

Family’s collective mental health is declining rapidly

DEAR ABBY: As my par-ents have aged, my father has been misremember-
ing things or making wrong
assumptions. It has increasingly
gotten on my
mom’s nerves (she
has also become
more impatient
and snappy
lately), and she
has been yelling at
him in response.
Sometimes, he
responds back,
but usually he
doesn’t.

My sister snapped at them,
saying she is tired of their bick-
ering, so they don’t do that
around her as often anymore.
But anytime I have gotten upset



DEAR ABBY

about it or tried to suggest to
them how to resolve things,
Mom gets upset with me. My
mental health isn’t the best
right now, so continuing to do
that doesn’t seem like a good
idea, but I’m at a loss about
what to do. Any thoughts? –
UNCERTAIN IN IOWA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Before
this situation grows worse,
please understand that it may be
necessary for both of your par-
ents to have physical and neu-
rological examinations. If you
can arrange for that, PLEASE
do. The changes you describe
in your father may be signs of
dementia, and your mother may
be stressed to the point that
she can no longer deal with him
without losing it.

DEAR ABBY: My 13-year-old
son was getting off the school
bus. His friend was in front of
him. My son thought it would
be funny to take his friend’s
water bottle out of his backpack
and drop it on the pavement. A
few days later, my son got sent
to the principal’s office, not
because he was in trouble but
because the parents had called
the school to complain about
their son’s scuffed water bottle
and wanted it replaced. They
asked for \$23.

I wrote a check and was
tempted to add a snarky com-
ment, but I didn’t. Yes, my son
should keep his hands to him-
self, but the water bottle is still
functional. My son apologized.
Am I living my life wrong, or

is it OK that they just invoiced
me like that? – **UNSURE IN
ILLINOIS**

DEAR UNSURE: Your
son may have been trying to
be funny when he damaged
another student’s property, but
the boy’s parents didn’t see the
humor in it. The bottle wasn’t
the disposable kind, and the
parents were not out of line to
expect to be reimbursed for your
son damaging it. Perhaps HE
can reimburse YOU.

DEAR ABBY: Our family is
already picking out items they
want after my wife and I pass.
They bring the subject up at
every gathering. They have even
started marking the items they
want. My wife and I are 67 and
68. We are healthy and don’t

plan on dying for a while. This
is starting to upset us both. How
to shut them up is my question.
– **ANNOYED IN TEXAS**

DEAR ANNOYED: Your
family gatherings remind me of
a pack of slavering wolves sur-
rounding their potential prey.

Here’s how to shut them up:
At the next gathering, tell your
kin that if they keep this up,
when you and your wife depart
this earthly plane, ALL of your
possessions will be going to
charity.

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

Little Yellow Dog auction is Saturday

JOURNAL STAFF

SIOUX CITY — The Little Yel-
low Dog auction, annual fundrais-
ing extravaganza for Goodfellow
Charities, is noon Saturday at the
Ho-Chunk Centre, 600 Fourth St.

The celebration, hosted by The
Ancient and Effervescent Order
of the Little Yellow Dogs, begins
at 11 a.m. with music by the
All-America Concert Band.

The 2025 Little Yellow Dog is
Bowen, a Cavalier King Charles
Spaniel. The auction will be con-
ducted by Bruce Brock.

Proceeds support Goodfellow
Charities, which furnishes toys,
gifts and books to thousands of
local children each year.

The dog auction is a yearly tra-
dition that goes back to 1936 – the
dog auctioned that year, Skippy,
sold for \$25. Mr. Goodfellow
Charities, a tradition established
in 1914, predates the Little Yellow
Dog Auction.

Last year’s Little Yellow Dog, a
half Irish Setter and half miniature
poodle named Ruby Sue, sold for
\$18,300.



TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Sir Loin of Bowen, the 2025 Little Yellow Dog, is shown Monday, at The Journal office. Bowen, a Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel, will by auctioned on Dec. 13 by the Ancient and Effervescent Order of the Little Yellow Dogs to
raise money for the Goodfellows charity, which distributes Christmas toys to needy Siouxland families.

Lawsuit against now-closed Sioux City nursing home dismissed

NICK HYTREK

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SIOUX CITY — A Minneso-
ta-based consulting company has
dropped its federal lawsuit against
a now-defunct Sioux City nurs-
ing home it said owed thousands
of dollars in unpaid management
fees.

In its motion to dismiss the
suit, Health Dimensions Con-
sulting, doing business as Health
Dimensions Group, said Indian
Hills Healthcare of Sioux City,
which did business as Touchstone
Healthcare Center, was dissolved
by the Iowa Secretary of State’s
office in August. As a result, the
company ceases to exist and no
defendant remains in the case.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark
Roberts approved the dismissal
Wednesday.

Health Dimensions sued Indian
Hills in U.S. District Court in
Sioux City in March 2022 for
\$129,402 in fees it said it was
owed for management services
provided to Indian Hills, which



Touchstone
Healthcare
Community,
1800 Indian Hills
Drive, in Sioux
City, is one of 11
nursing homes in
Iowa to close in
recent months.
A Pennsylvania
service provider
has sued the
nursing home’s
owner for
\$344,000 in
unpaid bills.

**TIM HYNDS, SIOUX
CITY JOURNAL**

operated the 125-bed Touch-
stone nursing home at 1800
Indian Hills Drive. Indian Hills
later filed a counterclaim, saying
Health Dimensions had made \$2.3
million in transfers and advances
not allowed under the two parties’
management agreement.

Touchstone closed in July 2022
after notifying state regulators

it could not financially continue
operations.

Indian Hills filed for bank-
ruptcy in November 2022, and a
bankruptcy court judge signed a
final order in the case earlier this
fall.

Under terms of the bankruptcy
resolution, the former nursing
home’s assets were reduced to

cash and disbursed to select debt-
ors. Health Dimensions collected
nothing in the disbursement.

Indian Hills’ bankruptcy
trustee filed notice in October of
the abandonment of the counter-
claim against Health Dimensions.
With the counterclaim dismissed
and no defendant left in the case
after the secretary of state’s dis-
solution of Indian Hills, Health
Dimensions filed for dismissal of
the lawsuit.

Prior to its closure, the nurs-
ing home was cited for dozens of
violations, racking up more than
\$405,000 in federal fines and
\$3,500 in state fines. At one time,
Touchstone spent 44 months on
the Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services’ Special-Fo-
cus Facility List, which identifies
facilities with repeated serious
deficiencies that pose risks to
residents’ health and safety.

Developers bought the for-
mer nursing home property in
2024 and have converted it into a
multi-family residential complex.

Mediation ongoing for Woodbury County jail project

CAITLIN YAMADA

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SIOUX CITY — Medi-
ation talks are still ongo-
ing between Woodbury
County and contractors
over damages claimed in
the Woodbury County
Law Enforcement Center
project.

On Nov. 24 and Nov. 25,
mediation between the
Law Enforcement Cen-
ter Authority, Woodbury
County, and the contrac-
tors of the jail project took
place.

Woodbury County and
the LEC Authority have
claimed approximately \$7
million in damages from
Hausmann Construction,
Goldberg Group Archi-
tects and Introba, Inc. (a
mechanical engineer sub-
contractor of GGA’s), in the
jail project.

In addition, Hausmann
Construction claims they
are still owed \$5.7 mil-
lion, according to a law-
suit filed Sept. 28, naming
the Woodbury County
Law Enforcement Cen-
ter Authority, Woodbury
County, Baker Group,
Goldberg Group Architects
and Introba, Inc.

In the lawsuit, the par-
ties filed a joint status
report on the mediation
on Tuesday, stating they
have continued settlement
discussions with the medi-
ator and may reconvene for
a follow-up mediation.

Otherwise, the mediation
will continue settlement
discussion via separate
communications.

The parties asked to
confer with the judge to
discuss the status of the
case.

ICE

From A1

establish any special justifica-
tion for Duran Avalos’ contin-
ued detention,” Strand wrote.
“Thus, his right to substantive

due process is being violated
and this violation is properly
remedied by a writ of habeas
corpus.”

Strand gave federal authorities
14 days to either release Duran
Avalos from custody or conduct
a bond determination hearing in

which he is not deemed ineligible
for bond.

As of Thursday afternoon,
Druan Avalos was listed on the
Woodbury County Jail’s online
inmate roster.

The case is one of at least
seven filed by current or former

Woodbury County Jail inmates
being held for ICE who have
sought court orders for their
release.

In one of those cases, a judge
ordered a Mexico native released
after posting \$6,000 bond. In
a second case, a judge ruled the

government can not deprive a
Guatemalan man an individual-
ized bond hearing before an immi-
gration bond. A new bond hearing
was ordered in a third case.

Two other cases have been
dismissed, and another is
pending.

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