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
mdockter@siouxcityjournal.com
"Mustard."

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



The Weekender is published every Thursday by Sioux City Journal Communications, P.O. Box 118, 515 Pavonia St., Sioux City, Iowa, 51102-2933, 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: Gabriel Ruiz plays struggling young artist Nino in "Amelie," the Morningside University stage musical version of "Amelie," a French-language film which garnered five Academy Award nominations in 2001. Morningside's show will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with a 1 p.m. Sunday matinee. JESSE BROTHERS PHOTO.
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CALENDAR

MUSIC

Hairball, 8 p.m., Feb. 17; Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-279-4850.

Matt Cox & The Marauders, 8 p.m., Feb. 17; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

Sioux City Symphony Orchestra Haydn & Brahms featuring Stephanie March, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 18; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-277-2111.

Brandon Santini - Hypnotizing Blues Harmonica, 8 p.m., Feb. 25; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

The Kentucky Headhunters, 8 p.m., March 3; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Head East, 8 p.m., March 4; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Nick Schnebelen - Blues Rocker, 8 p.m., March 4; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

Sioux City Symphony Orchestra John Osborn: A Legend Returns Home, 7:30 p.m., March 11; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-277-2111.

Powerman 5000, 8 p.m., March 11; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Good Morning Bedlam - Furious Folk, 8 p.m., March 11; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

REO Speedwagon, 7:30 p.m., March 17; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Ryan Kisor Trio, 8 p.m., March 17; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

Pet Rock, 8 p.m., March 18; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Think Floyd USA, 8 p.m., March 18; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Travis Denning, 8 p.m., March 24; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

John Waite, 8 p.m., March 25; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St.

Information: 712-226-7625.

Cathy Sandage & Mickey Lee Petersen, 8 p.m., March 25; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

MercyMe, 7 p.m., April 1; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Terry Quiett Band, 8 p.m., April 1; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

The Oak Ridge Boys: Front Porch Singin' Tour 2023, 8 p.m., April 14; Winna Vegas Casino, 1500 330 St., Sloan, Iowa. Information: 800-468-9466 x6128.

Sioux City Symphony Orchestra Aladdin In Concert, 7:30 p.m., April 22; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-277-2111.

Badfinger, 8 p.m., April 22; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Nu Metal Madness Tour, 7 p.m., April 28; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Alice Cooper: Too Close for

Comfort Tour, 7 p.m., May 7; Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-279-4850.

Foreigner: The Greatest Hits, 7 p.m., May 13; Battery Park, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Hinder, 8 p.m., July 7; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

ART

Sioux City Art Center: Art Month Exhibition: Middle School Students, Feb. 25 to April 9; Grant Wood's Corn Room mural, ongoing; Earth-Water-Light, ongoing.

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

OUTDOORS

Wildlife Encounters Live Animal Program, 1 p.m., Feb. 18; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 3

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SIOUXCITYJOURNAL.COM

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CALENDAR

FROM 2

Woodbury County Conservation Foundation Annual Meeting, 2 p.m., Feb. 18; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Yoga Class, 5:30 p.m., Feb. 22; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

THEATER

USD Theatre Presents: tick, tick... BOOM!, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 16, 17, 18; 2 p.m., Feb. 19; Wayne S. Knutson Theatre, 788 North University St., Vermillion, S.D.

Information: jeffrey.larsen@coyotes.usd.edu.

Menopause The

Musical, 7 p.m., March 4; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Chicago The Musical, 7:30 p.m., April 11; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Madagascar The Musical, 3 p.m., April 16; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Fiddler on the Roof, 7:30 p.m., May 4; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Bluey's Big Play, 6 p.m., June 13; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Nate Bargatze: The Be Funny Tour, 7 p.m., June 15; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

712-279-4850.

Jerry Seinfeld, 7 p.m., July 13; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

COMMUNITY

Wine About Winter Fundraising Event for the YMCA, 6 p.m., Feb. 17; South Sioux City Marriott Riverfront, 385 East 4th St., South Sioux City. Information: 402-404-8439.

February 2023 Legislative Town Hall, 10 a.m., Feb. 25; Sioux City Public Museum, 607 4th St. Information: 507-438-8001.

South Sioux City Public Library Book Sale, 1 p.m., Feb. 25; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

Simple Sewing, 5 p.m., March 8;

South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

March 2023 Legislative Town Hall, 10 a.m., March 25; Sioux City Public Museum, 607 4th St. Information: 507-438-8001.

South Sioux City Public Library Book Sale, 1 p.m., March 25; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

Midwest Honor Flight Trivia Night, 6 p.m., March 25; American Legion, 109 East 19th St., South Sioux City. Information: 605-215-1319.

Simple Sewing, 5 p.m., April 12; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

South Sioux City Public Library Book Sale, 1 p.m., April 29; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota

Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

Simple Sewing, 5 p.m., May 10; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

South Sioux City Public Library Book Sale, 1 p.m., May 27; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

Simple Sewing, 5 p.m., June 14; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

South Sioux City Public Library Book Sale, 1 p.m., June 24; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

South Sioux City Public Library Book Sale, 1 p.m., July 29; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota

Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

INFORMATIONAL

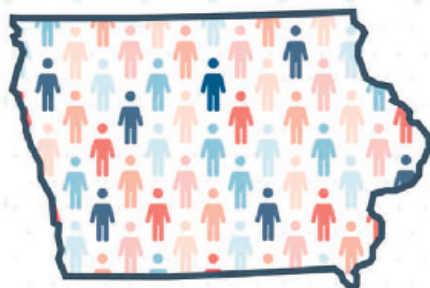
Intro to Tarot: Unlocking the Secrets, 1 p.m., Feb. 26; Expansion Center, 1119 4th St. Information: 605-232-8888.

SPORTING

Adult Co-ed Volleyball Tournament, 8 a.m., March 11; Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA, 601 River View Drive, South Sioux City. Information: 402-404-8439.

Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live Glow Party, 10 a.m., (Crash Zone), 12:30 p.m. (Main Show), 5 p.m. (Crash Zone), 7:30 p.m., May 13; 12 p.m. (Crash Zone), 2:30 p.m. (Main Show), May 14; Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-279-4850.

We can stop HIV, Iowa.



It all starts with health equity—meaning everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

To achieve this, we need to remove obstacles to good health, such as poverty, discrimination, and racism, which support an environment in which HIV thrives.

We must work together so that all Iowans have access to the resources they need to

Prevent Diagnose and Treat HIV.

Learn more at
stophiviowa.org



**STOP
HIV
IOWA**

SUX 6

THE BEST THINGS TO DO IN SIOUXLAND



Split ends?

1 Veteran drain-clogger Hairball will bring its homage to arena rock to the Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive, at 8 p.m. Friday. If you can believe it, this marks Hairball's 23rd year of dressing up like the monsters of rock and roll. That's a whole lotta Aqua Net!

Triple threat!

3 When a person can act, sing and play an instrument, he is called a "triple threat." Jesse Olson proudly wears that title. He's an actor with the Le Mars Community Theatre PLUS he sings, plays the guitar and performs original material. See Jesse, live in concert, at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Postal Playhouse, 105 First St., N.E., Le Mars.



March of times!

Principal cellist Stephanie March will be in the spotlight when the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of Haydn and Brahms at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Orpheum Theatre, 528 Pierce St. A Sioux City native, March became a member of the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra at age 12. When we were 12, we still slept with a night light and read Archie comic books.



TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL FILE



On the set of "Between the Lines," Shelby Hagerdon (right) worked extensively with the actors while her codirector Michael White handled the feature film shoot's more technical aspects.

PROVIDED

'Line' driver

4 The world premiere of "Between the Lines" – a feature film by Wayne State College grad Shelby Hagerdon – will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Majestic Theatre, 310 Main St., Wayne, Neb. The film revolves around three generations of women.



Meet a Marauder!

5 Based in Omaha, Matt Cox and the Marauders have been entertaining audiences with a combination of rock, blues, country and, even, a bit of Tex-Mex. See this eclectic crew at 8 p.m. Friday at Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St.



Matt Cox

PROVIDED

In Black & white!

6 Did you know that Sioux City once had its own Black-owned newspaper? Historian Jim Tillman knew and he will present an oral history lesson at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Road.



Jim Tillman

PROVIDED

MOVIES

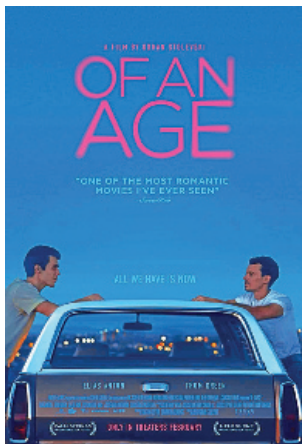
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 -
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22



'ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA' (Rated PG-13 for violence/action and language)
Scott Lang and Hope Van Dyne, along with Hank Pym and Janet Van Dyne, explore the Quantum Realm, where they interact with strange creatures and embark on an adventure that goes beyond the limits of what they thought was possible.



'EMILY' (Rated R for sexuality/nudity and drug use)
Emily imagines the transformative, exhilarating, and uplifting journey to womanhood of a rebel and a misfit, one of the world's most famous, enigmatic, and provocative writers who died too soon at the age of 30.



'OF AN AGE' (Rated R for language throughout, sexual content and some drug use)
Set in the summer of 1999 as an 17-year-old Serbian born, Australian amateur ballroom dancer experiences an unexpected and intense 24-hour romance with a friend's older brother.



'MAYBE I DO' (Rated PG-13 for sexually suggestive material and brief strong language)
Michelle and Allen are in a relationship. They decide to invite their parents to finally meet about marriage. Turns out, the parents already know one another well, which leads to some differing opinions about marriage.



'MARLOWE' (Rated R for language, violent content, some sexual material and brief drug usage)
In late 1930's Bay City, a brooding, down on his luck detective is hired to find the ex-lover of a glamorous heiress.

SHOWTIMES

Local Theaters Promenade 14

924 Fourth St.
712-277-8300

Ant-Man and the Wasp:
Quantumania 3:00 4:00 6:00
7:00 9:00 9:55
Knock at the Cabin 4:15 7:15
Magic Mike: 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55
Avatar: The Way of Water 4:50 7:00
80 for Brady 4:20 6:50
Marlowe 4:15 7:15
Winnie-The-Pooh: Blood and Honey 7:00
Maybe I Do 4:20 7:30
M3GAN 4:20 7:15
Plane 4:25 7:05
A Man Called Otto 4:00
Missing 4:05 7:20
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 4:10 7:10

www.acxcinema.com AMC Southern Hills 12

4400 Sergeant Road
712-276-3062

Magic Mike: 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40
Ant-Man and the Wasp:
Quantumania 3:00 3:30 4:00
5:00 6:00 6:30 7:00 7:30 8:00
9:00
Marlowe 4:30 7:15
80 for Brady 7:30

Knock at the Cabin 7:00 A Man Called Otto

3:30 6:25
Plane 3:00 8:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3:10
M3gan 3:30 6:25
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 4:30 7:05
Missing 3:25 6:05
The Whale 3:30
The Fabelmans 3:20

www.amctheatres.com

Nearby Theaters Royal 3 Cinema

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

Ant-Man and the Moth:

Quantumania 7:00
80 for Brady 7:25
A Man Called Otto 7:10

www.acxcinemas.com

Pioneer 3 Theater

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

Ant-Man and the Moth:

Quantumania 7:00

www.acxcinemas.com

Legacy 3 Theater

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

Ant-Man and the Moth:

Quantumania 7:00
80 for Brady 7:25
A Man Called Otto 7:10

www.acxcinemas.com

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.majesticcinema.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

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 7:20

Knock on the Cabin 7:15

A Man Called Otto 7:20

80 for Brady 7:20

Maybe I Do 7:30

krullcinemas.com

Main St. 3

401 Ninth St., Sheldon, IA

712-342-2344

80 for Brady 7:10

Maybe I Do 7:20

Knock at the Cabin 7:30

krullcinemas.com

MUSKETEERS HOCKEY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18



VS.



6PM PUCK DROP

FLOYD VALLEY
HEALTH NIGHT
- FREE JERSEYS
TO THE FIRST
500 FANS
(15 YEARS OLD
AND YOUNGER)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19



VS.



3PM PUCK DROP

TICKETS
START AT

\$10

712-224-PUCK
TYSON EVENTS CENTER
MUSKETEERSHOCKEY.COM



New DVD releases for the week

'Strange World'
'The Fabelmans'
'House Party'
'American Gigolo,
Season One'
'Christmas with the
Campbells'

From Paris, with L'amour!

Morningside University's stages musical based upon Oscar-nominated romantic comedy

BY EARL HORLYK

Less than a week before opening night, Erianah Austin still catches herself saying the word "Papa" with a Spanish dialect.

"In Spanish, you emphasize the second syllable in 'papa,'" she explained during a break in rehearsals. "However, I have to remember my character lives in Paris and the French pronounce 'papa' without any special emphasis."

Austin has the title role in "Amelie," a stage musical version of the 2001 French romantic comedy, which received five Academy Award nominations, including one for Best Foreign Language Film.

After runs on Broadway and London's West End, the musical adaptation of "Amelie" – like the movie – tells the quirky story of a young Parisian woman who is searching for human connections by performing random acts of kindness.

Morningside University's School of Visual and Performing Arts will present "Amelie the Musical," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee at the Klinger-Neal Theatre, 1501 Morningside Ave.

"Because of her mother's sudden death and her father's coldness, Amelie is living in a world of her own," Breanna Pierce said. "By performing acts of kindness, Amelie is inching closer to happiness."

Pierce, a Morningside senior who has performed in several past productions, is making her college directorial debut with "Amelie."

Similarly, Austin is making her debut as a leading lady in "Amelie."

"I've been in other productions but I've never had such a demanding role," she said.

Austin is sharing many of her scenes with Gabriel Ruiz, who is Nino, the object of Amelie's affections.

Though he is active in choirs, Ruiz is a relative newcomer to acting.

On the other hand, Nathaneal Roop is a veteran dramatic actor but had never appeared in a musical



JESSE BROTHERS PHOTOS, THE WEEKENDER

Erianah Austin plays Amélie Poulain, the lead character in "Amelie: The Musical," a stage adaptation of the Oscar-nominated romantic comedy.

before.

"I'm comfortable, acting out a scene," Roop, who plays Amelie's neighbor Julian Dufayel, said. "Singing in a scene? Now, that's a new experience for me."

Roop credited Pierce for putting him at ease.

"Breanna is great," he said. "If I had a problem with a scene, she will help me work it out."

Austin nodded her head in agreement.

"I'm a dancer as well as a singer," she said. "If I want to convey some action physically, Breanna will help me incorporate it through my character."

Pierce, in turn, gave props to Noah Potterff, who serves as "Amelie's" musical director.

"While some people have seen the movie 'Amelie,' few people saw it on Broadway or in London's West End," Pierce said. "The Broadway version and the West End version of the show are very different. Noah was able to take elements from



Breanna Pierce, center, directs Erianah Austin, right, who plays Amélie Poulain and Gabriel Ruiz, left, who plays Nino Quincampoix during a rehearsal for "Amelie."

both shows, creating a seamless production."

The Klinger-Neal stage is divided into three major sections.

One section represented the Two Windmills Cafe, the offbeat

restaurant where Amelie worked. The second spot was the storefront where Nino, a struggling artist, spent his day.

Stage left was a walkup staircase that led to Amelie's bedroom.

DETAILS

What: Morningside University's School of Visual and Performing Arts production of "Amelie: The Musical"

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; 1 p.m. Sunday

Where: Klinger-Neal Theatre, 1501 Morningside Ave.



Gabriel Ruiz plays struggling young artist Nino in "Amelie," the Morningside University stage musical version of "Amelie," a French-language film which garnered five Academy Award nominations in 2001. Morningside's show will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with a 1 p.m. Sunday matinee.

Pierce blocks off piece of stage business on a set meant to represent Modern-day Paris.

Featuring a whimsical score that includes songs like "Tour De France," "There's No Place Like Gnome" and "Times are Hard for Dreamers," the musical version of "Amelie" brings the world of romantic comedy onto a college campus stage.

That's the hope of Pierce.

"When the opportunity for love presents itself, Amelie struggles to take the first step," she suggested.

But who knows? Love is always in the air in Paris, isn't it?

ADVICE

ANSWERS FOR ALL YOUR WOES



**DEAR
ANNIE**
ANNIE LANE

No reason is good enough to stay in an abusive marriage

Dear Annie: I've been married for almost 12 years to a man who is emotionally abusive. I had made up my mind to tell him to leave, but then he was suddenly injured in a car accident. I am his caregiver while he recovers, but he is facing two more surgeries. I will not ask him to leave in this condition, yet I am miserably unhappy.

He screams and yells at the slightest thing. If he drops or misplaces something, he shrieks

and curses. He talks to me in a nasty tone of voice and yells at me when I ask him to stop. He screams at me that I'm abusive for saying he is.

We have very little income from Social Security — not enough for me to live without taking a job. I'm 72 and don't have a decent car, and public transportation is not good here. It's a half-mile walk to a bus stop. I have no savings. What job could I possibly get at this age?

He makes even less. He cannot live on that income or find a place to live because he has so little money coming in.

He tells me, "I don't want to yell at you, but" and then explains why it's my fault. He says he's in pain and that's why he screams at me. But this started way before the accident. That's why I wanted to end things. After 10 years, I was done with trying to make him treat me with respect.

I feel trapped and desperate. He can't see

a psychiatrist or counselor while he's facing surgeries.

I don't know what to do, and I don't even know where to start. — **Feeling Trapped**

Dear Trapped: Don't know what to do? It sounds like you did know what to do and were going to leave him and then he had a car accident and it put a wrench in your plan. While I am so sorry that you are both having to go through what sounds like a very difficult time, there is help available. No one should ever be abused to emotionally abuse you. Being miserably unhappy is no way to live your life.

Just because he has surgery scheduled does not mean he can't seek the help of a professional online. He could also join an anger management class online to help him deal with his emotional outbursts directed at you.

Saying that it is your fault that he yells at you is like saying to a child, "I hit you because

it was your fault for eating the candy." There is never an excuse for abuse, either verbal or physical. Ask his doctors if Medicare might cover some in-home care. If you were planning to leave, then leave.

That type of behavior is typical of a narcissist. Just look at the letter below to know that you are not alone.

Dear Annie: Please tell "Brokenhearted" that it is not her fault she fell for a narcissist. They are very good at what they do. My ex started to unravel a few years into our marriage, and then it exploded from there. I blamed myself for not seeing the red flags. To this day, my mother reminds me that he fooled us all. Tell "Brokenhearted" to be glad she didn't marry him and to be glad that he is gone! — **Fell for It Too in NY**

Dear Fell for It: Congratulations for finding a way out. I hope your letter helps others know they are not alone.



**TWEEN
12 AND 20**
ROBERT WALLACE

They use any occasion to cut loose, and I'm not amused

DR. WALLACE: Our family is kind of unusual in that we like to celebrate various holidays in our own way. Sometimes these holidays are not necessarily the ones that everyone else pays much attention to.

For example, next Monday is Presidents Day and our entire family makes a big deal about this. Several family members dress up in hats and beards to look like presidents from many years ago. And no matter how cold the weather is going to be that day, we must of course grill food outside on our patio even if we have to wear heavy coats. The women will chill out and socialize among themselves, but the men in our family will get a keg of beer going. Their "celebrations" usually take a bit

of a dour turn soon after most of the men become very tipsy, and this upcoming event is going to be no different than all of the past ones.

Why do men in particular feel they need to get loaded up on beer at the drop of a hat with any thin excuse to imbibe until they literally fall over? It's like a family tradition in our family and for some others in our part of the country. I, for one, feel it's foolish and immature. Do you agree, or am I just a bit of a "stick in the mud?" — **Not Amused, via email**

NOT AMUSED: It appears to me that your family, particularly the men, enjoy carrying on family traditions that probably have been in place for many, many decades. In years gone by, beer was considered mainly a men's beverage, and women rarely if ever drank beer in public.

For some reason this led to the faulty belief that it was all right for men to drink lots of beer until they literally fell down in a stupor. I agree with you that this old tradition needs to be updated.

There is no reason not to celebrate Presidents Day or any other occasion, but it's unwise and crude for the revelers to behave in

the manner you've outlined. I agree with your take here and feel these men are using the occasion to cut loose too much for their own good. Hopefully everyone sleeps at the party site and does not ever attempt to drive under these conditions.

I need your help right away!

DR. WALLACE: I'd like your assistance and I need it fast! I met a really great guy at one of our high school sporting events last weekend and we really connected on many levels. I talked to him that evening for an hour and a half and we did nothing but laugh and complete each other's sentences.

Before I got a ride home with some friends and their parents, this guy and I exchanged telephone numbers since he told me he would like to ask me out on a formal date sometime. He happened to mention that he was in his first year of junior college, and I'm a sophomore in high school. It turns out that I'm 16 and this guy is 19, and when my parents found out about how old he is, they forbade me from dating him.

What advice can you give me that I can tell it to my parents and get them to change their

minds? I like to think I'm very mature for my age, and I've already dated two boys before, so it's not like this'll be my first time going out on a date.

Do you have any great advice that will convince my parents that he's cool and allow me to date him? — **I Really Like Him, via email**

I REALLY LIKE HIM: Sorry to inform you that I don't have any special advice that will help you at this time. Due to your age and his, at this time of your life, I do agree with your parents.

Once you're 18 and he's 21, your situation will be a vastly different story. Not only will you be an adult at that point, but the three-year gap in your ages will also mean much less due to your mental and emotional maturity that will be further developed as an 18-year-old. At the age of 16 with very limited dating experience, I feel that dating a 19-year-old college student is not a good idea for you — at this time.

I never enjoy being the bearer of bad news or advice that is not going to be well-received, but I must answer you honestly. You now have my position on this issue, given your current age.

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BRIEFS

St. Patrick's Day parade returns for 15th year

The 15th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will return to downtown Sioux City at 6 p.m. March 17.

The annual event, which typically attracts more than 50 floats, musicians and groups, will start on Historic Fourth and Iowa streets before heading west to Fourth and Water streets.

"When we started the St. Patrick's Day Parade 15 years ago, we never imagined it would become one of the biggest events of spring," Sioux City St. Patrick's Day Parade co-chair Mac Dolan said. "We invite businesses, organizations and Irish families to sign up to be a part of the parade. We hope

everyone will don their most festive green to kick off the weekend in true St. Patrick's Day style."

The Sioux City St. Patrick's Day Parade is sponsored by MV5 Metals.

Participants in the parade will include area schools, sports teams, businesses as well as families with Irish heritage. Those interested in participating or volunteering can visit siouxcitystpats.com.

Southern rockers BlackHawk coming to Anthem on May 6

The Southern rock band BlackHawk is coming to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem, 111 Third St., on May 6.

For more than 30 years, BlackHawk has shared a unique sense of harmony with its voices, songs and fans. Today, BlackHawk

continues to honor its past as it forges its future and does it all with a commitment that takes their music – and the harmony – to a whole new level.

Tickets are now on sale at hardrockcasinosiouxcity.com or at the hotel's Rock Shop.

New Stage Players visit 'On Golden Pond'

New Stage Players will present "On Golden Pond," Feb. 24-27, at the New Stage Performing Arts Center, 3201 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City.

A classic American drama, "On Golden Pond" details the turbulent relationship between an aging father and his adult daughter.

The curtains will be raised at 7 p.m. Feb. 24, 25 and 27, and at a 2 p.m. Feb. 26 matinee.

Tickets may be reserved at newstageplayers.com.



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