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DEAR ABBY

Friend’s deceit came out of the blue

DEAR ABBY: I’m struggling with the end of a friendship that has meant the world to me for most of my life. My best friend of 25 years recently married someone she had known for only a few months. I was surprised how quickly things moved, but I respected her decision and was genuinely happy for her.

 During one of our last meaningful conversations, she assured me she would let me know when a wedding date was set because she wanted me there. A few weeks later, I accidentally discovered that not only had a date been chosen, but there is also a wedding website — clearly showing the event was planned and confirmed. I was not invited.

When I brought it up gently, she flat-out denied that anything had been

finalized. I felt hurt, confused and dismissed. The dishonesty and secrecy feel like a betrayal after everything we’ve shared over the past 25 years. Being excluded from such a major life event and then lied to about it feels like the final straw. I’m torn between mourning the friendship and wondering if I’m overreacting. Is there any coming back from this kind of hurt? Or is it time to accept that our relationship is over? — **LEFT BEHIND IN THE EAST**

DEAR LEFT BEHIND: You are not overreacting. It appears your friend’s “little white lie” turned into a whopper. I can’t blame you for feeling hurt at the way you were treated. There could be several reasons why you were left off the guest list. Not knowing your old friend, I can’t guess which. Neither can you, since she chose to lie instead of level with you. Whether this should end your long relationship is up to you. Certainly, you

need to rethink anything she tells you in the future, if there even is a future.

DEAR ABBY: I am remarried to a widower whose first wife died 10 years ago. On the anniversary of her death, he reaches out to her siblings to announce how much he loved her. I find this unsettling. I would have thought that this was understood by all of them during their marriage. He was a devoted husband. Am I wrong in thinking this unnecessary and hurtful? — **CURRENT WIFE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR WIFE: You are entitled to your feelings, but please stop comparing your marriage to the one your husband had with his late wife. Although yours may be a happy one, it isn’t identical to the one he had with her. A lesson I have learned later in life is that love doesn’t end when a partner dies. Because your husband deeply loved his first wife doesn’t mean there is less for you. For him, the

message he sends to his former in-laws feels necessary. Please try harder not to make a problem where there isn’t one. No anniversary message will bring the woman back.

DEAR ABBY: After my father passed away, I started doing some family genealogy. Everyone, including family, thinks he was a great WWII hero. But while researching military records, I discovered it was all a lie. In my opinion, he committed “stolen valor.” Do I tell the truth, or let sleeping dogs lie? — **TRUTHFUL IN THE WEST**

DEAR TRUTHFUL: Your father has gone to his great reward. If you feel the record should be set straight, show your family the research you did and tell them the truth.

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.

FAQ

Is it true Dear Abby is on your website?? You bet. We couldn’t let the daughter of one of Sioux City’s favorites down. In addition to its spot in print — here on this page — you can find Dear Abby on our website. Remember her mother and her aunt (of Ask Ann Landers fame) got their start in Sioux City. The twin sisters — Esther Pauline and Pauline Esther Friedman — wrote when they were at Morningside College.

If you have a question for FAQ, send it to bmiller@siouxcityjournal.com or mail it to Bruce Miller, Sioux City Journal, 2802 Castles Gate Drive, Sioux City, Iowa 51106

ONLINE POLL

Today’s Question: Do you plan on catching any of RAGBRAI?

Yesterday’s Poll

Question: Do you own a library card?

Yes

No

65%

35%

Total votes: 55

SPEAKOUT

Today’s Question: What’s the best summer vacation you’ve ever taken?

Sound off at www.facebook.com/SiouxCityJournal

QUOTE

“People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society.”

Vince Lombardi (1913–1970)
American football coach

LOTTERIES

SATURDAY Powerball 8-16-24-33-54 PB: 18	Lotto America 2-10-12-21-45 SB: 3	Dakota Cash 5-14-15-19-20	FRIDAY Mega Millions 12-23-24-31-56 MB: 1	
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BRIEFS

Caregiver pleads not guilty of stealing thousands

DAKOTA CITY — A Sioux City woman has pleaded not guilty of stealing thousands of dollars from a South Sioux City man and pawn-ing his \$10,000 watch.

Rebecca Papenhausen, 45, entered her plea July 3 in Dakota County District Court to charges of theft by unlawful taking and knowing and intentional abuse of a senior adult. Her next court appearance was scheduled for Aug. 19. A trial date has not been set.

According to court documents, the man’s son reported the theft, telling police his father and mother, who is now deceased, had employed Papenhausen for about two years to help them in their South Sioux City home and assist with everyday living activities. Papenhausen was given access to a credit card in order to buy food and other items for the couple.

The son told police that after his mother died, he found several suspicious credit card transactions he believed were made by Pa-



Papenhausen

penhausen and were not authorized. One was a \$505 cash advance from a bank ATM on Dec. 30.

Several other cash advances totaling more than \$6,000 were made at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Sioux City. The son said his father told him he was missing his Rolex watch, which had been appraised at \$10,300, a class ring and \$800 cash from an envelope.

On March 26, South Sioux City police confirmed Papenhausen had pawned the Rolex at a Sioux City pawn shop, court documents said.

Papenhausen was arrested in April.

Woman pleads not guilty of aiding and abetting sex abuse

SAC CITY, Iowa — A Britt, Iowa, woman has pleaded not guilty of setting up a sexual encounter between a man and a female minor in Sac City.

Amanda Goff, 40, entered her written plea July 6 in Sac

County District Court to one count of second-degree sexual abuse.

According to court documents, Nelson Ayala Sanchez performed a sex act with the girl Jan. 18 in Sac City. Goff, who was arrested May 17, is charged with aiding and abetting Ayala Sanchez.

While in custody, Goff was served with an arrest warrant on June 17 on charges of first-degree kidnapping and two counts each of pandering involving a minor, solicitation of commercial sexual activity and lascivious acts with a child.

Goff is accused of coercing and arranging for the 14-year-old girl to have sexual contact with Ayala Sanchez. Goff is charged with confining the girl against her will, providing alcohol to her and promising rewards for compliance.

She also faces similar allegations involving a 13-year-old girl who was pressured into having sexual contact with Nelson Sanchez.

Goff is currently being held in the Ida County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bond.

A search of electronic court documents did not show any charges filed

against Ayala Sanchez or Sanchez at this time.

Sioux City man charged in stabbing pleads not guilty

SIoux CITY — A Sioux City man charged in connection with a May stabbing has pleaded not guilty.

Jason Rice, 25, entered his written plea Thursday in Woodbury County District Court to one count of willful injury.

Rice is accused of stabbing a 15-year-old male May 24 at a party at 2215 41st St.

According to court documents, Sioux City Police officers were called to the hospital to speak to the victim, who had a stab wound to his back left side. The teen told police he had helped break up a fight between two groups of people at the party and as he was walking away someone came up behind him and stabbed him.

After the stabbing, the fight broke up, and the victim was taken to the hospital in a private vehicle. He suffered a punctured lung and a lacerated kidney.

Witnesses saw a photo



Rice

on a social media site of three men and identified Rice as the person who stabbed the victim.



Rees

and again June 29 as a result of an investigation into alleged theft from residents of a group home operated by

Woman pleads not guilty of theft from group home resident

SIoux CITY — A South Sioux City woman who worked as a caretaker at a Sioux City group home has pleaded not guilty of stealing money from one of the home’s dependent adult residents.

Amber Rees, 38, entered her written plea Monday in Woodbury County District Court to charges of dependent adult abuse, third-degree theft and credit card fraud.

Rees previously had pleaded not guilty in a separate case involving two other residents of the same group home to second-degree theft, third-degree theft and two counts each of dependent adult abuse and credit card fraud.

Both cases are scheduled for trial Sept. 9.

Rees was arrested in April

Mid-Step Services.

According to court documents, a Mid-Step manager discovered Rees, who previously had each resident’s credit/debit card and was authorized to make purchases of groceries and other items, had used a resident’s card from May 5, 2024, through July 12 to make unauthorized purchases of items such as bed sheets, pizza rolls, ice cream, pizza, chips, hot dogs, kids’ drinks and soda and had them delivered to her home. The total of the purchases was \$1,105.

Rees also is accused of making approximately 46 purchases of groceries using two other group home residents’ cards and having the items delivered to her home from June 2024 through March. She is accused of spending \$3,000 of one of the residents’ money and \$700 from the other.

SIoux CITY

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