

# I'm not supposed to share this story

After I told my husband what I'd done, he begged me not to tell anyone else.

"You can't write about that," he said. "You'll open yourself up to judgement. There are people who will call you a bad mother."

The incident happened more than two years ago, but a recent flurry of activity on Facebook related to a similar incident prompted me to confess my own motherly sin.

I had the cash in my hand as I drove into the Target parking lot. My best friend was on her way to my house with several pounds of vegetables and we planned to try out new recipes in the juicer I was about to buy. I was late and my 4-year-old son was asleep in his car seat. All I had to do was run inside, grab the juicer, hit the express lane and I'd be out. Five minutes, tops.

But there was this knot forming in my stomach.

*Everybody does it.*

The temperature was cool, it was an overcast day and I'd found a spot near the front of the store. I grabbed my purse, locked the car doors and hustled across the parking lot.

The automatic doors slid open and something terrible happened. The store began to spiral around me. The faster I walked the more I developed a sense of tunnel vision. I whizzed past the lotion and make-up, past the coffee makers, then made a dead-stop at the toasters and microwaves. I was so close,



**Amy LYON**

COMMENTARY

two, maybe three aisles away from that dang juicer, but a panic so great came over me that all I could do was run — sprint, really — back to the automatic doors and out to my car.

My son was fine — still sleeping — and I unbuckled him quickly so that I could feel him in my arms. I stood that way for a long time, long enough for him to wake up and ask impatiently, "What are you doooooing? I was sleeping!"

I got my juicer, and we were in and out of the store in five minutes.

As we drove home, I thought about all of the times my parents left me in the car while they ran into the store, how I'd sleep laying across the back seat where the cold vinyl felt good on hot days, and how I loved to sit in the "way-back" of the station wagon as we cruised down the highway.

*Everybody's doing it.*

Have times really changed so drastically that it was now

considered a crime to leave kids alone in the car for a few minutes? Or have parents become too over-protective, bombarded with horror stories from around the globe — stories my parents didn't have access to before the Internet?

## A CRIME?

A recent essay shared on Facebook detailed a woman's story of leaving her child in the car while she ran into the store. A passerby captured the act on video and submitted it to the police, and while the child was fine, the woman was charged with a crime, went to court and ultimately was given community service.

Different states have different laws, so during a routine visit to the Savage Police Department last week, I asked Sgt. Mike Schiltz what would happen to a parent like me if, hypothetically, I had left my child in the car.

It depends on the circumstances, he said, but rattled off a list of tragedies: abduction, choking, heat stroke, to name a few.

It happens at least once a year in this area, Schiltz said, a child dies from the heat after being left in a vehicle.

In 2013, 44 children in the U.S. died as a result of vehicle-related heat deaths, according to kidsandcars.org, a nonprofit child safety organization that monitors

news sites and police reports involving children and vehicle accidents.

In early June, the Savage Police Department responded to a report of four children left in a running vehicle at a business — logged as a "Crime Against Family." Thankfully, nothing happened to the children, but the father was advised by a police officer of the dangers associated with his actions and the case was referred to Scott County Human Services.

From there, a social worker called the father to talk about parenting and safety. The man was not charged with a crime.

Crime or not, Schiltz advises, "Just don't do it."

*But isn't everybody doing it?*

Odds tell me that if I leave my son in the car again while I run into the store, I'll come back and he'll be just fine. But I can't play the odds. I also can't control the multitude of things that could hurt him, even while walking through a store holding my hand. But at least I know that I'm doing everything within reason to protect him, whether it's what everybody else is doing or not.

My husband didn't want me to tell this story, but I'm going with my gut. I have a feeling there are parents out there that needed to hear this.

*Amy Lyon is the editor of the Savage Pacer.*

WWW.SAVAGEPACER.COM

**Kelley**  
FUELS, INC. FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1939 SHAKOPEE, MN  
(952) 884-4100

**CALL US FOR YOUR COMMERCIAL, FARM AND TRUCKING PRODUCTS!**

Diesel • Gasoline • Lubricants • Heating Fuels

**FALL 2014 BAC GIRLS IN-HOUSE VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATIONS ONLINE REGISTRATIONS ONLY!**

[https://registration.bacsports.org/gvb\\_disclaim.html](https://registration.bacsports.org/gvb_disclaim.html)

If you need a scholarship or wish to pay by check, you can download the registration forms from our website or you can pick them up at the BAC Office!

[www.thundervb.org](http://www.thundervb.org)

2nd grade Fun with Volleyball  
Registration time frame: May 19th – August 31st

3rd – 9th grade In-house Volleyball  
Registration time frame: May 19th – June 19th

Note: Late fees will apply to 3rd – 9th In-house VB registrations post June 19th

**Volunteer Parent Coaches Required!**

For more information, contact the BAC hotline (952) 895-4425. Or visit the website at [www.bacsports.org](http://www.bacsports.org)

## PET OF THE WEEK

Apollo, a friendly kitten born in October 2013, is outgoing and kitten-active. He gets along with strangers, kind toddlers, cats, but hasn't met dogs. Apollo likes to door greet, to play with everything that moves and to be brushed. Apollo lets you pick him up and carry him, and he'll stay in your lap for short amounts of time.

*The above abandoned pet is being housed by the Carver-Scott Humane Society and is available for adoption. Pets have been checked by a vet, wormed, given updated shots, have a micro ID, checked for friendly dispositions, and pets 5 months and older are spayed or neutered. Adoption fees for cats start at \$175+ and fees for a dog start at \$200+. For more information, call the Humane Society at (952) 368-3553(952) 368-3553 or visit [www.carverscotth.s.org](http://www.carverscotth.s.org).*



**Apollo**

**SAVAGE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION**

Savage Government TV Channel Guide

Integra: Channel 18  
Mediacom: 107-2  
Streaming Video at [CITYOFSAVAGE.COM](http://CITYOFSAVAGE.COM) (under NEWS tab)

**June 22, 2014 to June 28, 2014**

<p><b>Sunday, June 22</b></p> <p>6 a.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 10 a.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 2 p.m. — PRNRC Meeting 6 p.m. — City Council Meeting 10 p.m. — Scott County Board Mtg.</p> <p><b>Monday, June 23</b></p> <p>6 a.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 10 a.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 2 p.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 7 p.m. — PRNRC Meeting (LIVE)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, June 24</b></p> <p>6 a.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 10 a.m. — City Council Meeting 2 p.m. — PRNRC Meeting 5 p.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 8 p.m. — Planning Commission Mtg.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, June 25</b></p> <p>6 a.m. — City Council Meeting 10 a.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 12 p.m. — PRNRC Meeting 2 p.m. — City Council Meeting 5 p.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 8 p.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 11 p.m. — City Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>Thursday, June 26</b></p> <p>8 a.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 12 p.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 2 p.m. — City Council Meeting 5 p.m. — PRNRC Meeting 8 p.m. — Planning Commission Mtg.</p> <p><b>Friday, June 27</b></p> <p>6 a.m. — City Council Meeting 10 a.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 2 p.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 4 p.m. — PRNRC Meeting 6 p.m. — City Council Meeting 10 p.m. — Scott County Board Mtg.</p> <p><b>Saturday, June 28</b></p> <p>8 a.m. — Scott County Board Mtg. 12 p.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 2 p.m. — City Council Meeting 4 p.m. — PRNRC Meeting 6 p.m. — Planning Commission Mtg. 8 p.m. — City Council Meeting</p>
---	---

**Mediacom Subscribers: Savage Government TV is now on Channel 107-2**

Savage TV is your HOME TOWN TV Station  
[Facebook.com/SavageTV](http://Facebook.com/SavageTV)

Find us on Facebook

SAVAGE TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAILY  
For updated program schedules visit [CITYOFSAVAGE.COM](http://CITYOFSAVAGE.COM)

**SAVAGE TV IS ONLINE AT CITYOFSAVAGE.COM**

SAVAGE COMMUNITY TELEVISION  
Mediacom: 107-3  
Integra: 20

SAVAGE EDUCATION TELEVISION  
Mediacom: 107-4  
Integra: 16

**June 22, 2014 to June 28, 2014**

Attention **MEDIACOM TV SUBSCRIBERS** in Savage, Minnesota

Mediacom has moved the Savage Public, Education and Government (Digital Access) Channels to new settings:

Burnsville Education TV is on 107-1, Savage Government TV is on 107-2, Savage Community TV is on 107-3, Savage Education TV is on 107-4, and the Prior Lake/Savage Religious Access TV is on 107-6.

Mediacom TV subscribers may have to perform a "channel scan" via TV remote to acquire the new channels on each of your home TV's.

Find us on Facebook

Savage TV is your Home Town TV Station!  
Thanks to our viewers and to all of our dedicated volunteers and producers!

**PREMIERE DANCE ACADEMY**

**CLASSES OFFERED:**  
TAP JAZZ BALLET POINTE LYRICAL HIP HOP  
HOT KIX BOYS JAZZ FUNK DADS 'N DOLLZ

**REGISTRATION is now open for fall classes**

**AUDITION for our Award-Winning Competition Lines**

**HOT KIX AUDITIONS JUNE 23-26**

**COMPANY LINE AUDITIONS JULY 7-12**

Highly Qualified Professional Instructors

Competitive & Non Competitive Classes

Innovative Choreography

Little Starz Pre-School Programs

State-of-the-Art Dance Facility

Check out our website for more detailed information

**4616 Colorado St Prior Lake (952) 447-5788**  
[www.premieredanceacademy.com](http://www.premieredanceacademy.com)  
[dancepremiere@gmail.com](mailto:dancepremiere@gmail.com)