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DEAR ABBY

Aunt's passing is followed by a bitter falling-out

DEAR ABBY: My favorite aunt was dying. Her daughter is my favorite cousin, so I texted her almost every day with encouragement. When the doctor said the end was near, I backed off messaging to give the family space to themselves.

Thirteen days later, I received a text with a photograph of my aunt's grave. Ensuing texts and phone calls indicated that my cousin's older brother had grandstanded and taken over. Questions about her service and burial went unanswered. I expressed dismay; our family had been the first to call about almost everything.

I have read a great deal about forgiveness — when to offer

it, and when to forgive the messenger but not the action. That is the stance I have taken. My once-beloved cousin responds as if all is well between us, though she has asked twice if I would rather she stop communicating, given that I rarely respond. Twice I have said, "That is up to you."

Admittedly, I would love some closure on this, one way or the other. In my youth, I would have forgiven it all, probably even apologized for her "pain" while subjugating my own. I am not in that frame of mind now. Do I forgive? Forget? Move on? — **BEWILDERED IN FLORIDA**

DEAR BEWILDERED: What happened was not your cousin's fault; the fault lies with her grandstanding brother. Do not allow this to interfere with your formerly loving

relationship with her. By all means, forgive and move on. Also, put aside your passive-aggressive attitude. When people are grieving a death, even one that is expected, they are usually distracted, in pain and not thinking about how their actions affect others.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 42-year-old son, "Wade," who has anxiety, depression and a wild temper. He receives minimal, below-poverty-level disability payments. Wade's father and I give him money when he says he's hungry and out of food. (We are both retired.) Wade claims his lack of money is "the system's" fault.

Wade also imagines he can earn a living in the music industry. I am beyond tired of this. I'm a retired teacher. How can I help our son to become independent? Wade says our family is "broken" and doesn't

work "as a team." I have my own bills to pay. — **OVER HIM IN TEXAS**
DEAR OVER HIM: If Wade defines "working as a team" to mean he can hit you up for money any time he wants, I beg to differ. If he were meant to be a success in the youth-oriented music business, his career would have been in full swing by the time he was 30.

Encourage Wade to find a way to supplement his disability payments so his cupboard won't be bare at the end of the month, and let him know firmly that you won't be giving him more hand-outs. Your family isn't broken; the only thing that's broke is your son.

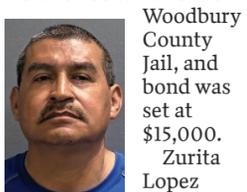
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

BRIEFS

Sioux City man who skipped 2021 sex abuse trial arrested

SIUX CITY — A Sioux City man wanted since 2021 for skipping his trial on a sexual abuse charge has been located and arrested.

An arrest warrant was served Tuesday on Laureano Zurita Lopez, 54. He was booked into the



Lopez

Woodbury County Jail, and bond was set at \$15,000. Zurita Lopez faces a charge of third-degree sexual abuse and is accused of having sex and other forced sexual contact with a 12-year-old girl as many as five times from July 2019 through Dec. 1, 2019 at a Sioux City home. Zurita Lopez denied the allegations during an interview with police, court documents said.

He had pleaded not guilty and his trial was continued several times.

An arrest warrant was issued for him on March 16, 2021, when he did not appear for trial.

Rock Rapids man pleads guilty of sex crimes, harassment

ROCK RAPIDS, Iowa — A Rock Rapids man has pleaded guilty of two of the several sex crimes he faced, plus harassment.

David Warren Jr., 39, entered his written plea Monday in Lyon County District Court to two counts of incest and one count of first-degree harassment.

According to court documents, Warren reached a plea agreement with prosecutors and will receive a 12-year prison sentence. A sentencing hearing has yet to be scheduled.

Warren pleaded guilty of having sexual contact with the victim in September and sending threatening text messages to the victim and the victim's family.

Four counts of third-degree sexual abuse, two counts of

incest and single counts of distribution of a controlled substance to a person under age 18 and tampering with witnesses or reporting parties will be dismissed as part of the plea agreement.

Sgt. Bluff woman charged with theft of \$19,000

SIUX CITY — A Sergeant Bluff woman has been arrested on suspicion of stealing more than \$19,000 from an elderly person's bank account rather than paying for the person's nursing home care.



Sample

Keri Sample, 55, was arrested Tuesday on charges of first-degree theft and financial exploitation of an older individual. Her bond was set at \$35,000.

According to a complaint filed in Woodbury County District Court, Sample was in charge of

the finances for a woman who is over age 70 and was placed at Westwood Care Center, 4201 Fieldcrest Drive, in April. Sample was a signee on the woman's bank account and failed to pay Westwood Care Center since October.

During a non-custodial interview, Sample admitted spending money freely, the petition said. Approximately \$19,878 was spent on transactions with Walmart, YouTube TV, Apple and other vendors instead of paying the Westwood resident's bills and expenses for care.

Employee charged with stealing \$40,000 from Sioux City bank

SIUX CITY — A Sioux City bank employee was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of stealing approximately \$40,000 from the bank.

Jenny Phan, 23, was booked into the Woodbury County Jail on one count of first-degree

FAQ

Where can I send a press release?

Just address it to sfrontdoor@siouxcityjournal.com. Be sure to put a name and phone number with it so someone can get back to you with questions.

ONLINE POLL

Today's Question: Have you been to or used a Sioux City pool in the past year?
Yesterday's Poll

Question: Do you approve of plans for a roundabout at Hamilton and Tri View?



Total votes: 82

SPEAKOUT

Today's Question: Who would you like to see the Sioux City School District select as its next permanent superintendent? Sound off in the comments at www.facebook.com/SiouxCityJournal

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QUOTE

"Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly."

Langston Hughes (1901 - 1967)
American poet

LOTTERIES

TUESDAY	MONDAY
MEGA MILLIONS	POWERBALL
4-13-52-53-69 MB: 10	12-18-47-56-63 PB: 1
	LOTTO AMERICA
	3-6-10-32-34 SB: 9

BRIEFS

theft. Bond was set at \$10,000.

According to a complaint filed in Woodbury County District Court, Phan worked at US Bank, 501 Pierce St., and is suspected of taking the money from December through early March. Phan admitted in an interview with police to taking cash and falsifying receipts to make it appear the teller drawers were even or using cash from business deposits to replenish her drawer, the complaint said. Phan told police she believed the amount she took was approximately \$20,000,



Phan

but the bank claims it was closer to \$40,000.

Ruthven woman dies in crash near Spencer

SPENCER, Iowa — A Ruthven, Iowa, woman died Tuesday after a two-vehicle collision near Spencer.

According to an Iowa State Patrol accident report, Mone Keoninh, 69, was driving north in a Toyota Camry on Clay County Road M-50 at 9:45 a.m. At the intersection with 340th Street, she turned left in front of a southbound semitrailer driven by Kevin Hofman, 42, of Sanborn, Iowa.

Keoninh was transported to Spencer Hospital, where she died.

Hofman was not injured.



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