

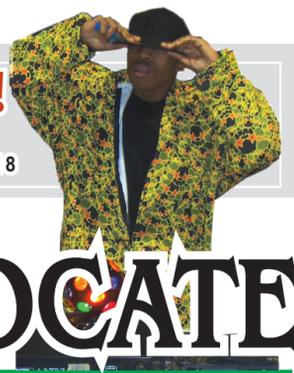


Public Notices

Because it's your right to know!
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RHS Heats Up the Court!

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RHS' Zaheer Rogers served as DJ for the pep assembly & dance...PAGE 8



JACKSON COUNTY ADVOCATE

February 15, 2007

Serving Grandview, South Kansas City & Hickman Mills for over 50 years

50¢

Man Arrested for Attempted Rape of Kmart Employee

By Nicole Higgins
JC Advocate

Wilbert L. Hutchison Jr., 20, has been charged with attempted forcible rape in connection with an attack on a K-Mart store employee that was thwarted by a store security guard.

According to police reports, shortly after 7pm on Friday, an employee of the K-Mart at 5615 Bannister Road was taking a cart of hangers into a backroom when Hutchison followed behind her. When she questioned what he was doing, he punched her in the face and began to choke her. He continued to assault her and forced her pants down before a security guard came into the room. The guard was able to pull Hutchison off of the victim, who then ran to tell another employee what had happened.

She said that she had seen Hutchison earlier in the night "staring" at her. The security guard also recognized him as someone who frequented the store, harassing customers and asking them for money. In the backroom, the guard was able to get help from another security guard to get handcuffs on Hutchison until the police were summoned.

Once in custody, Hutchison waived his Miranda Rights and admitted to following the victim into the backroom, punching her in the face, choking her, and attempting to rape her. He stated that he was hearing voices in his head that were telling him to rape and kill. He also admitted that he knew what he did was wrong, and that if he wasn't interrupted by the witness, he would have raped her.

Prosecutors have requested a \$250,000 cash-only bond.

For 38 years and counting, a fun-loving "Jesus Donkey" has brought a sense of comfort and quiet to many locals. He's more than just a donkey. He's...



Ebenezer: A Local Legend

By Joe & Carrie Dimino
Contributing Writers

All cities across America tend to have symbols representing their heritage. In Kansas City, there are a plethora of landmarks that bring a sense of comfort and familiarity—among them, the Scout on Signal Hill, the KCPT Building and Union Station.

Even Grandview has its own anonymous, yet powerful symbol. It's a simple donkey that resides in a spacious pasture, with its own covered enclosure, just west of Main Street. The local icon goes by the name of Ebenezer and he is owned by Ben and Victoria Alvarado of Ruskin Heights.

"I was searching for a name that was appropriate for him," Ben stated recently in the stall housing Ebenezer. "After looking through the Bible, I decided on Ebenezer because it means that God has brought us this far. I think about how Ebenezer has brought us this far."

The story of Ebenezer began way back in 1967 when the Alvarados were on a trip to Israel. They took the trip after attending a Bible study and got inspired to join a touring group trying to retrace the actual walk of Jesus.

"While in Israel, I saw kids playing with a donkey and they were so happy," Ben stated. "So, when I got back to Kansas City, I looked in the paper and found a horse farm. He was the only burro in the field and I decided to buy him."

Ben and Victoria purchased Ebenezer when he was only 2 years old. Currently, he is 40 years old and has a life expectancy of nearly 80 years. Ben pointed out a cross that is on the back of Ebenezer and said they call him a Jesus donkey. He was

quick to point out that the term came about because Jesus actually rode a donkey himself.

"I think he is a local legend," Ben began as Victoria proudly nodded beside him. "I mean, everyone knows him. Many people from the city and police department come down and feed him on a regular basis."

Ben noted with a hearty laugh that his favorite characteristic of Ebenezer is his stubbornness. Victoria was quick to add with clarity that he's a very smart animal and will follow directions very well.

During a recent parade for Harry's Hay Days in Downtown Grandview, Ben got a call from a man named Joe that has a house next to Ebenezer's field. He urged Ben to come quickly because Ebenezer had gotten out of the gate that keeps Ebenezer from wandering away.

"When I arrived, Joe said that Ebenezer was back in the barn," Ben said with a strident smile. "As the story goes, a woman from the parade told him to go back into his barn and he did just that."

Ebenezer's favorite thing to do is to play around and entertain the locals that bring him carrots and apples. Each time a visitor approaches the gates, he comes running in a huff, letting out loud squeals of joy.

"He does a lot of

running and kicking," Ben noted. "I typically chase him around and he chases me around until I get tired."

Ebenezer doesn't only attract errant folks that drive by his pasture; he's also a leader in the animal world. Several days before our interview, Ben noted that he went to groom Ebenezer, which he does every couple of days, and couldn't find him anywhere. So, he went up a steep hill up from his barn to find him with some new friends.

"As I got towards the top of the hill and was whistling, he suddenly appeared in a loud whoosh," Ben began with a healthy smile. "And he had about 6 deer following him. He made three circles around me. I have never seen him do that."

Ben and Victoria, who have five children and 13 grandkids, have no interest in acquiring any more donkeys or other animals. They are very satisfied with Ebenezer. So, too, are the many locals and children who bring treats for the beloved donkey, who in return provides them with a refreshing sense of quietude.

Since Ebenezer has lived just half of his life collecting the deserved accolade as a local icon, we all have another 40 years to watch a local icon age gracefully and give us all a reason to smile as we barrel down that patent country road just outside of downtown Grandview, Missouri.

Top Photo: Zen Dimino, age 8, brings a carrot treat to Ebenezer, age 40.
At Left: Ben and Victoria Alvarado cuddle with their beloved donkey, who they have owned since he was just 2 years old.

(Photos by Joe Dimino)

Construction Begins on Grandview License Bureau

By Andrea Wood
JC Advocate

The renovation of the Grandview License Bureau at City Hall officially began on February 3rd.

License Office Supervisor Donna Hurley said that the new design would add security for city staff, and would provide more seating for waiting customers.

The offices are being turned to face outward, with separate seating for those needing drivers licenses, and those needing to register a car or get tags renewed. When complete, all customers will be able to be seated during the transactions.

Throughout February, construction will be underway on the driver's license portion of the department. It has been temporarily moved to the display case area inside City Hall.

When this portion of the project is completed, likely in early March, the second phase of construction will begin.

Renovation of the sales tax and license plate tags portion of the department will begin in March and should last 30 days.

"With construction going on, we want ask the public to please not wait until the end of the month, when lines are usually the longest, to complete their License Bureau transactions," said Shirley Moses, Finance Director.

For more information, call City Hall at 316-4800.

Southern Communities Coalition

The monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 7 pm at the Baptiste Educational Center, 5401 E. 103rd, W. Entrance. Guest Speakers:

- H & Y Development: 46 acres located on the east side of Grandview Rd. (9911 Grandview Rd.) south of 98th Terr. and north of 100th St to consider rezoning from agricultural to single-family dwellings (45 homes).

- Gerald Graham, Project Manager with City Planning & Development, the new proposed Hickman Mills Area Plan, as well as updates on liquor licenses on Hickman Mills Dr., Billboards, Red Bridge, and the Hickman Mills Educational Foundation.

Everyone is welcome! For more info call Carol McClure, 816-966-0855.

Note changes to next month's meeting: 2nd Wednesday, March 14, 7pm, Ruskin High School multipurpose room. Subject: Meet the 6th District and Mayoral candidates



Get Ready to Play Ball!

SSJAA Grandview Girls Softball

Below is the list of dates and times for SSJAA Grandview Girls Softball sign ups. All sign ups will be at the Grandview City Hall from 8:30 am until noon on the following dates:

February 24th, March 3rd, March 10th, and March 17th.

Any one interested in Coaching/Managing a team can call Virginia Frey at 761-4975 or John Shelton at 763-7254.

Grandview Baseball Association

Signup for the 2007 season at Grandview City Hall on the following dates and times:

Saturday, February 17th from 8:00 – 11:30 am, Wednesday, February 28th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm and Saturday, March 3rd from 8:00 – 11:30 am.

If you need more information prior to sign-ups, call our information line at (816) 316-4990 or visit www.grandviewbaseball.com

Opening day will be Saturday May 5, 2007.

CELEBRATING PRESIDENTS' DAY

Monday, February 19th is President's Day. The holiday will impact several schedules around the area:

- The Hickman Mills and Grandview schools will be closed Monday.
- Grandview City Hall will be open regular business hours.
- The Hillcrest Community Cen-

ter (fitness area only) will be open from 7am-11am Monday.

- The View community center will be open regular business hours.
- The Jackson County Advocate office will be open regular hours, 9-4pm.
- The City of Kansas City, Mo weekly trash and recycling collection for residents will be delayed one day. Residents who usually have Mon-

day collection will receive this service Tuesday, Feb. 20. Residents who usually have Friday collection will receive this service Saturday, Feb. 24.

- The Missouri State Highway Patrol would like to remind the public that driver examination stations throughout the state will be closed for Presidents Day.