

SIoux RAPIDS BULLETIN PRESS

SOUTH ON 71

Uncool really is a word



GINNY SMITH

BULLETIN PRESS EDITOR

And there are times it so applies to things that I do to myself.

“Uncool” describes someone or something that is unfashionable, socially awkward, embarrassing or lacking in social confidence.

The word “someone” and “embarrassing” fits me to the tee!

Rewinding to my youth, it was so uncool of me to drop a gallon of mustard on the floor in the kitchen at the fast food drive-in I worked at when I was a teenager. It wasn't so much the fact that it splattered up my leg and turned me yellow, and it didn't happen during rush hour, thank goodness. Clean up was a real experience, however.

Uncool! Fast-forward to my first few years working in the flower shop in Spencer. Our own flower shop closed in the year 1999, when we sold the building. You would think that after five years or more I wouldn't still have the audacity to answer the telephone “Country Floral, this is Ginny.” Really? I did that in Spencer a couple of times and had to apologize profusely to the caller. Good grief!

Now that I'm old-er, good times continue to roll on.

Uncool — Why, just a week ago, I was up to my elbows in flowers. I admit I am not the neatest floral designer on the block, so my habit of missing the garbage can was quite evident as I happily cut my way through more stems of flow-

ers than I care to count. However, the foliage on the floor has a tendency to provide a thrill ride or two, when one steps on a rose stem and it rolls under your foot — yeah, that's fun. How to travel 6 inches without taking a step.

It was very uncool of me to accidentally bang my head on the shopping cart handle. Dang, that hurt. I could have prevented that accident if I hadn't decided to bend over and pick up a piece of salad that was still good to use off the floor. It was in fine condition yet, unlike me after my head-banging experience.

Oh, and let's not forget about the stool that old tired florists can sit on while designing. By Saturday, I was ready to sit a spell, so Rusty, being the good guy that he is, grabbed the bar stool that is used by several people in the department and brought it over to me to use. First, I had a horrible time getting on top of it. Being short is a curse sometimes. Uncool was when I ended up just propping half my rear end on it, but I found I couldn't stay there. Must have been my polyester slacks and the metallic finish of the bar stool. It was a great thought but a major failure.

Thus ended my week in flower-ville.

But Monday morning, I'm at my computer, typing madly, when I decided to call a person for an interview. I got her voicemail and was leaving her what I thought was an intelligent message to return my call. Mid-message the downstairs cat decides to run across my keyboard — it was feeding time in the other room, and he had to make haste! Of course, I fumbled my words and had to apologize to the poor woman when she called me back. Uncool moment indeed, Axel!

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Does your heart condemn you?



EMIL LIKO

ROADSIDE FREE PRAYER BWBMINISTRIES.COM

1 John 3:20-22 (The Passion Translation) Whenever our hearts make us feel guilty and remind us of our failures, we know that God is much greater and more merciful than our conscience, and he knows everything there is to know about us. My delightfully loved friends, when our hearts don't condemn us, we have a bold freedom to speak face-to-face with God. And what-

ever we ask of him we receive, because we keep His commands. And by our beautiful intentions we continue to do what brings pleasure to him.

What are we to believe in our hearts? Believe God's word. Believe you have been and are forgiven. Believe God wants to do things for you. Believe God loves you because He wants to, not because He has to. Believe you are usable and qualified. Believe God will do things through you. But here is a huge thing that will derail you every time: If your heart condemns you! Of what would your heart condemn you? Anything you allow or agree with from the enemy. The enemy brings out things from years ago with which we may immediately agree. We may immediately be consumed with shame or guilt. But then we must remember who we are: forgiven! “No! I'm not

letting negativity in my heart.”

What else does our heart condemn us of? Lies we believe about ourselves rather than God's words about us; our own unforgiveness or holding on to offenses; our own attitudes. How would you know you heart's condemning you? It's what wakes you suddenly during the night, feeling fearful. It's a thought that condemns you out of the blue. It's the thoughts that suddenly stop you just when you're about to do something the Lord wants you to do!

We deepen on the Spirit of Truth (the Holy Spirit) because the enemy fills our hearts with lies. If God laid all our sins on Jesus and they were nailed to the cross with Him, then why are we still allowing our hearts to condemn us of past sins? Allowing our hearts to condemn us of regret? I think the best way to sum this up is written in The Passion Translation commentary of 1 John 3:20. “There is a higher courtroom for the human heart: it is where grace is enthroned. The very worst that is in us is known by God and He still showers mercy, love, and acceptance upon us. This is the greatness of God's grace. He sees beyond the sin of moment and sees the affections of love in those who refuse to turn away from Him.”

Pray this prayer! “Lord, You aren't made at me and You're not disappointed in me! I choose to accept Your grace and Your mercy once and for all! It's a done deal! Amen!”

CHURCH CALENDAR

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4840 40th Ave., Alta
712-286-6222
Pastor Rhonda Wykoff
Pastor David Olson

Sunday, Feb. 22
9:30 a.m. — Combined
CHRISM Worship at Trinity
Wednesday, Feb. 25
7 p.m. — Midweek Lenten Service

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
105 High St., Linn Grove
712-296-4438
Pastor Rhonda Wykoff
Pastor David Olson

Sunday, Feb. 22
9:30 a.m. — Combined
CHRISM Worship
Wednesday, Feb. 25
7 p.m. — Midweek Lenten
Service at Immanuel

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 N. Broadway Ave., Rembrandt
712-286-6222
Pastor Rhonda Wykoff
Pastor David Olson

Sunday, Feb. 22
9:30 a.m. — Combined
CHRISM Worship at Trinity
10:30 a.m. — Sunday School
Wednesday, Feb. 25
7 p.m. — Midweek Lenten
Service at Immanuel

VALLEY LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sioux Rapids
Pastor Tylor Sarchet

Sunday, Feb. 22
9:30 a.m. — Worship,
Lunch to Follow

RIVERSIDE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
102 W. High St., Linn Grove
RiversideChurchIowa.com

Sunday, Feb. 22
9:30 a.m. — Worship
6:30 p.m. — Ignite
7:15 p.m. — Salt Youth

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Sioux Rapids
Pastor Kari Etherington

Sunday, Feb. 22
11:15 a.m. — Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sioux Rapids
Vicar Susan Rohan

Sunday, Feb. 22
9 a.m. — Worship

BAPTIST CHURCH
Sioux Rapids
Pastor James Marshall

Sunday, Feb. 22
10 a.m. — Sunday School
11 a.m. — Worship
Thursday, Feb. 26
7 p.m. — Bible Study

Bluegill — Fair.

EAST OKOBOJI

Most areas have good fishable ice with around 13-plus inches. Black Crappie — Fair. Bluegill — Fair.

• For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Time for seeing



GRANT MANGOLD

GOD'S WORD MINISTRIES

It's been well said that for those who lack the will to see, nothing is so mysterious as the obvious. Jesus came preaching, “the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1.15). “If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, the kingdom of God has come upon you” (Luke 11.20). His kingdom came with Him.

But in Luke 17.20-37 the Pharisees asked when the kingdom of God would come. He answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is’ or ‘There!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

HERE

Christ is Himself the personification of His kingdom, standing in their midst. They were looking for the physical glory of a manifestation of God's kingdom rule and reign which would overthrow their oppressors. Their selective literalism missed most spiritual meaning.

In Verse 22 Jesus tells the disciples, “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, ‘look there’ or ‘look here!’ Do not go out or follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in His day.” A bit more like the Pharisee's ideas.

THINK

Kingdom realities are complex. Jesus says the kingdom is here already “in the midst of you” because the Son of Man was present, speaking and working. These are “days of the Son of Man” they later will wish for, with His presence on earth with His invisible kingdom.

But later, after He has ascended, He will be coming again, with power and glory like lightning lights up the whole sky. Everyone will know the day of the Son of Man coming again has come. This day will be a singular visible physical coming. But much must happen first.

PLANS

“But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.” This prophetic utterance provides a time frame. The singular visible apocalyptic day will follow His days of atoning. The Son of Man will be rejected by men even as He comes to redeem mankind.

This is why He is going to Jerusalem for

COMING EVENTS

- The Sioux Rapids Area Historical Association will meet for its regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m.
- LifeServe Blood Center will be in Sioux Rapids on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 2:30-6 p.m. at the Sioux Rapids Fire Department Training Room, at 810 Birch St. Walk-ins welcome. Call 800-287-4903, text LIFESERVE to 515-815-7242 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org to make an appointment.
- Ceramic Painting Class with Ginny and Rusty, 10 a.m. Feb. 28. Please call the library for sign up at 712-283-2064.
- A Hot Beef Sandwich Drive-By Meal is being sponsored by the Sioux Rapids Historical Association on Sunday, March 15, with all proceeds going to the Graeber-Rowe Post 394 American Legion Community Center. More details to follow.
- Sioux Rapids Food Pantry is open on the third Saturday each month at First Lutheran Church from 8-10 a.m. Contact Dolly Huffman at 712-260-0447.

DAYS GONE BY

10 YEARS AGO

- Midwest Land Management in Spencer is under new ownership. Ben Hollesen and Travis Johnson purchased the business.
- Buena Vista County Soil & Conservation District recently held a middle school essay contest. Seventh and eighth grade student winners were: eighth grade: MacKenzie Coffee, first place. Shelby Johnson, third place; seventh grade: Alyssa Feeley, second place; Brian Ausborn, first place; Hallie Rusk, third place and Emma Ahrendsen, second place.

20 YEARS AGO

- Kyle Rehnstrom began as assistant to baseball coach Jeff Scharn.

30 YEARS AGO

- Wrestling cheerleaders for the 95-96 season were Michelle Haldin, Jada Thomsen and Abby Click.
- The Depot moved out of Sioux Rapids to its new home in Marathon. The moving crew included a state trooper, a Buena Vista County deputy, utility trucks, a flag truck, the depot and interested parties.

40 YEARS AGO

- Crowning of the Valentine's King and Queen of Hearts at the Sioux Care Center took place and Dorothy Dokken and Franklin Halverson were the ones winning the honor.
- Rhonda Salts escaped serious injuries when the car she was driving went into the ditch, flipping over on the north river road east of Highway 71.

50 YEARS AGO

- The winners of the Pinewood Derby were Steve Kragt, Steve Sundblad and Brian Smith. Judges were Dennis Raveling and Kenneth Bertness.

LEGAL

SIoux RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2026

The Special meeting of the Sioux Rapids City Council was called to order by Mike Katschman on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Roll call: Mike Katschman, Lacy Garberding, Mike Gunderson, Susan Pierce, Kevin Thompson and Christy Wernimont. None were absent. Amanda Caraway was also in attendance.

The Budget Workshop was opened to work and discuss expenditures of the City of Sioux Rapids budget. Several items were discussed. Possible changes to personnel, possible moving of money to when it would be needed the most and possible places to start

saving for future projects.

The next budget workshop is scheduled for February 4th at 5:15 p.m. at the City of Sioux Rapids, City Hall.

The next regular city council meeting has been set for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm at City Hall, 100 Front Street.

Garberding made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Thompson. Ayes: All; Nays: none. Absent none. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm. ATTEST: Amanda Caraway, City Clerk /s/ Mayor, Mike Katschman #057

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Passover, as He told them previously, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” This kingdom work must be accomplished in these current ‘days of the Son of Man’ from Luke Chapter 3-24. He is seeking and saving the lost.

LISTEN

Jesus also proclaims ‘repent and believe’ as He warns them of coming judgment, as in Luke 10 He says “it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Tyre and Sidon” than for those who do not repent and believe, and who reject Christ, because they are rejecting God and His rule and reign, His kingdom which has come in the person and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

“The kingdom was already come, but invisible to the blind Pharisees’ generation which rejected Christ,” McDurmon noted, “and the coming ‘day of the Son of Man’ will be visible, though the blind Pharisees will still be looking for it when their judgment comes.” And life goes on.

CONTEXT

Verses 26-30: “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

“Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot, they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all. So will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”

READY

Jesus affirms historical accounts of Genesis 7 and 19. Life went on as usual and unexpected people were unaware of judgment coming upon them. “They were so preoccupied with normal daily life they had no thought for their souls,” R.K. Hughes noted.

“Noah and Lot were forewarned men who were prepared for coming judgment, and got out when the time came,” McDurmon observed, “as only the elect remnant will heed Jesus’ warning and get out.” Jesus’ disciples are also forewarned during “the days of the Son of Man” with life as usual, but then “the day of the Son of Man” will be revealed in judgment. Who will be ready?

Jesus’ disciples were forewarned, and so are you. Are you ready for coming judgment?

SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY, FEB. 23
Breakfast — Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt
Lunch — Chicken patty on bun, french fries, corn, oranges, milk

TUESDAY, FEB. 24
Breakfast — Breakfast stick, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt
Lunch — Goulash, green beans, pears, breadstick, milk

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25
Breakfast — French toast sticks, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt
Lunch — Popcorn chicken, broccoli, pineapple, milk

THURSDAY, FEB. 26
Breakfast — Pancake, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt
Lunch — Pork chopette on a bun, baked beans, bananas, milk

FRIDAY, FEB. 27
Breakfast — Egg biscuit, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt
Lunch — Stuffed crust pizza, baby carrots, applesauce, milk

CLIMATOLOGY

BY KEITH STOEBER

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Feb. 8	40	20	0
Feb. 9	44	21	0
Feb. 10	64	23	0
Feb. 11	46	19	0
Feb. 12	51	18	0
Feb. 13	53	21	0

LEGAL

SIoux RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2026

The Special meeting of the Sioux Rapids City Council was called to order by Mike Katschman on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:15 pm. Roll call: Mike Katschman, Mike Gunderson, Susan Pierce, Kevin Thompson and Christy Wernimont. Lacy Garberding was absent. Amanda Caraway was also in attendance.

The Budget Workshop was opened to work and discuss revenues of the City of Sioux Rapids's budget.

The city council also discussed the concrete work/repair that needs to be completed from damage from the flood, they discussed employee wages, and the Tax Levy.

The next regular city council meeting has been set for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm at City Hall, 100 Front Street.

Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gunderson. Ayes: All; Nays: none. Garberding none. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. ATTEST: Amanda Caraway, City Clerk Mayor, Mike Katschman #056

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WRITER'S CORNER

‘THE FIFTH WITNESS’ — BY MICHAEL CONNELLY

Mickey Haller has fallen on tough times. He expands his business into foreclosure defense, only to see one of his clients accused of killing the banker she blames for trying to take away her home.

Mickey puts his team into high gear to exonerate Lisa Trammel, even though the evidence and his own suspicions tell him his client is guilty. Soon after he learns that the victim had black market dealings of his own, Haller is assaulted, too — and he's certain he's on the right trail.

Despite the danger and uncertainty, Haller mounts the best defense of his career in a trial where the last surprise comes after the verdict is in.

