



INSIDE

'A Christmas Pageant' unfolds

W
weekender

PICTURE THIS

Sioux City filmmaker wins international award



MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?



Chad Pauling
Publisher

cpauling@siouxcityjournal.com
"A newspaper publisher, of course! I'm living the dream."



Earl Horlyk
Staff Writer

earl.horlyk@lee.net
"When I was a kid, I was obsessed with David Letterman. Somehow, I convinced myself that I should be the one who replaced him on 'Late Night with David Letterman.' In hindsight, I think NBC made the right choice in choosing Conan O'Brien over me."



Mason Dockter
Staff Writer

mdockter@siouxcityjournal.com
"For quite a while I wanted to be one of those people who drives around in a van getting footage and photos of tornadoes. And to this day I've still never seen a real tornado in my life. Being a king was another occupation I considered for a while."

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



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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: Former Sioux Cityan Joe Clarke has written, directed and stars in "Alta Vista," a film that has been getting acclaim on the film festival circuit. Provided photos.

CALENDAR

MUSIC

Ned LeDoux, 8 p.m., Dec. 10; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Whiskey Mash Band - High Gear Bluegrass, 8 p.m., Dec. 10; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>

Little River Band, 8 p.m., Dec. 11; WinnaVegas Casino, 1500 330th Street, Sloan. Information: 712-428-7117.

Christmas with the Symphony, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m., Dec. 12; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-277-2111.

Sara Evans at Christmas with Special Guest Everette, 7 p.m., Dec. 16; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Home Free: Warmest Winter, 8 p.m., Dec. 17; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

A Very Garie Christmas, 8 p.m., Dec. 17; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>

7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience, 8 p.m., Dec. 18; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Big Bad Cash Band, 8 p.m., Dec. 18; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>

New Year's Eve Bash Featuring: The Spazmatics, 9 p.m., Dec. 31; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

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.

OUTDOORS

Hot Cocoa Hike, 4 p.m., Dec. 13; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Nature Tales, 10 a.m., Dec. 14; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Winter Solstice Yoga, 4 p.m., Dec. 21; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

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.

THEATER

'Til Beth Do Us Part, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9; 2 p.m. Dec 5; Le Mars Community Theater, 105 1st St. NE, Le Mars, Iowa. Information: 712-546-5788.

COMMUNITY

Siouxland Sportscard Show, 10 a.m., Dec. 11; Stoney Creek Hotel, 300 3rd St. Information: 712-239-2504

Little Yellow Dog Auction, 12 p.m., Dec. 11; Ho-Chunk Centre, 614 4th St. Information: 712-293-4310.

Live Nativity, 6:30 p.m., Dec. 11; Sacred Heart Church, 5010 Military Rd. Information: 712-898-7513

SPORTING

The Arena Invitational, 10 a.m., Dec. 18; Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-279-4850.

CONTINUING EVENTS

Happy Hour at Blue Café, 5 p.m., Dec. 10, 17; 1301 Pierce St. Information: 712-574-1751.

Community Drum Circle, 5 p.m., Dec. 10, 17; 1307 Pierce St. Information: 712-574-1751.

Couple's Dance Class, 12 p.m., Dec. 12, 19, 26, Jan. 2; 801 W. 13th St., South Sioux City. Information: 712-204-4500.

Holiday Sunday Fundays, 12 to 5 p.m., Dec. 12 (Jewelry), Dec. 19 (Last Minute Gift Ideas); Singing Hills Secondhand Finds & Furnishings, 4400 S. York St. Information: 712-233-2345.

Line Dance Classes, 10 a.m., Dec. 15, 22, 29, Jan. 5; 801 W. 13th St., South Sioux City. Information: 712-204-4500.

Library Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Dec. 15, 22, 29; Sioux City Public Library - Morningside Branch, 4005 Morningside Ave. Information: 712-255-2933.

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.sioxland.net. Include event date, time, event name, contact name and phone number. Deadline is noon the Friday prior to publication. (Early deadlines in effect the week before holidays).

MOVIES

THUR. DEC. 9 - WED., DEC. 15

'BEING THE RICARDOS'

(Rated R for language)

Follows Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz as they face a crisis that could end their careers and another that could end their marriage.

'WEST SIDE STORY'

(Rated PG-13 for strong violence, strong language, thematic content and suggestive material)

An adaptation of the 1957 musical, *West Side Story* explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds.

'ENCOUNTER'

(Rated R for language and some violence)

Two brothers embark on a journey with their father, who is trying to protect them from an alien threat.

'THE UNFORGIVABLE'

(Rated R for language and content)

A woman is released from prison after serving a sentence for a violent crime and re-enters a society that refuses to forgive her past.

'DON'T LOOK UP'

(Rated R for language, sexual content, graphic nudity and drug depiction)

Two low-level astronomers must go on a giant media tour to warn mankind of an approaching comet that will destroy planet Earth.

New on DVD this week:

'Ron's Gone Wrong' Copshop'
'Dear Evan Hansen' 'Call the Midwife:
'Cry Macho' Season Ten'

SHOWTIMES

Local Theaters

Promenade 14

924 Fourth St
712-277-8300

West Side Story 4:00 5:00 6:00

7:30 8:30 9:30

Being the Ricardos 3:50 6:45 9:40

Christmas with the Chosen: The

Messengers 4:15 7:00 9:45

Encanto 4:05 6:45 9:25

Resident Evil: Welcome to

Raccoon City 4:45 7:20 9:45

King Richard 4:24 7:40

Ghostbusters: Afterlife 4:00 5:00

7:00 8:00 9:55

Clifford the Big Red Dog 4:15

Eternals 4:20 7:45

Dune 4:25 7:45

www.acxcinema.com

AMC Southern Hills 12

4400 Sergeant Road
712-276-3062

West Side Story 3:45 7:45

Christmas with the Chosen: The

Messengers 7:05 7:35

Clifford the Big Red Dog 6:45

Encanto 6:30 7:30

Eternals 7:30

Ghostbusters: Afterlife 6:45 7:30

House of Gucci 6:30

King Richard 7:00

Resident Evil: Welcome to

Raccoon City 7:15

www.amctheatres.com

Nearby Theaters

Royal 3 Cinema

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

Ghostbusters: Afterlife 7:30

Clifford the Big Red Dog 6:45

Encanto 7:00

www.acxcinemas.com

Pioneer 3 Theater

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

Ghostbusters: Afterlife 7:30

Clifford the Big Red Dog 6:45

Encanto 7:00

www.acxcinemas.com

Legacy 3 Theater

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

Ghostbusters: Afterlife 7:30 7:15

Clifford the Big Red Dog 4:15 7:15

Encanto 4:00 6:45

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.majesticnman.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

Ghostbusters: Afterlife 6:35 9:20

House of Gucci 6:35 9:15

Matrix 6:30 9:25

Encanto 6:40 9:15

Belfast 6:45 9:20

krollcinemas.com

Main St. 3

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

Encanto 7:15

King Richard 7:30

Ghostbusters: Afterlife 7:45

krollcinemas.com

Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection.

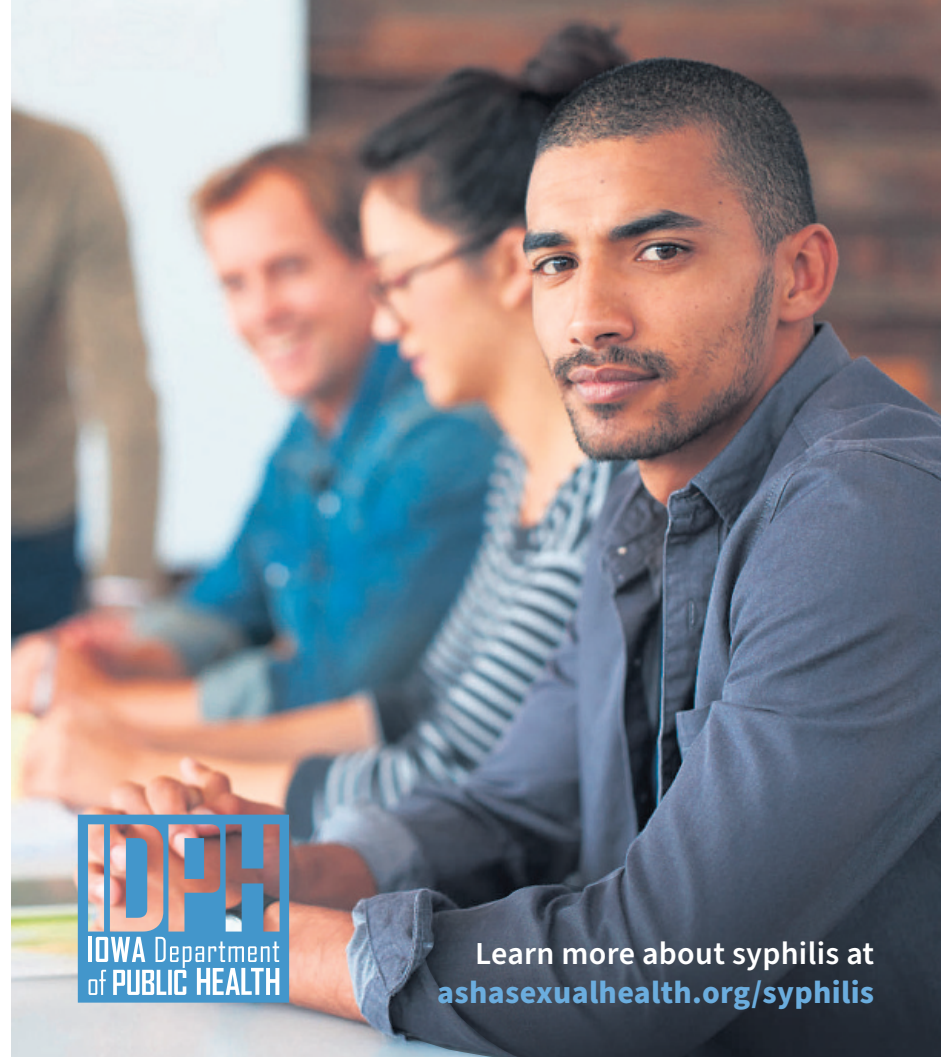
Early numbers show a **75% increase** in syphilis cases in Iowa from 2020 to 2021.

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
ashsexualhealth.org/syphilis

SUX 6

THE BEST THINGS TO DO IN SIOUXLAND



1 A VERY BOLIN CHRISTMAS!

It's been 45 years since the death of rock icon Tommy Bolin. But the Sioux City native's music remains as vital as ever, thanks to his younger brother Johnnie and their close-knit group of friends. See Johnnie Bolin and an all-star Tommy Bolin Tribute Band – John Bartle, Ryan Baker, Bobby Berge, Jesse Christen, Dean Christopher, Billy Engel, Sam Irish Jr., Dave Napier and Bobby Bolin – at 8 p.m. Friday at The Marquee, 1225 Fourth St.

2 YIPPEE-KI-YAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



One doesn't think of "Die Hard" as a quintessential Christmas movie, but, c'mon, you'd rather see Bruce Willis kick butt than watch that spooky-looking Culkin kid, right? Experience "A Very Die-Hard Christmas," live on stage at the Little Red Hen Playhouse, 316 Main St. Wakefield, Neb., at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

4 • Weekender • 12.9.2021 • www.sioxland.net

3 MUSIC FOR A BLUE(GRASS) MOOD!

Kansas City's very own Whiskey Mash Band will bring its distinctively genre-busting brand of bluegrass to Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St., at 8 p.m. Friday.



PROVIDED



PROVIDED

4 FRESHLY SQUEEZED ROCKERS!

Does this season leave you in a sour mood? You're in luck because the group Lemon Fresh Day will be playing at DOXX Warehouse Bar, 1219 Fifth St., at 9 p.m. Friday. Our advice: spit out the pits!

5 HEAR A STORY, BURN SOME SUGAR!

OK, your friends at the Weekender aren't really cold weather people. However, the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road, will have a special Winter Fun Day, beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday. Participants can go on a nature hike, create a craft, learn how to use a slingshot, hear a story, and roast some marshmallow on an open fire. Seems like a lot of work in order to chow down on burnt sugar. Just sayin.'



JUSTIN WAN, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

6 HELP A FURRY FRIEND!

Wise I Brewing, 15 Second St. NE, Le Mars, will be hosting an Ales 4 Tails Fundraiser for Noah's Hope Animal Rescue from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday. Eat pizza and drink some Wise I brew for a very good cause. Also, the fundraiser has a "pajama party" theme and you're supposed to dress in your favorite PJs and stuff. Hmm, too much work. Eh, grab a pizza slice, grab a stein and you'll be fine.



ARI E. LEBOWITZ, THE WEEKENDER

New Horizon Band plans concert

Holiday music will fill the air when New Horizon Band presents a special concert under the direction of Dr. Lou Rossman at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Road.

The Sioux City-based New Horizons Band includes musicians with limited experience as well as those who participate in high school or college bands.

A reception will follow the concert.

A stream of this program will be available for viewing in a few days. For a complete listing of all activities at the Betty Strong Encounter Center or the adjoining Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, call 712-224-5242 or go to siouxcitylc.com or facebook.com/sclandc.

appearance.

For ticket information, call 712-277-2111 or visit siouxcitysymphony.org.



PROVIDED

Casey Donahew sets Hard Rock date

Country music singer Casey Donahew will perform at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Anthem, 111 Third St., on Jan. 22.

Over the course of a decade, the Texas-born Donahew has become a nationally known entertainer. His latest album, "Standoff," has already yielded such No. 1 radio singles as "Whiskey Baby," "Small Town Love," "Lovin' Out of Control," "Not Ready to Say Goodbye" and "Loser."

Tickets will go on sale Friday at The Rock Shop and at hardrockcasinosiouxcity.com.

All anthem events are for audiences, age 21 and older.

Hard Rock plans Elvis tribute

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City will host a Tribute to the King contest, in search of the best Elvis Presley tribute artist on Feb. 5.

Ten of the world's best Elvis tribute artists will be competing over three rounds of competition at Anthem, 111 Third St.

The best Elvis will receive a grand cash prize and be crowned as the Hard Rock Sioux City Tribute to the King Champion. The competition will include impersonations, singing and, of course, swinging some hips.

Tickets will go on sale Friday at The Rock Shop or at hardrockcasinosiouxcity.com.

All Anthem events are for guests 21 and older.



PROVIDED



The Sioux City Symphony Orchestra conductor, Ryan Haskins, gets festive in preparation for Christmas with the Symphony in this December 2018 file photo.

'Christmas with the Symphony' returns to the Orpheum

The Sioux City Symphony Orchestra's "Christmas with the Symphony" will return to the Orpheum Theatre, 528 Pierce St., at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Often hailed as the start of the Christmas season, the symphony – under the direction of Ryan Haskins – offers a variety of music, from cherished old carols to timeless classics.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas" will be read to children from the Boys & Girls Club, and Santa Claus will make a special

2022
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Sioux City Journal

Siouxland's Choice
AWARDS

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It's time to vote!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NOMINATIONS.
The top 5 in each category are eligible for your vote.

VOTING PERIOD:
December 1 - 27, 2021

RESULTS ANNOUNCED:
February 24, 2022

**SCAN TO SUBMIT
YOUR SIOUXLAND
CHOICE VOTE**

NICE CUBE

A modern-tech update to a famous '80s toy, and four other gadgets to try

GREGG ELLMAN

Tribune News Service

HEYKUBE

The iconic Rubik's Cube drove me nuts when I had one. Fast forward a few decades to today's Heykub, a next-gen, technology-driven version of the toy that's much more fun and much less frustrating.

The programmable six-sided, 3-by-3 smart cube puzzle teaches you how to solve it — a nice, modern advantage over the '80s version. Players solve scrambles with hints and different levels of difficulty, including quick solve and learn to solve.

Heykub allows users to create, share and solve their own algorithms via Python. Users with a Raspberry Pi can access the Heykub's Python library for controlling the lights and sounds in the cubed smart toy. The Heykub companion app is available for sharing with others and watching tutorials.

Solving the puzzle is the same as in the past: turn the pieces up, down and sideways, with each side's center square determining the color for that side.

The tutorials and the LED lights lend a helping hand in solving at first, as there are tricks to know and learn. Sometimes the solution was quick, but other times it brought me the same frustration and determination as the older cube.

The lights on the center-piece rotate, telling you the rotating direction. When the sound changes, the mode has changed. The hints can be turned on or off, making it programmable to a different level of difficulty.

Inside the Bluetooth-enabled Heykub is a microprocessor and long-lasting internal battery. The cube charges via micro USB (cable included). \$79.99, heykub.com



KINGSTON XS2000 PORTABLE SSD

Kingston Technology is unveiling a pocket-sized external SSD with industry-leading read/write speeds.

The XS2000 transfers data at lightning-fast USB 3.2 Gen 2x2 speeds — up to 2,000 megabits per second. The drive connects via USB-C and includes a removable rubber sleeve and IP55-rating.

The XS2000 measures 2.73-by-1.28-by-0.53-inches and is available in three capacities: 500 GB, 1 TB and 2 TB. A USB-C cable is included. Starting at \$99.99, kingston.com



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTOS

PHOOZY APOLLO THERMAL PHONE CASES

Phoozy's Apollo smart device cases are promoted as Spacesuit technology for every adventure, bringing protection with the brand's patented Chromium Thermal Barrier. Adapted from NASA technology, the barrier prevents overheating in the sun and extends battery life in the cold.

The case deflects up to 90% of the sun's heat to maintain a safe operating temperature. The inner layer insulates the device in cold environments, enabling up to four times more battery life than that of an uninsulated device.

The heat protection was easy to test. I took a drive with a phone in a Phoozy case and another phone not cased sitting on my dashboard. I played music from the uncased phone to gauge that it was working. Once the music stopped, I pulled over, and, sure enough, the uncased phone had overheated and shut off. The Phoozy-cased phone was still in fine working order.

In addition to heat management, Phoozy's Apollo cases are designed to be climate-proof, germ-proof, drop-proof and sink-proof — handling extreme conditions of almost any kind.

You can find a Phoozy case to fit almost all of today's smartphones and tablets. They all protect against heat and cold but differ in looks and other features, including a water-resistant flotation XP3 rating and antimicrobial materials.

Starting at \$29.99, phoozy.com



SATECHI MAGNETIC WIRELESS CAR CHARGER

Charger-maker Satechi keeps up on what people need and provides different charging options, often with better features than the original chargers that came with your product (if your product even came with a charger), and often with a smaller price tag.

Satechi's magnetic wireless car charger features Qi wireless 7.5W charging with a magnetic attachment. The charger (3.4-by-2.53-by-0.29-inches, 3.7 ounces) is built with clips for attaching to a vehicle's air vents and rotates for proper hands-free viewing. A USB-C port is built into the charger for the included USB-C cable.

\$44.99, satechi.net



TWELVE SOUTH STAYGO MINI USB-C HUB

Twelve South's StayGo mini USB-C hub brings four extra ports to your iPad or MacBook: a headphone jack, USB, USB-C and HDMI.

The ports can add external drives, pass-through power, external displays, headphones and speakers or other external peripherals.

The hub measures 2.8-by-1.25-by-1.49 inches and is built with an aluminum exterior shell to dissipate heat. It can be connected directly to the device or via the included 19-inch extension cable for added flexibility — which is great when you have a protective case on the device.

\$59.99, twelvesouth.com

Christmas spirit

Sioux City Community Theatre presents heartwarming holiday show

BY EARL HORLYK

Meredith Malenosky has been acting in Sioux City Community Theatre (SCCT) productions for more than 20 years.

Now, the 24-year-old is co-directing her first play with veteran director Benji Cotter.

So, what stage direction was Malenosky giving to child actor Harriet Anderson, moments before a rehearsal for "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever?"

"Meredith is teaching me the proper technique when it comes to pretending to smoke a cigar on stage," Harriet explained. "My character smokes and swears in this show."

OK, something tells us that this isn't going to be any traditional Christmas play.

Based on Barbara Robinson's children's novel, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," the play revolves around the six rambunctious Herdman kids, who are, yes, known to smoke, cuss, shoplift and drink jug wine.

After volunteering to star in a Sunday School Christmas pageant, these misfit kids end up teaching their town the true meaning of the holidays.

"The community theater has performed this show in the past," Malenosky said, "but it is one that a lot of people seem to like."

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. matinee show on Sunday.

In addition to the play, which will be performed at the 1401 Riverside Blvd. theater, other activities will occur in addition to the show.

A chili dinner will take place prior to Thursday's show, while an "Ugly Sweater" contest and bake sale will happen on Friday's and Saturday's shows, respectively.

Photos with a certain visitor from the North Pole will occur at the completion of Sunday's show.

These extra added attractions will make up for the abbreviated run time of the play.

"Some of our plays can be lengthy, especially with a built-in intermission,"

DETAILS

WHAT: "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: Sioux City Community Theatre, 1401 Riverside Blvd.

TICKET INFO: 712-233-2719 or scotheatre.org

Malenosky said. "This play is a bit shorter, since we know families are so busy this time of the year."

It is also a consideration for the youngest cast members of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

That is something both Malenosky and Cotter can identify with.

"Both of us are theater kids," Cotter said. "It seems like Meredith and I have known each other our entire lives."

Describing himself as a natural entertainer, Cotter said he enjoys helping young people discover their passion in performing.

Malenosky was slowly discovering a large part of directing a play didn't have much to do with acting.

"A director is a question-answerer," she admitted. "I spend a whole lot of time answering questions."

Actually, Malenosky spends a whole lot of time doing a bit of everything at the theater.

She has been involved in each of the four SCCT productions since the theater reopened in July.

"We had to take a long break due to pandemic restrictions," Malenosky said. "A lot of people missed seeing live theater."

And with "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" being SCCT's largest post-COVID production, it will be a good time to get back in the swing of things.

"This may not have been smart to choose such a large show for my directing debut but I like it," Malenosky said. "We have a terrific cast and it should be a good time for the entire family."



"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," a play based on Barbara Robinson's children's novel, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

PROVIDED

MUSKETEERS HOCKEY

THIS WEEKEND

FRI., DEC. 10 • 7PM

vs. **SIOUX FALLS**

BLACK OUT NIGHT

FIRST 1000 WILL RECEIVE A BLACK
OUT T-SHIRT COURTESY OF RTI

SAT., DEC. 11 • 6PM

vs. **OMAHA**

TEDDY BEAR TOSS

WHEN THE MUSKIES SCORE THERE 1ST
GOAL OF THE GAME SPONSORED BY
FOULK BROTHERS PLUMBING & HEATING

GET YOUR TICKETS AT
MUSKETEERSHOCKEY.COM



Movie man

Sioux City native's flick earning plaudits across the country and around the world

BY EARL HORLYK

In his latest film, Joe Clarke has a helluva lot of hyphens attached to his name.

For instance, "Alta Vista" – a coming-of-age drama about a screenwriter struggling with the death of his dad – has the Sioux City native listed as its writer, director, producer and star.

However, Clarke is especially stoked by one more title: internationally acclaimed auteur.

Well, that may be a bit of overstatement but Clarke's "Alta Vista" did pick up Best Picture honors at the 2021 London Independent Film Awards as well as a 2021 World London Film Festival Gold Selection movie.

Previously, the movie had been lauded for its screenplay, editing and musical score at nine other film festivals throughout the United States.

"I can't believe the first time I traveled overseas was to pick up the Best Picture award in London," Clarke said with a chuckle. "That was pretty awesome!"

A HOMEGROWN MOVIEMAKER

This achievement is even more significant, given the 33-year-old's cinematic past.

"I started making movies on my brother's old camcorder when I was in middle school," Clarke, a 2006 Bishop Heelan Catholic High School grad, recalled.

His initial inspiration? Campy chop-sock-y flicks of kung-fu variety.

"I remember staging action scenes on Fourth Street," Clarke explained.

Clarke's ambitions didn't go unnoticed from mom and dad, who have him the nickname "Joefinger" – after the down-and-out filmmaker character that Steve Martin played in the 1999 movie "Bowfinger," of course.

"Mom and dad were OK with my movie making as long as I received a good education," the 2010 University of Iowa graduate noted.

RETRO STARS, HEARTLAND LOCALES

As a bonus, all of Clarke's initial forays into films were based in or near eastern Iowa.



"Alta Vista," a movie starring, written and directed by Sioux City native Joe Clarke, has been earning plaudits on the film festival circuit.

Adding a bit of star power were some recognizable TV faces in many of his flicks.

That included "Saved by the Bell" star Dennis Haskins, who appeared in Clarke's 2015's "Up on the Wooftop," as well as "Family Matters" star Reginald VelJohnson, who appeared in 2014's "The Formula."

Actor Brandon Baker (Disney Channel's "Johnny Tsunami") was also an early member of Clarke's stock company of actors, starring in "The Formula," before doing a cameo in "Up on the Wooftop."

While he enjoyed making movies in Iowa, Clarke knew he needed to make his mark in La-La-Land.

"I wasn't ready to move to Los Angeles right out of college," he said. "With a few years under my belt, I was ready to make the move."

Since establishing himself in California, Clarke has made 2019's "Headstrong" – a documentary on pro wrestler Rob Van Dam's surprising foray into standup comedy – as well as "Alta Vista," which, believe it or not, began life as a "Point Break"-type of beach heist movie.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Not only is Joe Clarke the writer and director of the critically acclaimed "Alta Vista," the Sioux City native is also the film's leading man. He plays a bicycle-riding screenwriter who gets caught up with Hollywood's underworld.



Filmmaker Joe Clarke had originally envisioned "Alta Vista" as being a "Point Break"-style action drama, it evolved into a comedy-drama with a few scenes set at the beach.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Joe Clarke, second from the right, directs a scene from "Alta Vista," a movie that was just awarded Best Picture by the London Independent Film Awards.

WHEN KEANU REEVES MEETS 'THE PLAYER'

"As a script, 'Alta Vista' has had several lives," Clarke said with a weary sigh. "I had envisioned it to be a Keanu Reeves-type of movie with a lot of surfing and plenty of intrigue."

Instead, it evolved into an insider-ish peek at some colorful Hollywood characters with Clarke, initially sporting an unusual "the caveman from the GEICO Insurance commercial" look.

"That was another sign of 'Alta Vista's' long gestation period," he explained. "I grew out my hair during the interim. I decided to keep the look when I cast myself in the lead."

A STAR IS BORN ... OUT OF DESPERATION

This decision in becoming a leading man did inspire some trash talk among Clarke's friends.

"They teased me by saying I turned the film into a 90-minute selfie," he mentioned with a shrug. "But there was a real reason behind my choice."

When he was making movies in the Midwest, actors were more than happy to give Clarke a two-week window.

In Hollywood – the ultimate "industry" town – actors were hesitant to give Clarke two days of work, let alone two weeks.

"It was difficult getting enough actors on the set at the same time," he explained. "They were all working on different projects, besides mine."

Then, Clarke had a revelation.

"As the director, I had to be on set all of the time," he reasoned. "Since I was always available, I made myself the leading man. My character was a screenwriter and I am, in real-life, a screenwriter. Seemed like good



Sioux City native Joe Clarke began making movies while in middle school. With several movies under his belt, the 33-year-old director is winning top honors for his recently-completed movie, "Alta Vista."

casting to me."

Clarke said he is pleased with the critical response that "Alta Vista" has received.

"Right off the bat, it was tough getting the movie into film festivals, since many were canceled due to the pandemic," he said. "Now, the movie is getting some exposure."

Even more significantly, "Alta Vista" is available for streaming by Amazon.

'A GREAT TIME TO BE A MOVIEMAKER'

"Such avenues weren't available when I

started making movies," Clarke said. "Not only is 'Alta Vista' on Amazon, but my documentary 'Headstrong' just debuted on (the) Reelz (digital network). There are so many outlets looking for product that it is a great time to be a movie maker."

Guess what? You don't need to be an auteur to start a cinematic career. According to Clarke, many newcomers are utilizing TikTok and YouTube as host sites for their work.

Perhaps not so surprisingly, young movie makers are looking at Clarke for

inspiration.

"I just got an email from a budding, 16-year-old film director in a small town in Iowa," he said. "Hopefully, I gave the kid some good advice because there are times when I still feel like a 15-year-old myself."

In the trailer for "Alta Vista," Clarke showcases the rural-ness of Iowa farms, juxtaposing it with scenes set in the City of Angels, along with action at the beach.

For old times sake, there is even a kung-fu fight sequence in the minute-and-a-half preview.

ETC.

SIouxLAND STRANGE

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

Abysmal courtroom behavior

Before he was sentenced to 54 years in prison on Dec. 3, a Sioux City man, his mother and a victim traded accusations of death threats in the courtroom, disrupting the hearing and prompting the judge to threaten to remove him and others from the room.

Jayme Powell, 40, of Sioux City, was found guilty by a Monona County jury in October of two counts each of attempted murder, intimidation with a dangerous weapon and operating a motor vehicle without owner's consent and one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

The convictions stemmed from an incident that occurred two days after Christmas last year in which Powell tried to kill his friend and the friend's girlfriend – by running over the friend on Interstate 29 and shooting at the woman while she was driving with a baby in the vehicle.

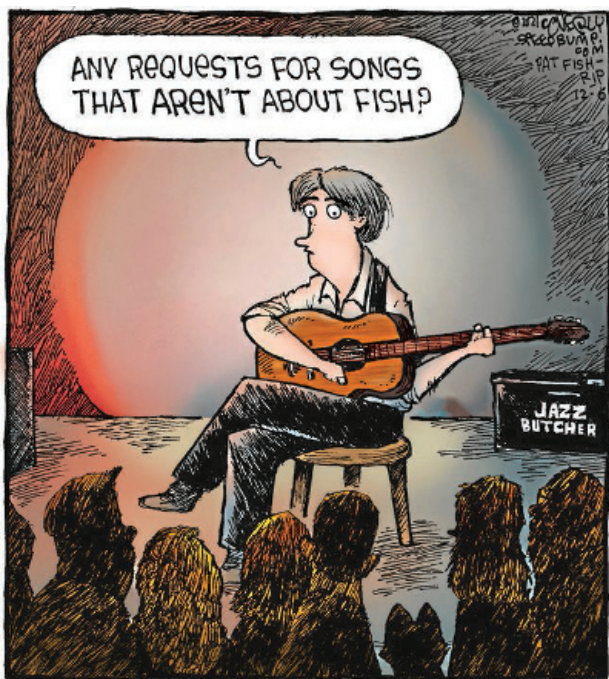
Richard Polak, the victim who was run over while driving a motorcycle, urged District Judge Roger Sailer to sentence Powell to the minimum of 25 years in prison. Giving his victim impact statement, Polak told Powell he didn't want to see him die in prison, but just serve long enough so that he'd be unable to attend the funeral of his mother and any other loved ones who might die while he's incarcerated.

"I want you to feel the pain of having someone you love die," Polak said.

Powell shot back, telling Sailer that Polak was threatening his mother, who was present in the courtroom and began to speak out when Sailer halted everyone. Visibly perturbed with everyone's behavior, Sailer told Powell to remain quiet or he'd have him removed from the room. He also warned Powell's mother and Polak, telling him to restrict his comments to how the crime affected him rather than addressing Powell directly.

Longtime friends, Polak told Powell he had never judged him and stuck by him during past criminal convictions and prison sentences. But he had no right to try to kill him by running over him while he rode his motorcycle on Interstate 29 near Whiting, Iowa, on Dec. 27 after the two had been in a fight earlier that night in Sioux City. "As a brother, you should have fought me in the yard," Polak said. "I still have empathy for you. Good luck, brother. You're going to need it."

Polak suffered numerous injuries and walked with the assistance of a cane during the Dec. 3 hearing. While driving south near mile marker 118 in his Dodge pickup truck, Powell fired shots at Polak's girlfriend, Jaimi Bucholz, who was driving with a baby in her vehicle, and then ran over Polak, who was driving a motorcycle.



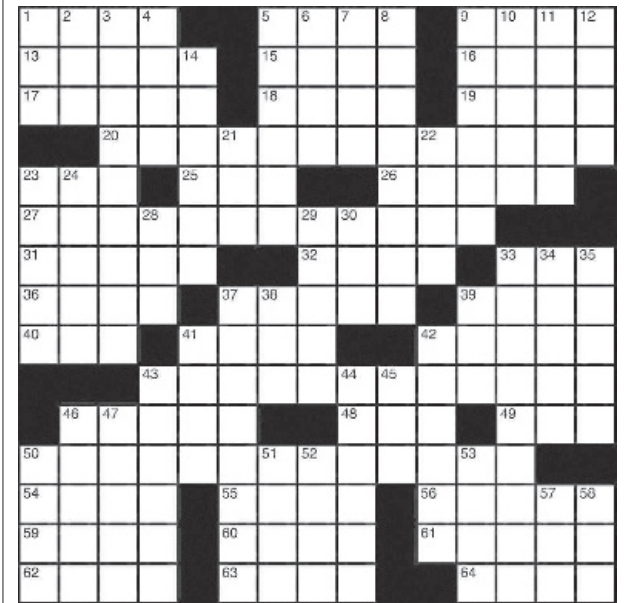
SUDOKU

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



Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Guthrie's "Today" co-host
- Apple tablet
- Easily bruised Cajun veggie
- Collectively
- Possessive shout
- Currency with Khomeini's picture
- "Same here!"
- Greek salad ingredient
- Out of sight
- It takes getting used to
- Note dispenser
- Large tea dispenser
- Geese cries
- Native American leaders
- Put a cap on
- One of its first customers was a collector of broken laser pointers
- IRS forms expert
- Just slightly
- Brown ermine
- Born and __
- Theater backdrop
- High time?
- "Shrek" princess
- Exuberant compliment
- Some blue jeans
- Sea-__ Airport
- Observe
- Morning news deliverers ... or based on a hidden word in each, what 20-, 27- and 43-Across are?
- Late notice?
- "The __ Report": 1976 bestseller
- Bangkok natives
- Ticket stub abbr.
- Meadow mamas
- Fires off
- Programmer's alternative to "if"
- Yom Kippur ritual
- Heavy homework amount

DOWN

- Most common surname in Korea
- Half of snake eyes
- Ryokan floor cover
- Political alliance
- "Everything's OK"
- Berth place
- Initial poker payment
- Tie on a track
- Instruments with stops
- Key-cutting site
- Raging YouTube posts
- Sheltered from the wind
- Plumlike Asian fruit
- GoDaddy purchase
- Put a cap on
- Boris Johnson, e.g.
- Book with insets
- Clichéd
- Auction action
- Africa's Sierra __
- Trade name letters
- Flaky bakery product
- Tubular pasta
- "Opposites attract," e.g.
- Kitchen bigwig-in-waiting
- A.L.'s Blue Jays
- Show __
- Black, in Biarritz
- Rhinestone surfaces
- __ Nicole Brown of "Community"
- Taking a breather
- Monet's May
- Record company imprint
- Heroic tales
- Sit for a portrait
- Bygone audio brand
- 66 and others: Abbr.
- Flightless bird of the pampas
- Altar affirmation
- Phishing target, briefly

If you must cheat, the answers are in the classified section on page 12

ADVICE

ANSWERS FOR ALL YOUR WOES



SCIENCE ADVICE GODDESS

AMY ALKON

Leaping sickness

Q: I thought I was happily married. Recently, I found a cherry Chapstick in my husband's coat pocket — a kind he'd never buy. He claimed he randomly grabbed it at the drugstore checkout. Last week, he said he'd be visiting his mother at the nursing home, but I later learned he never showed. I asked him about it, and he said work ran over. Additionally, our sex life has picked up, and he's been extra thoughtful lately. Doesn't all of this, put together, scream that he's cheating? How do I confront him?

—Nightmares

You don't expect marrying the man of your dreams to turn your actual dream content into all-night notifications of impending disaster: dozens of inch-high coal miners in tiny hardhats and goggles scaling you and repeatedly jabbing you with cupcake toothpicks topped with little red flags.

Are you right to pile these infobits into the verdict your husband's cheating? Maybe — but maybe not. Evolutionary psychologist Martie Haselton explains that we evolved to be *protectively wrong*: to err on the safe side, meaning make the least evolutionarily costly error. Suspecting cheating where none actually exists is less genetically costly than shrugging off signs that seem to point to it — and then possibly losing your man and/or having him funnel his resources away from your kids to those he'd make with some hussypants he's seeing on the side.

Confronting your husband — accusing him of cheating — is a risky tactic. If he *is* cheating, he's likely to deny it. If he isn't, your accusation could destroy your relationship. A possibly less risky tactic is evoking his empathy: telling him that, collectively, these infobits triggered fears of losing him. The subject becomes your seeking reassurance (which, P.S., may or may not be truth-backed). If he has been straying, he might be inspired to reevaluate and stop. Might.

Over the next few months, observe your husband's behavior — including that which suggests he loves you and is faithful. Your observations are likely to be inconclusive (compared with finding him in bed with somebody), but if you amass enough information over time, it should begin to point you to some sort of understanding.

I personally make peace with the freakouts of life that way; for example, a new mole that (apologies to Judy Blume) seemed to scream: "Are You There, Alkon? It's Me, Malignant Melanoma." One dermatologist visit later: "Hello, drama queen. I'd like to introduce you to your spider bite."

Junk Male

Q: Do men even read online dating profiles? Mine says I'm a "sober divorced writer." Inevitably, guys message me: "What do you do? Ever been married? Wanna go for a drink?" Um, hello? I'm flattered I apparently get picked on looks alone, but even men who aren't into hookups do this.

—Mystified

There's a case to be made for a guy being a rushed or generally careless reader and sliding right past "sober divorced writer." However, men are likely to blow past an even more standout description, such as: "I enjoy fine dining, walks on the beach, and dismembering my date and feeding bits of him to the squirrels."

Though men seem more likely to hit on hot women on their pictures alone, they probably do this even when women are, shall we say, lukewarm or even room temperature. Because birth control used to be "Cross your legs, honey!" women evolved to be "the choosier sex," wary about getting it on with a man until they vet him for his willingness and ability to "provide" for any resulting kids. Because men don't get pregnant, it's evolutionarily optimal for them — best for passing on Ye Old Genes — to have vastly lower standards. (Vastly. Like: "So...she has a pulse?")

This sex difference makes a strong showing on dating apps. Computational social scientist Taha Yasseri, with three students, analyzed piles of data from online dating studies. "Men are much less selective in who they communicate with," they report. In fact, it's "optimal for men to use the 'shotgun method': blasting out 'likes' like buckshot from some backwoods Cletus' hunting rifle. The strategy is not finding a really great match (true love with a woman much like them — or a man if they're gay) but messaging "a large number of people, irrespective of their potentially low fit" and hoping some of them bite.

Basically, many men on dating apps are like 2-year-olds. They only look at the pictures. Take it super slowly with any guy you meet via app, meaning keep him on secret probation until you see ample evidence you might be well-matched (and that "Conor" is not long for "Con"). If you're awakened one lazy Saturday morning by the man in your bed, the part of your body he's most interested in should not be your thumb — which he got a little clumsy with while trying to unlock your banking app.



ASTRO ADVICE EUGENIA LAST

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Go directly to the source, speak up and don't let anyone mess with you. Situations that involve controlling individuals will reveal your strengths and weaknesses. Don't give in or give up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Keep emotional matters to yourself, and it will be easier to go about your business without interference. Sort out your thoughts and figure out what you will do next.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Surround yourself with people who have something to contribute. Walk away from situations that are volatile or might make you look bad. An argument will put you in a vulnerable position.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Sharing too much information will give someone the edge in a competitive situation. Don't present or promote what you plan to do until you have everything in place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Call on friends and allies, and you'll get the backup you need to get things done on time. Use your intelligence, knowledge and experience to outmaneuver any rival.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Stay on course, regardless of what others do or say. Avoid outlandish ideas and wasteful expenditures. Pick your battles wisely and put your efforts where they will help you get ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Live and learn. Use your experience and knowledge to work toward your dreams, hopes and wishes, and you will be satisfied with what you accomplish. Don't expect everyone to be happy for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Pay attention to what everyone is doing, and you'll pick up ideas that will help you get things done on time. A change someone makes will help you and may spark a partnership.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Sit tight and take a logical approach to change. Don't try to fix what's working. Give yourself time to think and plan. Being patient and finding new ways to use what you already have will pay off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Say only what's necessary and truthful. Don't engage in gossip or criticism. A positive attitude and suggestions will help you stir up enthusiasm and encourage others to pitch in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Take pride in what you do to help others. Keep an open mind and offer innovative solutions to others. Build strong alliances, and you will find the road to success. Concentrate on equality, balance and integrity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Evaluate your lot in life and consider feasible adjustments that will get you closer to your dreams. Everything comes at a price, and putting in the effort will be necessary if you want to succeed.

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2022
weekender
Sioux City Journal

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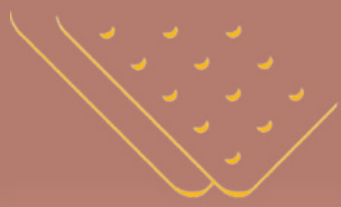
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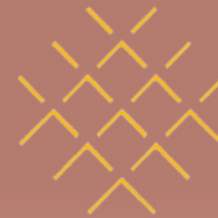
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