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## DEAR ABBY

## Man pines for a female friend

**DEAR ABBY:** I fell in love with my best friend. When I told her 10 years ago, she distanced herself. We were still friends, but she went on making bad choices in her relationships, and I never found anyone who could compare to her. We reconnected recently and have once again become very close. I still love her, and I always will.

She doesn't share the same feelings I have, and while I want to ask her why, I haven't asked because I don't want to lose her again. Am I wrong for settling for our amazing friendship? How can I convince her that we could be much more than just each other's best friend without losing her? —



JEANNE PHILLIPS

## LOVESICK GUY IN THE EAST

**DEAR LOVESICK GUY:** When a woman distances herself after a man tells her he wants romantic involvement, it usually means she is not physically attracted to him. It doesn't mean she doesn't "like" him or that they don't have much in common. However, it DOES mean that if you want more out of a relationship, you will have to look elsewhere to find it.

**DEAR ABBY:** My little sister is getting married, and our family is thrilled for her. She's having a small wedding and has chosen not to have a bridal party. At first, I was sad because she was the maid of honor in my wedding, but I respect her and her fiance's decision.

My quandary is that I joked that I'm off the hook from writing a speech, since I'm not the MOH. But — she still wants me to write a speech and give a

toast. I DON'T WANT TO! It seems like she wants to have her wedding cake and eat it, too. Your thoughts? — **SPEECHLESS SIS IN GEORGIA**

**DEAR SIS:** What is your PROBLEM? Why would you want to do anything that would lessen your little sister's happiness on her special day? It appears you weren't joking after all when you said you were "off the hook." My thought is you should be honest with yourself about your motivations, then dismount from your high horse, write the darn speech and make it heartfelt.

**DEAR ABBY:** How can I get my neighbor to stop buying us pies? Her husband died a year ago. He had Alzheimer's for many years before his passing. We are more than happy to help her with things around her house because we believe helping others is the right thing to do.

We don't eat many sweets and don't want the excess calories. Health is a high priority. I have asked her to stop with the sweets, but she keeps buying us this stuff as a thank-you. A verbal thanks would be enough. — **PIE-FREE ZONE IN ILLINOIS**

**DEAR PIE-FREE:** The next time your well-meaning neighbor brings a pie to your home, remind her that you and your family avoid sweets FOR HEALTH REASONS and a verbal thank-you is more than enough. If she persists after that, tell her that instead of the pie you would appreciate a fruit salad or a nice zucchini. (It's worth a try.)

*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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

## Cherokee County murder case moved to Woodbury County

**NICK HYTREK**  
nhytrek@sioxcityjournal.com

CHEROKEE, Iowa — The trial for a Cherokee man charged with causing the death of his 4-month-old son will take place in Woodbury County.

District Judge Adam Miller on Thursday ordered the trial to take place in Sioux City. A different judge had previously granted a defense request to move the trial from Cherokee County. Prosecutors did not resist the motion.

A trial date will be set at a later date.

Contreras-Deciga, 24, has pleaded not guilty to one count of first-degree murder in connection with



Conneras-Deciga

the infant's May death.

Defense attorney Bassel El-Kasaby, of Omaha, had sought the change of venue, saying extensive media coverage of the case made it unlikely Conneras-Deciga could receive a fair trial in Cherokee County because it would be hard to pick an impartial jury. Other locations discussed as possible sites for the trial were Kossuth County and counties in the vicinity of Des Moines and

Council Bluffs. By moving the trial to Woodbury County, the case remains in the 3rd Judicial District.

According to court documents, the child was found unresponsive May 8 in a Cherokee home while in Conneras-Deciga's care. The infant was flown to Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, where medical staff observed his injuries and suspected he had suffered abusive trauma. Medical imaging revealed severe hemorrhaging in the infant's brain, no brain function, retinal hemorrhaging, an ear bruise and a fractured rib.

The child died four days later at the hospital.

An autopsy ruled the boy's death a homicide resulting from blunt-force head injuries.

In an interview with authorities, Contreras-Deciga said the infant was in his care when he became unresponsive. Contreras-Deciga said he then violently shook the boy while asking him what he needed. He then called the infant's mother and asked her to call 911, court documents said.

Contreras-Deciga was arrested Dec. 9. If found guilty of first-degree murder, he'd face a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

— Journal Staff

## BRIEF

### Siouxland District Health to host health fair Friday

SIOUX CITY — Siouxland District Health Department will be hosting a free community wide health fair on Friday at Long Lines Family Rec Center, 401 Gordon Drive.

This event, which runs from 2 to 5 p.m., will offer free health screenings, prevention education, free food and snacks provided by Fareway, Sam's Club, and Hy-Vee, and plenty of opportunities to learn about maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Participants will get the chance to enjoy inter-

active games, win prizes and connect with local health resources. Produce giveaway for the first 100 people provided by Molina Healthcare. This event is sponsored by Missouri River Historical Development.

Siouxland District Health Department serves as the public health agency

for Woodbury County, providing over 20 different programs and services to Woodbury County residents.

For more information about the fair, contact Anais Mares at 712-279-6119 or [amares@sioxdistricthealth.org](mailto:amares@sioxdistricthealth.org).

— Journal Staff

## WOODBURY COUNTY COURT REPORT

### Before Judge Steven Andreasen

Jamie Lynn Zavala, 47, Sergeant Bluff, possession of a controlled substance — third offense; sentenced March 25, five years prison

suspended, two years probation.

Jenna Rose Baker, 31, Dakota City, third-degree burglary, providing a false identification; sentenced March 21, five years prison suspended, two years pro-

bation.

### Before Judge James Daane

Gary Wayne Wiseman Jr., 37, Sioux City, possession of a controlled substance

— third offense; sentenced March 21, five years prison suspended, four years probation.

Chad James Hansen, 42, Sioux City, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance

— third offense; sentenced March 21, five years prison suspended, four years probation.

Chad James Hansen, 42, Sioux City, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance

— third offense; sentenced March 21, five years prison suspended, four years probation.

Christian Martin Guevara, 20, Sioux City, eluding; sentenced March 24, deferred judgment, two

years probation.

Larry Lee Baker Williams, 40, Sioux City, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance, escape from custody; sentenced March 25, 15 years prison.

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