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Former Grind owner gets 2.5 years

Judge denies probation request; says Srack is a threat to the community

By ERIN MATHEWS
Salina Journal

Saying she believed he was a threat to the community, Judge Rene Young on Thursday denied a motion for probation from Eric W. Srack and sentenced him to 2½ years in prison in the first of three cases against him in Saline County District Court.

In a statement to the court, Srack admitted to personally smoking the herbal potpourri he sold and staying “stoned all day long,” every day, for about a year and a half. “It was like smoking weed — that was it,” he said. “I felt like I was able to work and function properly on it. I don’t know that I was.” Srack asked the judge to



Srack

I’m not giving you probation is the court does believe you are a threat to the community

consider putting him on probation so he could enter outpatient drug treatment to overcome his addiction. “The reason

and if placed on probation you wouldn’t be willing to change your behavior,” Young said. Young dismissed two counts of sale, delivery or distribution of JWH-081, an analog of JWH-018, a drug used in early versions of synthetic marijuana that was on the state’s list of controlled substances.

See GRIND, Page A2



VIEW THE VIDEO
www.salina.com

Watch a video of the sentencing of Eric W. Srack.



Accused mother appears in court

19-year-old Salinan is being charged in death of her toddler

By ERIN MATHEWS
Salina Journal

A 19-year-old Salina mother accused of murdering her toddler made her first appearance Thursday morning in Saline County District Court via closed-circuit television.



Betzold

Brittney Betzold was ordered to appear in court again at 10 a.m. Monday with her attorney. Bond was set at \$500,000. She’s accused in the Oct. 4 death of her 14-month-old son, Clayden Lee Urbaneck.

See MOTHER, Page A2

Group may be hired for BiCenter

By CHRIS HUNTER
Salina Journal

Salina city commissioners could decide Monday to begin negotiations with Philadelphia-based Global Spectrum to manage the Salina Bicentennial Center.

Global Spectrum was one of three companies that manage convention centers and arenas in Kansas City that staff met with in August to seek private management of the Bicentennial Center. Other companies considered were SMG and VenuWorks.

See BICENTER, Page A2

Rolling Hills: Leave exotics to us

Zoo employees decry ‘horrid’ loss of animal life in Ohio on Wednesday

By TIM UNRUH
Salina Journal

HEDVILLE — Workers and volunteers at Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure shared their passion for wild animals Thursday, and echoed distaste over the

destruction of so many exotic species Wednesday in western Ohio.

But they also agreed that the shooting of 18 Bengal tigers, 17 lions and other species was justified. The animals were let loose from the Muskingum County Animal Farm by owner Terry Thompson, who later committed suicide.

“Of course, you’re concerned about human safety. That’s

• Man who released animals was deep in debt / Page A8

always top priority,” said Sandy Walker, assistant director at Rolling Hills, a zoo with a museum and other attractions located seven miles west of Salina.

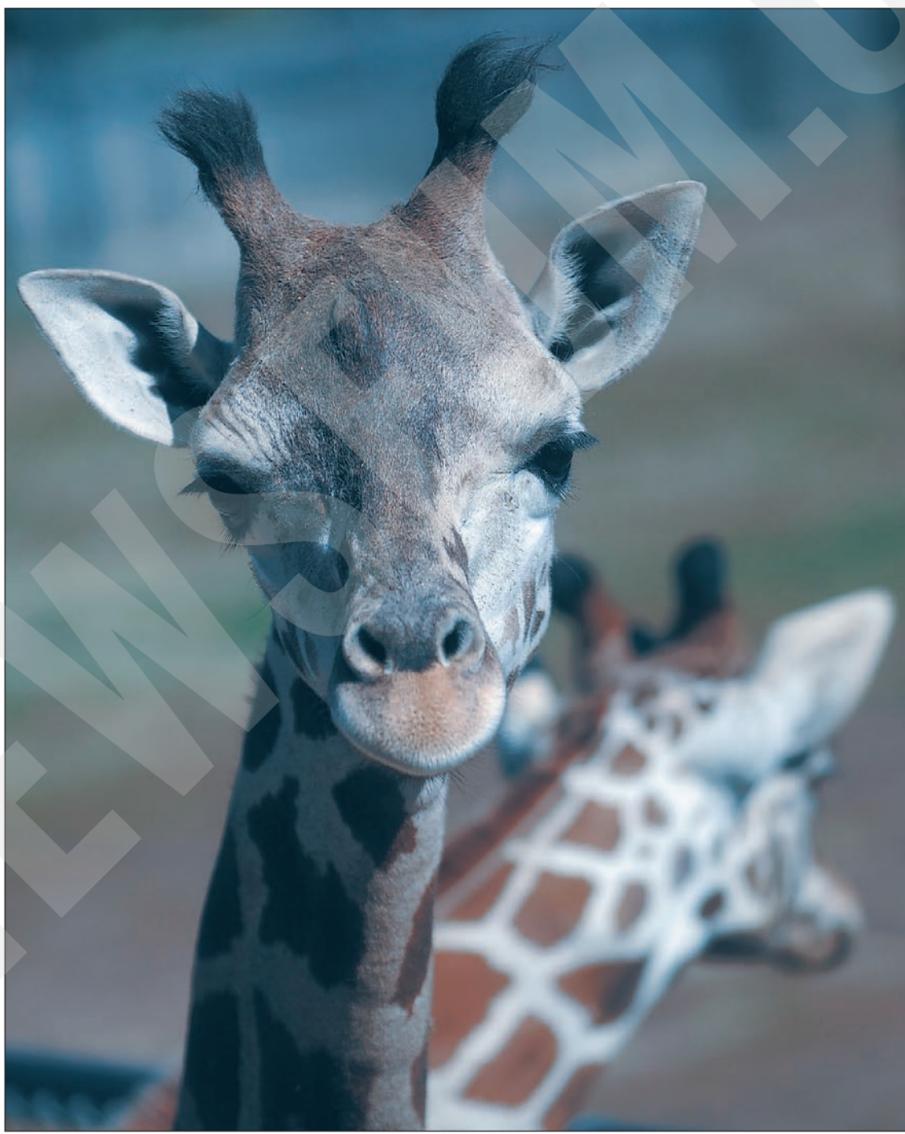
“While it’s a terrible tragedy, there is no way to anesthetize animals in the dark,” she said. The news was followed by “a

lot of shock,” said Peter Burvenich, the Rolling Hills curator.

“Any time you lose that many animals for any reason, it’s horrid,” he said.

The story also brings to light the issue of keeping wild animals, the responsibility and resources required, and what governments should do to regulate the practice.

See EXOTICS, Page A8



Billie and Zuri, two young female giraffes that have recently arrived at the Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure, get used to their surroundings on Thursday.

JEFF COOPER / Salina Journal

Love at 1st sight

It’ll be a few of years before new giraffes at Rolling Hills can breed

By TIM UNRUH
Salina Journal

HEDVILLE — Only the sound of special treats rattling in a bucket distracted BT from the fenced patio, where two young female giraffes were sunning themselves.

Billie and Zuri, new arrivals at Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure, snared intense interest from BT, a male, who was clearly in a romantic frame of mind. But he’ll have to restrain himself for a few years, until the females reach breeding age.

“When Billie arrived Monday, (BT) just would not leave the fence,” said Peter Burvenich, curator at Rolling Hills, located seven miles west of Salina on Hedville Road.

“It was like, ‘Who are you and why can’t I get next to you?’” Burvenich said.

These early days are termed “the howdy phase,” he said.

Billie, a 20-month-old Rothchild’s giraffe, was purchased from Dickerson Park Zoo, of Springfield, Mo. She and Zuri, a 15-month-old reticulated giraffe on loan from Zoo Atlanta, are at Rolling Hills to multiply.

Two male giraffes that were at Rolling Hills have been shipped to other zoos.

See LOVE, Page A8



Associated Press

Revolutionary fighters celebrate the capture of Sirte, Libya, on Thursday. Moammar Gadhafi was killed Thursday when revolutionary forces overwhelmed his hometown, Sirte, the last major bastion of resistance after the regime fell.

Gadhafi shown no mercy in Libya

Former dictator dies in hands of rebels after begging for life

By CHRISTOPHER GILLETTE and KIM GAMEL
Associated Press

SIRTE, Libya — Dragged from hiding in a drainage pipe, a wounded Moammar Gadhafi raised his hands and begged revolutionary fighters: “Don’t kill me, my sons.” Within an hour, he was dead, but not before jubilant Liby-

ans had vented decades of hatred by pulling the eccentric dictator’s hair and parading his bloodied body on the hood of a truck.

The death Thursday of Gadhafi, two months after he was driven from power and into hiding, decisively buries the nearly 42-year regime that had turned the oil-rich country into an



Gadhafi

international pariah and his own personal fiefdom.

It also thrusts Libya into a new age in which its transitional leaders must overcome deep divisions and rebuild nearly all its institutions from scratch to achieve dreams of democracy.

“We have been waiting for this historic moment for a long time. Moammar Gadhafi has been killed,” Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril said in the capital of Tripoli. “I would like to call on Libyans to put aside the

grudges and only say one word, which is Libya, Libya, Libya.”

President Barack Obama told the Libyan people: “You have won your revolution.”

Although the U.S. briefly led the relentless NATO bombing campaign that sealed Gadhafi’s fate, Washington later took a secondary role to its allies. Britain and France said they hoped that his death would lead to a more democratic Libya.

See GADHAFI, Page A6



FORECAST
High: 72 Low: 31
Areas of frost early. Otherwise sunny with a south wind at 7 mph. / B4



Some states have too much power in picking candidates

A column by Martin Schram / Page A7

My view

INSIDE
Almanac / B4
Classifieds / B1
Fun / B5
Opinion / A7
Sports / C1



6 82346 36363 8