

DEAR ABBY

Widow is tired of being alone after four months

**Dear abby:** My husband passed away four months ago. I miss him terribly, but I'm ready to move on. I want to begin dating, but I don't know how to go about it. Some may say it's too soon, but I couldn't care less what people think.

I have my eye on several men I think may be interested, but they're not paying

much attention to me. I think they're hesitating because they know how recently my husband died and they think it's too soon. How can I let them know I'm ready without coming on too strong?

Also, how can I go about meeting new men? I go places and see lots of men who are attractive, but I haven't got the nerve to approach them. Some of them may be married, and I don't want

to wreck anyone's marriage. I'm 65, so it isn't easy to meet someone in my age group.

I am not looking for a husband, just a friend and companion. I have everything I need except someone to love and care for me. Online dating isn't an option for me. Can you please give me some of your excellent advice? — *Very Lonely Widow*

**Dear Very Lonely:** Please accept my condolences for the loss of your husband. You have now become a member of a club that nobody wants to join.

It's important for your mental health that you do some things to help you fight depression. Staying busy and exercising at least 30 minutes a day are both very effective. You may also be able to push the dark clouds away and meet new people by volunteering for causes you care about.

You mentioned that online dating isn't an option. If the reason for that is a lack of computer

literacy, start taking some lessons. Online dating sites provide an avenue for widows and widowers to meet eligible people of both sexes. One caveat, however: You wrote that you are looking for someone to love and care for YOU. Do not go into ANY relationship without accepting that it will be a two-way street, or it won't work for either of you.

**Dear Abby:** My grandpa has expressed to me that he wants me to inherit all of his investments, including his 401(k) and his personal accounts. I am the only family member taking care of him. His wife passed away two months ago. He has expressed his wishes to me verbally. (I have recorded him stating this.) He does not want my sister or his other family members to inherit anything.

Should I honor his wishes and accept it all? My sister, who calls him occasionally, thinks she should get half of his

estate when he passes. (It could be five or 10 years from now.) Should I honor his wishes or split it 50-50 to keep the peace? — *Eye To The Future In Texas*

**Dear Eye:** I am very glad you wrote. Although you have your grandfather on tape expressing his wishes about the distribution of his estate, it is CRUCIAL they be discussed with an attorney who specializes in estate planning! Those wishes should be put IN WRITING and notarized so there will be no confusion about his intentions or his reason for apportioning his estate the way he is doing. Your sister will be furious when she gets the news, and you may need legal protection, so be prepared.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



NATE CASTILLO, PHOTO

Woodbury County Royal Court (top left): Brady Cockburn, first prince and Mr. Personality, Carson McDermott, Fair King, and Jack Diedker, second prince. (Bottom left): Emerson Ploeger, Miss Congeniality, Grace Flannigan, Fair Queen, Brenna Johnson, first princess, and Gabby Hamman, second princess

Woodbury County Fair names Royal Court

**EARL HORLYK**  
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MOVILLE, Iowa — The Woodbury County Fair kicked off Wednesday with the crowning of the Royal Court.

Grace Flannigan was selected as Queen of the Fair, while Brenna Johnson was named first princess and Gabby Hamman was named second princess. Emerson Ploeger received

Miss Congeniality honors.

Carson McDermott was selected King of the Fair, while Brady Cockburn was named first prince and Jack Diedker was named second prince. Cockburn was also selected as Mr. Personality.

The 97th annual Woodbury County Fair, taking place at 206 Fair St. in Moville, will run through Sunday.

Tax-free

From A1

While not all states offer a sales tax holiday, many like Iowa, Missouri, Ohio and Oklahoma have them in late July and early August. This often leads to their correlation with back-to-school shopping, which both attracts and deters shoppers.

“I'm sad to say we don't take advantage of [the holiday] like we should,” Les Pedersen, of Cleghorn, Iowa, since 1983, said in a Bomgaars in Sioux City. “If we go back in our days and we had kids in school, we would really love to take advantage of it — I think it's a great family thing.”

Pedersen said he preferred the quieter hours of shopping, like late on Thursday morning. Although some store workers felt that the holiday doesn't bring in as many new shoppers as it used to, some customers, like Pedersen, were intentionally out and about the day beforehand because they wanted to avoid crowds.

“Oh God, it's the no-tax weekend, it's going to be busy, I don't want to go,” Dawn Zahnley said at Rudolph's Shoe Mart on Thursday. Zahnley, of Anthon, Iowa, was in Sioux City for the day with her adult son, Dawson Zahnley, and said that they were getting shoes on Thursday



ERIC KIEKENBEN PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Spencer Quitt, a 20-year employee at Rudolph's Shoe Mart, shows a list of items that are eligible for the sales tax holiday in Sioux City. Items that fall under the sales tax exemption are articles of clothing, including shoes, that are considered “appropriate for everyday wear” and are under \$100, according to the Iowa Department of Revenue.

to be “in and out” of the store scene before the deals began.

The sales tax weekend starts Friday morning and is active through Saturday night at 11:59 p.m. The holiday applies to everywhere in Iowa selling clothing and footwear under \$100 — for full details about ineligible items and exceptions, visit revenue.iowa.gov/taxes/tax-guidance/sales-use-excise-tax/iowas-annual-sales-tax-holiday.



Advertisements for other sales are seen at Bomgaars in Sioux City, before Iowa's sales tax holiday begins. Stacy Coenen, one of the key holders to the store, said the annual tax-free weekend does not have as much of an impact on sales at Bomgaars as it did when the holiday originated.

Disaster

From A1

The proclamations also activate the Disaster Case Advocacy Program, in which case advocates work with impacted residents to create a disaster recovery plan and provide guidance, advice and referrals to obtain services or resources,

according to the governor's office. There is no income threshold for the Disaster Case Advocacy Program, and it remains available for 180 days after the proclamation.

The proclamations are effective immediately and will remain in effect for 30 days, unless terminated or extended, according to Reynolds' office.

Reynolds on Wednesday also issued a disaster proclamation for Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Clay, Dickinson, Lyon, Palo Alto, and Worth Counties due to severe weather that started on July 28. This allows the use of state resources for recovery efforts and activates the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Ad-

vocacy Program in these counties. The proclamation is effective immediately and lasts until Aug. 29.

More information on both programs, including an application for the grant program, can be found on the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website, homelandsecurity.iowa.gov.

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**PUBLISHER:** Lee Enterprises

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**IDENTIFICATION**  
The Sioux City Journal (USPS: 497240), a Lee Enterprises Newspaper, is published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2802 CASTLES GATE DR., SIOUX CITY IA 51106. Periodicals Postage Paid at Sioux City, IA, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 500 E 3RD ST, DENVERPORT, IA 52801.

**PRICING**  
Sioux City Journal is a Lee Enterprises Newspaper and is published online daily, and three days per week in print (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays).

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Briar Cliff to produce documentary

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SIOUX CITY — Briar Cliff University is planning to create a documentary showcasing the 100-year history of the institution.

The documentary project, “A Most Unlikely Place: A Century of Faith, Service, and Learning,” received a \$10,000 grant from The Gilchrist Foundation for its production.

The documentary will explore the origins, growth, and legacy of Briar Cliff University. From its founding in 1930 by the Sisters of St. Francis and Bishop Edmond Heelan to its evolution into a modern Catholic liberal arts university rooted in Franciscan values, according to a Briar Cliff news release.

“This documentary is not just about our past; it’s about the values that continue to guide us today,” Matthew Draud, president of Briar Cliff University, said in a statement.

The grant from The Gilchrist Foundation will fund the project’s pre-production phase, including story and script development, archival research, oral history interviews and visual planning. The goal is to produce a blueprint for a public television-quality film, to be released around the time of the university’s 100th anniversary in 2030.

Students and faculty from the history, theology and mass communications programs will take part in the production.

Iowa DNR urges caution in storm damage clean-up

**LEE-GAZETTE DES MOINES**  
BUREAU

State forestry experts are advising Iowans to be cautious while cleaning up storm-damaged trees from recent storms in Northwest Iowa.

Emma Hanigan, urban forestry coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, recommends homeowners and volunteers wear safety equipment, including hand, foot, leg, eye, face, hearing and head protection, and avoid wearing loose-fitting clothes while using a chainsaw.

“Be careful when working with trees and limbs that are snapped off, twisted and tangled together,” Hanigan said in a news release. “The trunk or

tree limbs may bind against the chainsaw.”

If an oak tree is damaged, homeowners should treat the wounds immediately with acrylic paint to prevent oak wilt. After cleanup, Hanigan advises hiring a professional, insured arborist to examine trees for cracks or other issues that might have been overlooked. Routine tree care decreases the likelihood of storm-related damage, according to the Iowa DNR, and homeowners are encouraged to replant lost trees when appropriate.

Resources and tips for homeowners to prepare and respond quickly and safely after storm events can be found at www.iowadnr.gov/treedisaster.