



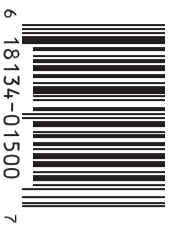
Racine coffeehouse provides a venue for young artists **Out & About, inside**



Transit commission wants to seek bids for BUS marketing **County & Region, Page 1B**



Case's D'Angelo Jackson named to AP All-State third team **Sports, Page 1C**



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Blows to Johnson prosecutors

State Supreme Court: Teen can't testify without releasing medical records

KRISTEN ZAMBO kristen.zambo@journaltimes.com

MADISON — A former Racine County teen who allegedly was molested by her stepfather, Curt Johnson, cannot testify when his child sexual assault case goes to trial — unless first she releases her medical records, according to a Wisconsin Supreme Court opinion released Wednesday morning.

That was the first blow dealt on Wednesday to Racine County prosecutors. But it could have meant the end of a more than two-year period of appeals, to the Court of Appeals and state Supreme Court.

The second blow came Wednesday afternoon when a Racine County judge set the case for trial on July 14, saying he wouldn't hold the "case in abeyance until" another set of appeals is concluded.

That's right, another round of appeals. This time, to the Arizona Appellate Court, and possibly then to the Arizona Supreme Court.

Johnson, 58, an heir to the Johnson family household products fortune, is accused of molesting his teenage stepdaughter for three years while living in Racine County. The teen,

now 18, and her mother currently live in North Carolina.

Molestation allegations surfaced when Johnson allegedly told a therapist in Arizona that he inappropriately touched his "daughter." Arizona law requires that health care providers, such as therapists, report suspected child sexual assaults.

Prosecutors want to use those comments at Johnson's trial.

However, Johnson filed a petition to the Arizona Appellate Court on March 3 seeking to block prosecutors' subpoena for his therapy records from

the treatment center, and from a representative of Psychological Counseling Services Ltd. testifying at his trial.

"In order to proceed, I'm going to need the records from Arizona, and that's going to take some time," Racine County Assistant District Attorney Robert Repischak said in court Wednesday afternoon, asking for more time before the trial. "It's quite honestly going to take a long time for Arizona to decide."

"That's not our problem," defense attorney Michael Hart said.

And should Johnson's

petition be denied, Repischak said they could appeal to the Arizona Supreme Court.

Hart said the Racine County subpoena already has been stayed, and oral arguments were made Wednesday morning before the Arizona Appellate Court.

"The stay remains in place," Hart said during the afternoon hearing. "At some point in the future they will issue a decision."

Racine County Circuit Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz said he wouldn't hold Johnson's "case in

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GREGORY SHAVER Journal Times file photo **Curt Johnson** listens to his defense attorney, Michael Hart, during a Jan. 6 hearing before Racine County Circuit Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz.

'Because I want to fly again:' building his own plane at 90

CARA SPOTO cara.spoto@journaltimes.com

CALEDONIA — For Roy Stuart, a pilot and aircraft hobbyist, age means little. So does the notion of retirement.

At 90 years old, the Mount Pleasant resident serves as a volunteer and member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Racine.

The one-time salesman for Massey-Ferguson and Cessna also manages to keep working.

Every three months, he hops in his car and travels across three states to visit the 75 customers he serves as a sales rep for Super Swivels in Minneapolis.

When he's not working or volunteering, he spends his time in a small hangar at the back of the local Experimental Aviation Association (EAA Chapter 838) building at Batten International Airport, fastening rivets into gleaming aluminum and studying the plans for a Sonex light sport aircraft.

Stuart said he has been working on the plane since Nov. 1, 2008 — the date the kit for building the aircraft arrived in the mail.

Since then he has spent an average of 10 hours a week at the hangar, carefully constructing various sections of the plane.

Asked why, in his late 80s, he decided to take on such a large project, he said simply "because I



GREGORY SHAVER gregory.shaver@journaltimes.com **Roy Stuart** of Mount Pleasant talks to members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Racine as he shows them the airplane that he is building on Wednesday afternoon at the EAA Museum at Racine's Batten International Airport. The club met at the museum and celebrated Stuart's 90th birthday during its meeting.

want to fly again."

On Wednesday, Stuart was joined by his fellow Kiwanis for a special weekly meeting at the EAA

Chapter building, 3333 N. Green Bay Road.

Instead of meeting at the club's usual spot they decided to take a "field trip"

of sorts, said members, so they could both celebrate Stuart's birthday, which was Monday, and take a look at this plane.

Gathered around two long tables, members joked about not putting candles on Stuart's cake with so much aviation

fuel nearby.

After lunch, they huddled into the hangar so

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ICE, ICE, GO AWAY



GREGORY SHAVER gregory.shaver@journaltimes.com **Ice has moved and pushed parts of the docking at Reef Point Marina** out of the water in this photo from Wednesday. The melting of that ice is at hand: Today the forecast calls for rain instead of snow, the highs for the four days to follow are all above freezing, and the highs for Sunday and Monday are forecast to be 54 and 50, respectively.

Buy this photo at jtreprints.com

Gifford mascot's stolen head can be dropped off anonymously

STEPHANIE JONES stephanie.jones@journaltimes.com

CALEDONIA — Gifford Elementary School's mascot Clifford the Gator was found with its head missing early Wednesday morning, leaving officials to put out a plea for the offenders to return it.

Clifford the Gator, the mascot which stands in front of Gifford Elementary School, 8332 Northwestern Ave., greets students every morning as they are dropped off for school.

Gayle Titus, the school's assistant principal, said students were upset when they arrived at school to find the head missing.

"When they came in they all said, 'What hap-

If you know anything about Clifford the Gator
Anyone with information should contact Caledonia Police Lt. Brian Wall at 262-835-4423, extension 139.
The mascot can be dropped off anonymously at Gifford Elementary School, 8332 Northwestern Ave., or any other Unified school, said Gayle Titus, the school's assistant principal.

pened to Clifford? Where did Clifford's head go? They were concerned," Titus said.

In addition, she said the school is scheduled to have its yearly carnival on Saturday at the elementary school.

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page editor: Tom Farley

Study: Smartphone app helps alcoholics

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — A smartphone app for recovering alcoholics that includes a panic button and sounds an alert when they get too close to taverns helped keep some on the wagon, researchers who developed the tool found.

The sober app studied joins a host of others that serve as electronic shoulder angels, featuring a variety of options for trying to prevent alcoholics and drug addicts from relapsing.

Adults released from inpatient alcoholism treatment centers who got free sober smartphones reported fewer drinking days and more overall abstinence than those who got the usual follow-up support.

The results were based on patients' self-reporting on whether they resumed drinking, a potential limitation. Still, addiction experts say the immediacy of smartphone-based

help could make them a useful tool in fighting relapse.

Mark Wiitala, 32, took part in the study and says the app helped save his life. He said the most helpful feature allowed him to connect to a network of peers who'd gone through the same recovery program. The app made them immediately accessible for an encouraging text or phone call when he needed an emotional boost.

"It's an absolutely amazing tool," said Wiitala, of Middlesex County, Mass. He said he's continued to use it even though the study ended.

The study was published online Wednesday in JAMA Psychiatry.

It involved 271 adults followed for a year after in-patient treatment for alcoholism at one of several U.S. centers in the Midwest and Northeast. They were randomly assigned to get a sober smartphone app for eight months plus usual fol-

low-up treatment — typically referral to a self-help group — or usual follow-up alone.

The app includes a feature asking periodic questions by text or voicemail about how patients are doing. If enough answers seem worrisome, the system automatically notifies a counselor who can then offer help.

The panic button can be programmed to notify peers who are nearest to the patient when the button is pushed. It also offers links to relaxation techniques to calm the patient while waiting for help.

"We've been told that makes a big difference," said David Gustafson, the lead author and director of the Center for Health Enhancement Systems Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He's among developers of the app, nicknamed A-CHESS after the center. Gustafson said it is being commercially developed and is not yet available.

Differences in abstinence from drinking between the two groups didn't show up until late in the study. At eight months, 78 percent of the smartphone users reported no drinking within the previous 30 days, versus 67 percent of the other patients. At 12 months, those numbers increased slightly in the smartphone group and decreased slightly in the others.

Smartphone patients also had fewer "risky" drinking days per month than the others. The study average was almost 1 days for the smartphone group versus almost three days for

the others. Risky drinking was defined as having more than four drinks over two hours for men and more than three drinks for women. One drink was a 12-ounce bottle of beer, 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1.5-ounce shot of liquor.

The results for smartphone users were comparable to what has been seen with standard follow-up counseling or anti-addiction medication, said Daniel Falk a scientist-administrator at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, which helped pay for the study.

He noted that alcohol abuse affects about 18 million Americans and that only about 25 percent who get treatment are able to remain abstinent for at least a year afterward.

Scientists are looking at new ways to try to improve those statistics.

"There is increasing excitement regarding technology-based tools in substance use treatment, prevention and education," said Dr. Gail Basch, director of the addiction medicine program at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Basch, who wasn't involved in the study, said proven methods for helping prevent relapse include patient monitoring and support from family and peers.

"A stand-alone mobile app may not be the answer, but one can see how it could fit in nicely," she said. "A real-time tool, as well as reminders throughout the day, could be very helpful for a recovering brain."

Online: JAMA Psychiatry: jamapsychiatry.com



Center for Health Enhancement Systems Studies
The A-CHESS app, developed for recovering alcoholics, includes a panic button and sounds an alert when they get too close to taverns. The app is being commercially developed and is not yet available.

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abeyance" until the Arizona appeals end.

"This matter has been pending for a very long time," he said. "Criminal cases take priority and I have to set it on my calendar."

Racine County District Attorney Rich Chiapete declined to comment on the timing of the trial.

"We're doing everything we can to seek justice in this case," he said after the hearing.

Johnson, of Wind Point, is the former chairman of Diversy Inc. and a son of the late SC Johnson Chairman Sam Johnson. Curt Johnson is charged with repeated sexual assault of the same child. He is accused of molesting his stepdaughter beginning when she was 12 years old, according to court records.

Johnson has pleaded not guilty.

The Racine County case has been on hold for more than two years while rulings have been appealed.

Wisconsin Supreme Court justices ruled in July that Johnson's stepdaughter may testify without first releasing her records. Later that month, cross motions to reconsider were filed regarding that decision and another dealing with jury instructions.

In an opinion issued Wednesday morning, the justices wrote that "since this court has deadlocked, the Court of Appeals decision must be affirmed."

"Since a majority of the court has not reached consensus under prec-

edent so as to decide the issue presented and the court is deadlocked, the decision of the Court of Appeals is affirmed," the justices wrote, granting the motion for reconsideration.

The Court of Appeals ruled April 18, 2012, that Johnson's stepdaughter shall not testify in court unless she first agrees to release her private medical records.

Her attorney, Kathleen Quinn, reiterated during Wednesday's hearing that the teen still refuses to release her medical records for Gasiorkiewicz's review.

Johnson's defense attorneys are seeking to have the teen's medical records privately reviewed by Gasiorkiewicz, in a process known as an in-camera review. Gasiorkiewicz would have determined whether those records contained any information potentially relevant to the criminal case, and revealed that to lawyers on both sides as required.

But his ruling was appealed. Chiapete also declined to comment Wednesday on whether the state Supreme Court decision might end their prosecution.

"We're going to set it for trial and do the best job that we can," he said Wednesday afternoon.

A status conference is set for June 12.



GREGORY SHAVER gregory.shaver@journaltimes.com

A headless Clifford the Gator is seen on Wednesday outside Gifford Elementary School, 8332 Northwestern Ave. The head of Clifford, the school's mascot, was removed and stolen overnight, according to a Caledonia Police Department news release issued Wednesday.

GIFFORD

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"The timing is not great," she said.

According to The Journal Times achieves, the statue was made in about 2002 by third-grade students working with a local artist who was participating in the PTA-funded artist-in-residence program.

The mascot's head also was stolen in 2005, but it was later returned.

Lt. Gary Larsen of the Caledonia Police Department said the criminal damage to property could be classified as a Class A misdemeanor, subject to up to \$10,000 in fines and up to nine months behind bars.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Titus said the school's main focus was having the head returned.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

For Wednesday, March 26
Pick 3: **6-8-5** Pick 4: **0-3-7-8**
SuperCash: **1-8-15-26-36-38** Doubler No
Badger 5: **7-10-22-29-30**
Megabucks: **4-8-15-16-28-45** \$6.5 million
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PLANE

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Stuart could give them a brief presentation on the ongoing construction of the plane. Some marveled as Stuart explained that what appeared to be the frame of a fairly small cockpit would be large enough to fit a flight instructor and student.

"I guess you have to like who you are flying with," one member joked.

Asked what he thought about Stuart's effort, Randy Savaglio said: "The thought of building a plane is intimidating enough (at any age)."

When all the pieces are put together, Stuart said he plans to paint the aircraft white and green.

He hasn't quite settled on a name yet, but so far he likes "Roy Express."

His hope is that it will be all done in time for next year's Fourth of July parade.

Asked what he would say to those who might question someone his age flying a small plane, let alone building one, Stuart said: "It's only years. Most of the time I feel like I'm about 60."

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