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MCCOLLUM
READ through a collection of our past coverage of Storm Lake native and Iowa Men's Basketball Coach Ben McCollum.



USD GAME
VIEW photos from the recent USD vs. Pepperdine basketball game in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.



ON IOWA POLITICS
LISTEN to the latest episode of the "On Iowa Politics Podcast" which covers recent ballot drama in the governor's race.

DEAR ABBY

Friend with benefits was never really even a friend

DEAR ABBY: Six months ago, I started spending time with a woman I knew casually for about a year following her traumatic breakup with her ex-boyfriend. At first, we were just friends, but it quickly progressed as we opened up and shared everything about ourselves with each other. She continued insisting we were "just friends" and went out with other men, which, at the time, didn't bother me.

Two months in, we started being intimate. Three months ago, she began referring to me, her puppy and herself as "a family," talking about future kids and grandkids. She asked to meet my parents and made sure I met hers when they came to town.

I began believing this was going to be a long-term thing, even though she still insisted we were just friends.

Three weeks ago, she met and started dating another guy. She told me she still wants to be best friends, that she had been "50-50" the entire time about whether to date me but couldn't commit because she wasn't physically attracted to me, despite having sex with me for many months. She said she was physically attracted to me sometimes but didn't feel that way all the time — and she thought she should be. I cut things off with her. I'm extremely hurt, and I don't understand her decision. Can you help? — **REJECTED IN COLORADO**

DEAR REJECTED: I can try. The "friend" you were dating and intimate with may be an adult chronologically, but she is emotionally immature. Intense

physical attraction is great while it lasts, but in many cases, it diminishes with time. Lasting relationships like marriage depend upon more than that to succeed. Give her marks for honesty and be glad you found out what her true nature is, but also realize that you dodged a bullet. All women are not like her, and you will meet one you can trust.

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine recently got married. We are pretty close. I was asked to be a bridesmaid. (Unfortunately, I had to decline due to scheduling conflicts.) I attended the wedding, bringing an appropriate gift, only to find out a few months later that the marriage was never legally registered. It had just been a commitment ceremony. When I asked why she didn't announce it as such, she said she wanted people to think it was a real wedding.

I'm feeling a bit betrayed, and I wonder how her other

guests would feel if they found out. I'm not sure I would have bought such an expensive gift if I had known beforehand. Is there a rule of etiquette for this sort of thing, or am I overthinking it? — **WONDERING IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR WONDERING: Your reaction is understandable. While no formal rule of etiquette forbids lying to one's friends and loved ones, the Bible has something to say about it. Your friend wanted a party. She wanted gifts. She and her boyfriend did not want a legal commitment that lasts a lifetime or they would have had an actual wedding.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane 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.



JEANNE PHILLIPS

FAQ

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ONLINE POLL

Today's Question: Do you know the capital of every U.S. state?

Yesterday's Poll

Question: Have you been to or used a Sioux City pool in the past year?



Total votes: 39

SPEAKOUT

Today's Question: What did you make of the Iowa-Nebraska game?

Sound off at www.facebook.com/SiouxCityJournal

QUOTE

"Avoid popularity; it has many snares, and no real benefit."

William Penn (1644-1718)
English leader

LOTTERIES

WEDNESDAY Powerball	2-4-9-30-43 SB: 4
7-21-55-56-64 PB: 26	Dakota Cash
Lotto America	3-25-27-31-33

BRIEFS

Man pleads not guilty to possession of stolen tools

SIUX CITY — A Sioux City man has pleaded not guilty to possession of thousands of dollars of stolen tools.

A second case charging Jerardo Ceja with breaking into a Sioux City business and stealing more than \$60,000 in tools has been dismissed. Ceja, 39, entered his written plea Tuesday in Woodbury County District Court to one count of second-degree theft. He's charged with having numerous tools stolen from Superior Industrial Mechanical inside his truck and pawning other stolen tools.

Ceja had been charged in a separate case with

first-degree theft, third-degree burglary and first-degree criminal mischief in connection with the Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 break-ins at the business, located at 623 W. Seventh St. That case was dismissed Tuesday after prosecutors said more investigation is needed to gather evidence in an attempt to identify Ceja as the burglar.

According to court documents, the company's video surveillance video showed a male suspect crawl under a gate at the business, go to three tool trailers, cut off the locks, take several tools and crawl back under the gate. The same suspect returned the next night, broke into a vehicle on the lot, drove it up to the tool trailers and loaded more tools into it before ramming the gate with the stolen truck to exit the business. The vehicle was later abandoned.

Some of the tools were later sold at a Sioux City pawn shop.

The value of the tools stolen was listed as more than \$60,000 in court documents, and \$11,000 in damage was done to the business' security gate and fence.

Man gets four years in prison for illegal reentry into U.S.

SIUX CITY — A Guatemalan man was sentenced Thursday to four years in federal prison for illegally re-entering the United States.

David Pineda-Medrano, 39, who had been living in Rolfe, Iowa, pleaded guilty in October in U.S. District Court in Sioux City to one count of being a felon found after illegal reentry.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Pineda-Medrano illegally re-entered the United States sometime after

being removed in June 2022. Prior to his removal, he'd been convicted of attempted first-degree sexual abuse and sexual abuse of a child or minor in the District of Columbia and served more than four years in prison.

He was found in Rolfe after he was arrested and convicted of assault causing bodily injury or mental illness for an incident in which he used an 18-inch machete to strike a man in the head with the flat side of the blade and then placed the blade against the victim's throat and threatened to kill him.

Case dismissed against Tyson manger

STORM LAKE, Iowa — Charges have been dismissed against a Tyson Foods manager who was accused of stealing more than \$48,000 of truck equipment and meat from

the company's Storm Lake pork plant and reselling it.

District Judge Shayne Mayer dismissed two counts of first-degree theft and two counts of second-degree theft after prosecutors said Masters had successfully completed terms of an agreement to defer his prosecution.

Masters, 67, of Albert City, Iowa, and the Buena Vista County Attorney's Office reached the agreement a year ago in which the charges would be dismissed if Masters served one year of unsupervised probation. Terms included obeying all laws and paying court costs and restitution to Tyson. Masters satisfactorily complied with the agreement, Buena Vista County Attorney Paul Allen said in his motion to dismiss the case.

Masters, who was a warehouse manager at Tyson in Storm Lake, was arrested in December 2023.

He was accused of directing an employee under his supervision to take five truck refrigerator units valued at approximately \$20,000 off the Tyson property and then selling them for his own benefit. He also was charged with having an employee take five Tyson semi box trailers valued at \$26,402 and selling them privately for profit.

Masters also was charged with taking approximately 24 boxes of meat valued at \$2,166 from the plant.

In the deferred prosecution agreement, Masters said that while he acted in good faith or was mistaken in his disposition of the trailers, a factual basis exists to support the charges that he misappropriated the trailers and disposed of them "in a manner inconsistent with the owner's rights by failing to remit any proceeds" from the sales to Tyson.



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