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Pages 8

The Springfield newspaper sure can
push something when they want to. All
these stories were in today's paper all
aimed at boosting the Democratic
~~Senate~~ ^{Senate} Candidate Kuebler who is a
real liberal jerk.

Mary

Opinion

NEWS-LEADER

Monday
January 7, 2002
www.OzarksNow.com

It's about time to revise statutes of limitations on rape crimes

When you see a law such as Missouri's three-year statute of limitations on sodomy and rape, you have to wonder, "What were we thinking?"

The law as it is doesn't classify either crime as a Class A felony, and therefore carries with it only a three-year statute of limitations. This is particularly ridiculous with a crime like rape. Victims often will try to deny to themselves that the crime has occurred, or they will fear greater harm from their victimizer. If they finally work up the nerve to go to police, but it's been three years and a day, the prosecutor can do nothing.

It plays right into the hands of those who would threaten, terrorize and otherwise coerce a vulnerable victim into keeping a closed mouth.

Because rape is one of the most invasive and brutal crimes against a person, Democratic Reps. Craig Hosmer and Jim Kreider are right to introduce a bill that would do away with the statute of limitations on such crimes.

Even noted defense attorney Shawn Askinosie is in favor of the law, as long as modern justice techniques such as DNA testing, which can scientifically make a determination on guilt or

innocence, are used along with it.

Hear, hear.

This is a bill that ought to sail through the General Assembly — as long as it isn't held captive to some unrelated bill or made a Christmas tree loaded with amendments from legislation that otherwise would fail.

We urge legislators to keep this bill clean. It fixes an error that never should have been allowed to occur. Pass it early in the session and get it quickly to the governor's desk. It's the right thing to do.

'I knew it was a matter of time'

Amanda Dixon escaped Jeffrey Stumph in 1993, when he came behind her with a knife.

By Laura Bauer Menner
News-Leader Springfield

When 16-year-old Jeffrey Stumph, peach fuzz sprouting from his chin, walked from a Greene County courtroom in 1994 as a convicted sex offender, one of his victims worried about the day he'd get out of prison.

Amanda Dixon, one of three women he attacked in 1993 — the expecting mother who was able to fight him off — worried that he'd strike again. She saw no remorse in Stumph that November day he was sentenced.

He was smirking, she said. He looked proud.

"I said it back then and I still say it now, he would be tried as an adult, get in the system and learn how to do it better," Dixon said. "I knew it was a matter of time."

That's why news of Stumph's arrest and subsequent confession to police didn't surprise her.

"I was sickened by it," Dixon said Sunday.

Dixon was 18 when Stumph came behind her with a pocket knife and tried to attack her. She fought back, just as she would with her little brother.

"I whipped around and grabbed him," Dixon explained.

He pointed his pocket knife at her stomach, bulging with a baby more than halfway to term.

Stumph ended up being charged with six criminal counts, including attempted kidnapping and rape, regarding another victim, not Dixon. He pleaded guilty to three counts and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

At the time, Stumph's public defender argued that the teen would benefit from treatment. That would give his client a chance to be re-evaluated and released after four months.

Circuit Judge Miles Sweeney declined that option. On the day of sentencing, he told Stumph from the bench: "You have committed some terrible crimes," the judge said. "If you were an adult, I expect you would go to the Department of Corrections for the rest of your life."

But he was released nearly seven years from that day, three years shy of completing the full sentence. Officials couldn't say Sunday why Stumph had been released early.

1-7-02

"You have committed some terrible crimes. If you were an adult, I expect you would go to the Department of Corrections for the rest of your life."

— Circuit Judge Miles Sweeney
to Jeffrey Stumph in 1994

Assistant Greene County Prosecutor Cynthia Rushefsky, who prosecuted Stumph in 1994, said she was surprised he was out already. She hadn't heard he was paroled.

Dixon had. And since she found out a few months ago, after calling a toll-free number victims are given to check on the status of a case, she worried about the little girl she was carrying the day she was attack. Plus, another

daughter she had given birth to since.

She tried to find out from the Department of Corrections where he would be living when he was released.

"I said, 'Well, can you tell me if he'll be close to me?'"

"She said, 'I'm sorry ... it's confidential.'"

"I was thinking: I didn't do anything wrong. I shouldn't be punished," Dixon said. "It prolonged my own fears. I can't put aside my fears if I think he could be around the corner."

She hadn't thought to check the sex offenders list at the Greene County sheriff's office after Stumph was released and had registered as a sex offender as required by law.

During the three months since he was paroled, Dixon has watched her two daughters more closely.

Now she worries for the two victims Stumph told police he attacked this past weekend.

"My heart goes out to them," Dixon said. "I can't imagine what they are going through. I have two little girls. It could have been me. It could have been my girls. It hits so close to home, it could have been anyone's little girls. Anyone's sisters."

Sexual predators tough to rehab

The Missouri Sex Offender Program can help, but only 313 of 1,219 inmates graduated in 1999 and 2000.

By Robert Keyes
News-Leader

It was unclear Sunday whether Jeffrey Stumph ever got help in prison for the sexual assaults that got him locked up as a teen-ager.

Successful completion of the Missouri Sex Offender Program is mandatory for early release from prison. And according to law enforcement officials, Stumph, now 22, served only about seven years of a 10-year sentence.

So if he did rape and sodomize two women this past weekend, as Greene County prosecutors have charged, questions emerge.

Does treatment help? Can sex offenders be helped?

Such questions have been studied for years. But the Center for Sex Offenders Management, of Silver Spring, Md., reported last May that despite numerous studies on recidivism over the past 15 to 20 years, "there remains much to be learned about the factors associated with the likelihood of re-offense."

Small comfort in the wake of Stumph's reported attacks on two women late Saturday and early Sunday, three months after his release from prison. He has confessed to police.

Assistant Greene County Prosecutor Cynthia Rushefsky believes sexual predators are "the most difficult offenders to rehabilitate. It just seems they have issues that got them into this in the first place and those issues are not

addressed."

The Springfield area has several therapists who counsel sex offenders. One of them, Kris Hamilton, told the News-Leader last fall it is difficult to say why someone becomes a sexual predator and who among them will not respond to treatment.

"We don't know who will reoffend," Hamilton said.

But local probation and parole officials believe that whatever help is provided, there is no guarantee it will be enough.

"Once you commit a sex offense, you're always going to be at risk to offend again," Probation Officer Kathleen Faddis told a reporter last year, an opinion supported by federal sta-



Rushefsky



Carver

tistics that show about one in four imprisoned rape and sexual assault offenders had a prior history of conviction for violent crimes, and one in seven had been previously convicted of a violent sex crime.

According to information from the Missouri Department of Correction's Web site, the DOC is required to provide treatment, education and rehabilitation for sexual assault offenders.

The Web site doesn't talk about the program's success rate. But in 1999 and 2000, 1,219 inmates participated in the state's sex offender program; 313 graduated.

Prosecutor Rushefsky said she was unfamiliar with the program, but she questioned

the effectiveness of treatment for sex offenders.

"I think prison is better at some things than others," she said. "Whether it's funding or just ... the limitations dealing with sex offenders, I don't know."

"The sad thing about this," she added, is that "the prospects are not good" for sex offenders who are incarcerated at an early age. ... "They just get older and meaner."

And eventually, they're back in society. That reflects a failure in the criminal justice system, says Springfield defense attorney Tom Carver.

"The actual number (of sex offenders) who can't control their urges ... is a very small number," he said. But the system could do a better job upfront of identifying the most serious threats and giving them tough sentences, not plea agreements. "These people are very difficult to treat and may never recover."

Two victims tell details of attacks to officers

"These women showed a lot of courage," police Sgt. Mike Owen said.

By Laura Bauer Menner 1/7/02
News-Leader

Within hours of being raped, an 18-year-old Drury University student was sitting in a car with detectives Sunday, retracing the path she had traveled with her attacker.

They started at Jefferson Avenue and Lynn Street, where she was approached from behind by a man with a knife. The young woman and police drove throughout the Midtown area as she remembered which way her assailant had directed her to turn.

She also remembered specific details about her attacker and what he was wearing.

Another student, this one a year older, was able to escape from her attacker by leaping from a moving car she was being forced to drive; prosecutors say her attacker was the same man who raped the first victim.

During the course of five hours late Saturday night and early Sunday morning, these two women, who don't know each other, survived attacks by a 22-year-old offender who has since confessed to police. Authorities say the two were instrumental in solving the pair of sexual assaults.

"These women showed a lot of courage," said Sgt. Mike Owen.

And they demonstrated decision-making that victim advocates have taught throughout the years.

Get details. Report the crime. Take control. Follow through with prosecution.

"They are to be so praised and lifted up as examples in a horrific situation," said Nancy Berlin, executive director of the Victim Center.

"It's two women that made good decisions in the trauma that was happening to them," she said.

"The good news is they heard the message. And they used every resource available to them."

By relying on their instincts, or maybe what they were taught growing up, the two victims were first able to survive their attacks.

And second, they were able to begin the road to healing.

"Nothing can change what happened. What happened, happened," Berlin said. "The fact that both went forward and filed reports ... that's an important step to beginning the journey of healing. It's an important thing for a victim to take a proactive part in getting some justice."

The first victim immediately reported the crime to Drury University security. The second flagged down a passing motorist after she jumped from a vehicle moving down Kansas Expressway at 40 mph.

And the first victim was able to retrace the events, something authorities don't often see immediately after a crime.

"Some are too shaken to even respond to questions," said Officer Kirk Manlove, police spokesman.

"This victim's role was very important in this case. In solving this case."

What must happen now, Berlin said, is the two have to make the transition from victims to survivors.

"They need to be validated in how they will be feeling," Berlin said. "There'll be triggers. This is not over and though there was a confession, they have work to do to become whole and healthy."

Paroled rapist attacks two Drury students

1/7/02

Police say suspect, first convicted at 16, confessed to assaulting women.

By Laura Bauer Menner
News-Leader

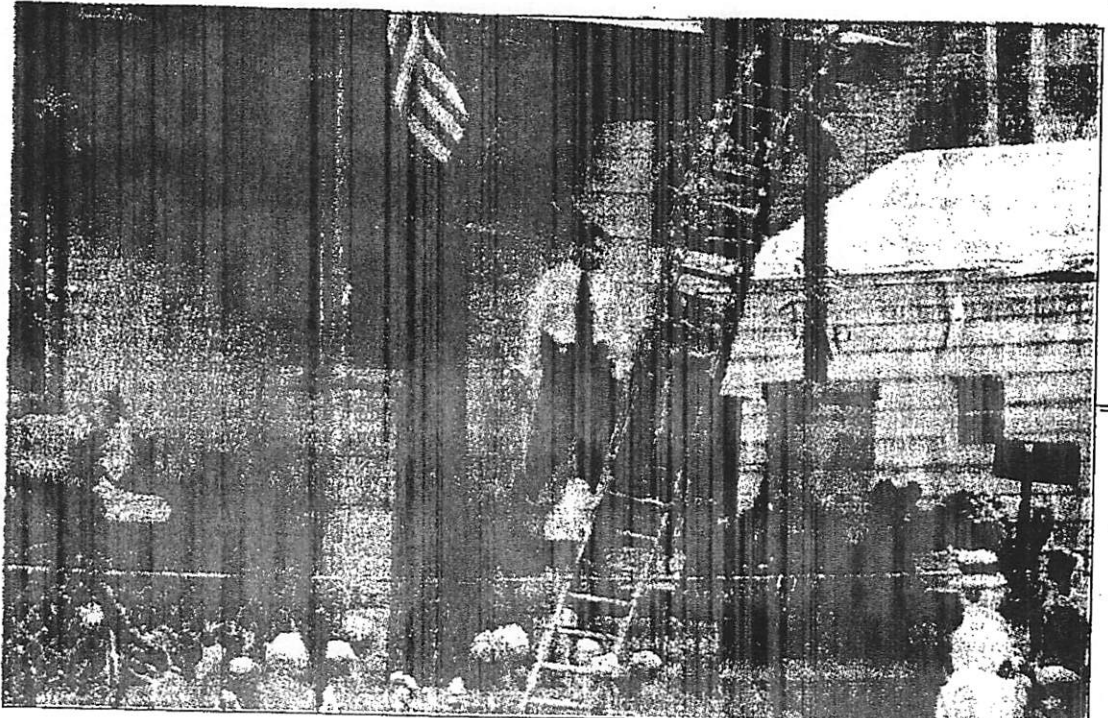
After spending nearly a third of his life in prison for rape, a 22-year-old Springfield man could face life behind bars after being charged Sunday in the kidnappings and assaults of two Drury University students over the weekend.

Hours after the women reported two separate sexual assaults within a three-hour period, fresh footprints in the snow and detailed information from victims led police to Jeffrey Stumph's front door on East Division — where he's lived with his parents since getting out of prison three months ago.

Police say an 18-year-old woman was kidnapped at knifepoint near campus Saturday night and forced to drive to a nearby parking lot, where she was raped. She then was forced to drive to a home, where she was raped again. The suspect made the woman drive a few blocks away and exited the car.

Sometime around midnight, another Drury student was abducted at knifepoint near campus and forced to drive to Washington Park, where she was sodomized. Later, while driving her vehicle south on Kansas Expressway, this 19-year-old victim jumped out of the moving vehicle and flagged down a motorist for help.

Stumph was paroled in the fall after serving seven years of a 10-year sentence for rape and felonious restraint in attacks on three Springfield women in late 1993. He was 14 years old at the time of those attacks, but



Cpl. Greg Higdon walks out of the residence in the 500 block of East Division Street where Jeffrey Stumph was arrested on rape charges on Sunday. Stumph has reportedly lived there with his parents since getting out of prison three months ago.

Steve J.P. Liang / News-Leader

Can treatment help sex offenders? 4A

Drury, SMS look at their security measures. 4A

Woman attacked in 1993 enraged suspect was freed. 4A

was certified to stand trial as an adult.

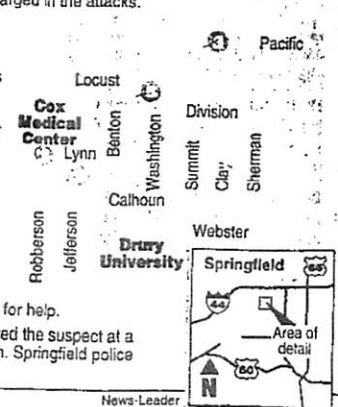
In an interview with police Cpl. Greg Higdon Sunday morning, Stumph confessed to kidnapping and assaulting the two college students late Saturday and early Sunday, court records show. The acts allegedly were committed while the

See 'THIS IS NOT,' Page 5A

Chronology of weekend abductions and rapes

Two Drury students were abducted and sexually assaulted in Springfield between 9:45 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 a.m. Sunday. Jeffrey B. Stumph, 22, of Springfield was charged in the attacks.

- According to police, the first Drury student, 18, was kidnapped at knifepoint as she was walked from her car near Jefferson and Lynn. She was forced to drive her assailant in her car to a nearby parking lot where she was raped. She was then forced to walk from her parked car, with head covered, to a residence where she was raped again. The suspect took her back to her car and made her drive him a few blocks away. He exited the car and left on foot.
- A short time later, the second student, 19, was abducted at knifepoint in the 1300 block of North Jefferson.
- She also was forced into her car and forced to drive to Washington Park where he sodomized her.
- They later were traveling in the 2000 block of South Kansas Expressway where the victim jumped from the moving car she drove and flagged down a citizen for help.
- Police were able to retrace the direction of travel and located the suspect at a residence in the 500 block of East Division Street. At 3 a.m. Springfield police arrested Stumph without incident.



News-Leader

NEWS-LEADER FROM PAGE ONE MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2002

This is not the kind of offer like to see back on the str

Continued from 1A

parolee's parents and girlfriend were out of town.

Stumph's confession marks the second time in six months when felons on parole for rape admitted to striking in the Springfield area only months after being freed from prison. The first time was in July when parolee David Zink, seven months out of prison, reportedly kidnapped Amanda Morton off Missouri 125, assaulted and then killed her, according to prosecutors.

"We are dealing with another repeat offender in the parole system," said Officer Kirk Manlove, police spokesman. "Our officers are seeing this time and time again."

In Stumph's case, authorities say he struck randomly Saturday night, attacking the two women as they walked from their cars in parking lots in the Midtown neighborhood. Both times he used knives and threats of hurting them if they made a commotion.

Behind bars since he was 14, Stumph never learned to operate a stick shift and thus could not operate either vehicle, police said, and that's why the victims were forced to drive.

In his confession to police, Stumph said he assaulted each of the women in their cars, parked in church parking lots not far from his home. He said he also raped the first victim inside his parents' home. Outside the house, yellow crime-scene tape borders a Christmas scene decoration still on display.

The weekend's self-confessed crime spree mirrors attacks from 1993 to which Stumph pleaded guilty and was sentenced for in late 1994. That was assistant prosecutor Cynthia Rushefsky's case. She couldn't place Stumph's name when a colleague first mentioned it to her Sunday. But she clearly remembered talking to the three women — ages 14, 20 and 18 — whom Stumph admitted attacking.

The 14-year-old notified a staff member when she saw her attacker at school, and another victim was a pregnant woman who fought



— whom Stumph admitted attacking.

The 14-year-old notified a staff member when she saw her attacker at school, and another victim was a pregnant woman who fought Stumph off after he pointed his pocketknife toward her rounded stomach.

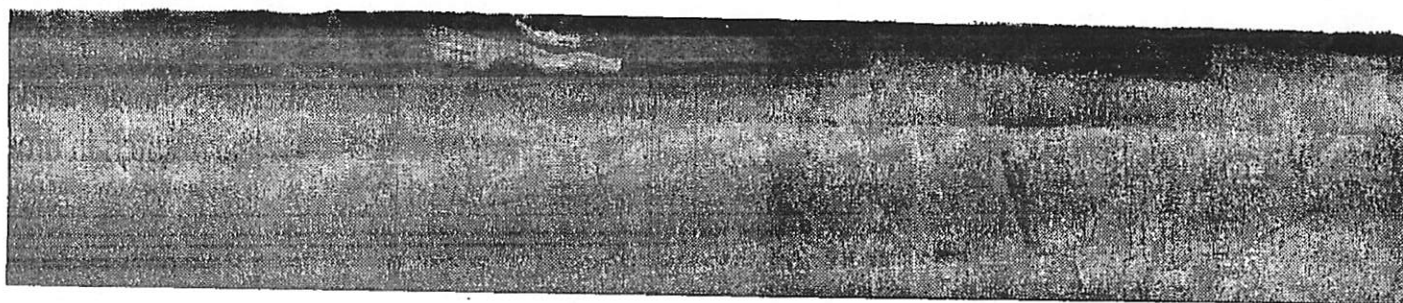
"This is not the kind of offender we like to see back on the streets," Rushefsky said. "All three victims were very traumatized, and I'm sure the idea of someone who victimized them is back on the streets after such a short time would be very terrifying to them."

Springfield police got the first call about 11:30 p.m. Saturday. An 18-year-old Drury student reported to a university security officer that she had been kidnapped and raped, forced to drive to different locations in the city and then taken into a residence and raped again.

She didn't know her attacker, but had etched details of him and his clothing in her mind. It's these details and the victim's courage to recount her story — and retrace with detectives the route she was forced to drive — that authorities say ultimately led to finding Stumph.

"Not only was she able to describe in detail the locations and the path they drove, but she gave us tidbits of clothing he was wearing," said Sgt. Mike Owen of Springfield police. "We were able to identify him immediately when we saw him."

But before police made it to Stumph's front door at 3 a.m. Sunday, there was three hours of



Sgt. Mike Owen comforts the rape suspect's family while police search the residence where he was found on Sunday.

Steve J.P. Liang / News-Leader

"She knew the only way to get out of the car was to jump out while it was moving."

— Sgt. Mike Owen
Springfield Police Department

investigating, combing for evidence, searching for footprints and being thankful the snow had let up. About 1 a.m., just when investigators were nearly finished processing the victim's car, emergency dispatch received another call.

Another woman, another Drury student, had been attacked.

And the 19-year-old victim had been kidnapped only blocks away from the site of the first abduction. She, too, was forced to drive.

According to court records, Stumph told police that after he attacked the first victim, he went back to a bar he'd been at earlier in the night. After some drinking, he went on another walk — and found another victim.

"The defendant ran up and pulled a knife on her," the court affidavit read. "He made her drive him to a church parking lot near his house and made her perform oral sex on him."

The woman told her kidnapper she had to pick up her sister and he allowed her to drive in what he thought was the direction of her work.

But the victim had another plan.

At each stoplight, Stumph reportedly threatened her anew with the knife, explaining that if she did anything but drive, he would hurt her.

"She knew the only way to get out of the car was to jump out while it was moving," Owen said.

While moving south on Kansas

Expressway, south of Sunshine Street, the victim opened the door and dove out. The car is believed to have been traveling about 40 mph.

The young woman, who was not seriously injured by the jump, flagged down a passing motorist and told of the attack.

Stumph told police that when the car slowed to a stop, he jumped out and ran across town to his home.

Two hours later, police were at his door.

Investigators went out to South Kansas Expressway and noticed footprints in the snow near the victim's car. They described them to investigators working the other scene.

"They had a very distinct pattern to them," Owen said. "One you don't regularly see."

Police wouldn't elaborate Sunday on what the prints looked like or what type of shoes made them. But with the prints in mind, and knowing that the first victim said she had been raped in a church parking lot, that's where detectives

looked.

Acting Sgt. John Marcum went to church lots near campus and noticed fresh prints at one of the locations.

Shortly thereafter, the first victim drove with detectives as she tried to retrace the path she was taken. They took right turns and left turns.

They ended up at the church where Marcum had found the prints.

Police followed the prints to 531 E. Division. It was about 3 a.m. — about five hours after the first victim had been kidnapped.

"We knocked on the door and there he was," Manlove said. "The patrol squad did an excellent job on focusing on the follow up and paying close attention to detail. And the courage of the victim to pull herself together and help us take her back to the scene was a tremendous help."

"... The fact the victim paid close attention to details was key to this arrest and possibly prevented a third assault."