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Welcome
REX ALLEN

Rex Allen Jr. performs during a concert for United Way Friday at James Maskus Auditorium at Liberal High School. L&T photo/Robert Pierce

Telling tales on a darkened stage

Story Theater shows Nov. 7-9
Page 3A

Kismet UMW to host chicken and noodle dinner
5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13
Page 3A

Texas deputy has a 'nose' for crime
Deputy Ziggy fights against drugs in Sherman County, Texas
Page 7A

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Today:
Noon to 6 p.m. – Southgate Mall Market Place
Tuesday:
3:30 to 4:30 p.m. – Little Caesars
Thursday:
4:30 to 9 p.m. – Downtown Open House

Fan injured by hot dog suing Kan. City Royals

In this Monday, Aug. 24, 2009, photograph, Kansas City Royals mascot "Sluggerrr" throws hot dogs into the crowd during a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians in Kansas City, Mo. The Missouri Supreme Court is weighing whether a legal standard that protects sports teams from being sued over fan injuries caused by in-game events should also apply to those caused by mascots or other team personnel. AP photo/Charlie Riedel

Man says he was injured at a September 2009 Royals game when the team's lion mascot, Sluggerrr, threw a 4-ounce, foil-wrapped wiener into the stands that struck his eye

By BILL DRAPER
• Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — If it had been a foul ball or broken bat that struck John Coomer in the eye as he watched a Kansas City Royals game, the courts likely wouldn't force the team to pay for his surgeries and suffering.

But because it was a hot dog thrown by the team mascot — behind the back, no less — he just may have a case.

The Missouri Supreme Court is weighing whether the "baseball rule" — a legal standard that protects teams from being sued over fan injuries caused by events on the field, court or rink — should also apply to injuries caused by mascots or the other personnel that teams employ to engage fans. Because the case could set a legal precedent, it could change how teams in other cities and sports approach interacting with fans at their games.

Coomer, of Overland Park, says he was injured at a September 2009 Royals game when the team's lion mascot, Sluggerrr, threw a 4-ounce, foil-wrapped wiener into the stands that struck his eye. He had to have two surgeries — one to repair a detached retina and the other to remove a cataract that developed and implant an artificial lens. Coomer's vision is worse now than before he was hurt and he has paid roughly $4,800 in medical costs, said his attorney, Robert Tormohlen.

Coomer, 55, declined to discuss the case. His lawsuit seeks an award of "over $20,000" from the team, but the actual amount he is seeking is likely much greater. Tormohlen declined to discuss the actual amount.

See SUING/Page 6A

KC man charged in deaths of 2 people found in van

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Kansas City man has been charged in the September deaths of a man and woman whose burned bodies were found in Kansas in an abandoned van.

Twenty-nine-year-old Christopher A. Canagan was charged Friday in Jackson County with two counts of first-degree murder and other charges. No attorney is listed for him in online court records.

Canagan is accused of shooting 24-year-old Dennis Smith as he sat in the driver's seat. Williams and another person jumped out of the van, but Canagan is accused of forcing 22-year-old Linda Williams back into the vehicle and driving away. Court records say Canagan told police that he had sex with Williams before shooting her.

Canagan then is accused of setting the van on fire in Kansas City, Kan.

Gunman targets TSA in Los Angeles airport shooting

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD and TAMI ABDOLLAH
• Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man toting a semi-automatic rifle, some 150 rounds of ammunition and a grudge against TSA workers shot his way past a security checkpoint at Los Angeles International Airport in a deadly rampage that sent hundreds of travelers fleeing in terror.

When the shooting stopped, a Transportation Security Administration officer was dead. Gerardo I. Hernandez, 39, became the first TSA officer in the agency's 12-year history to be killed in the line of duty.

Five other people were hurt, including two other TSA employees and the gunman, identified as Paul Ciancia, 23, of Pennsville, N.J. He was shot four times by airport police and remained hospitalized but there was no word on his condition.

See GUNMAN/Page 5A

Police stand guard in Terminal 2 at Los Angeles International Airport on Friday. A gunman armed with a semi-automatic rifle opened fire at the airport on Friday, killing a Transportation Security Administration employee and wounding two other people. Flights were disrupted nationwide. AP photo/Reed Saxon

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