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INDEPENDENT

IN

WEEKEND PRETORIA NEWS

— FOUNDED 1898, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA [IOL.CO.ZA] — Saturday, June 25 2022



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INSIDE YOUR SATURDAY INSIDER



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WEDDING RING FINGER ROW

Hospital is facing a R2m lawsuit after amputating finger bitten by robbers

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YOU do not mess up with a wedding ring finger, as a Pretoria East medical practice discovered.

The hospital is facing a R2 million lawsuit from a woman whose finger was amputated after it was bitten by robbers attempting to remove her wedding ring.

The patient, only identified as AW Malan in a Gauteng High Court, Pretoria judgment, claimed that the medical staff and doctors who attended to her wounds were negligent in not treating her adequately for the bite.

The wound later became septic and her ring finger had to be amputated months down the line.

According to Malan, she clearly told the staff who attended to her at the emergency unit of Kloof Hospital she had suffered a human bite to her finger.

She instituted the claim against Dr du Toit Incorporated, the medical firm which attended to her that day, for wrongful and negligent breach of legal duty.

The defendant, however, said they were professional in their dealings with Malan and treated all her wounds, including her finger. The medical staff who assisted her told the court Malan never told them she was bitten.

According to them, she mentioned that she was hijacked and a robber had pulled her finger. Biting, however, was never mentioned, they said.

The court was told that in January 2016 Malan and her family were accosted in front of their home during an armed robbery. Both she and her husband were assaulted. Malan said she had visible injuries to her face and left hand, particularly her ring finger.

She was rushed to the emergency centre at Kloof Hospital for medical treatment and was later discharged.

A few days later the pain in the left ring finger became unbearable and her hand became swollen. She urgently contacted her general practitioner who immediately referred her to an orthopaedic surgeon, who then treated her.

Months later her left hand ring finger was amputated.

While Malan blamed the medical practitioners who treated her for the loss of her finger, they maintained she was thoroughly examined and treated.



PRETORIA hospital will pay for amputating a woman's wedding ring finger. | REUTERS

The medical firm said they had no idea the injury to her finger was caused by the assailants, as she never told them.

But Malan insisted she did and that she asked the doctor on duty whether she would require antibiotics and anti-retroviral medication, but he told her it was not necessary.

Malan said her injuries were visible as she was kicked and hit several times by the assailants. They focussed so much on her ring that she was dragged to the getaway car as they had difficulty in removing the ring. They even threatened to shoot off her finger, she said.

Thus, Malan said, as her finger was the focal point, there was no doubt that she told the medical staff about it.

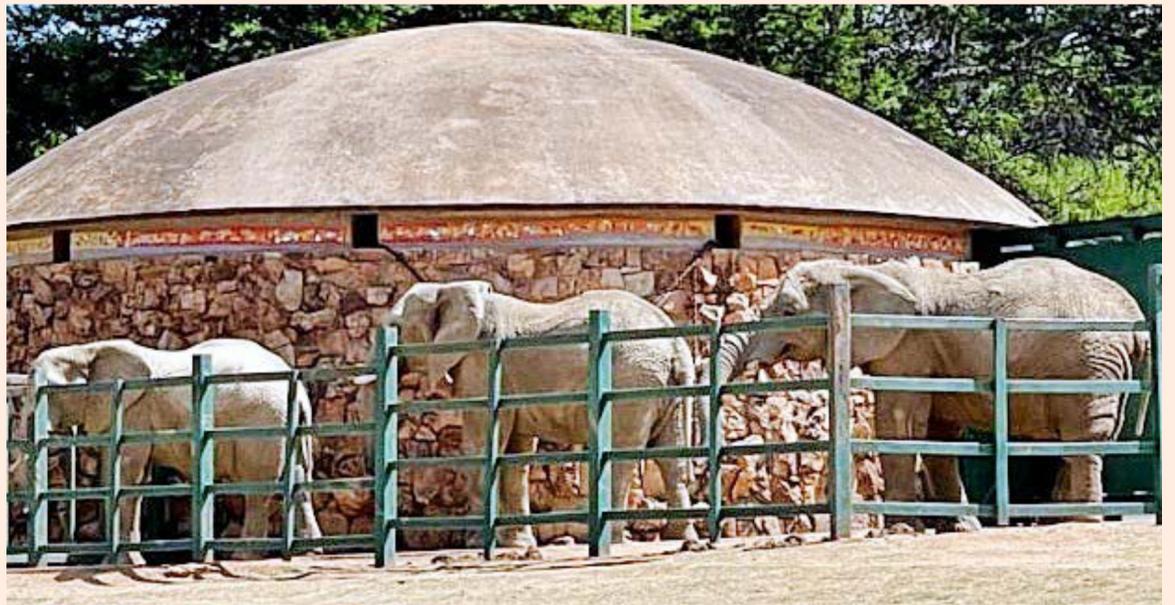
A nurse testified she had dressed the finger with a "ring elastic", a type of gauze, as it was a "superficial laceration".

Judge H Kooverjie, however, found that on a balance of probabilities, Malan did tell the medical staff she was bitten by a robber. After listening to a host of expert evidence, the judge concluded there was also a link between the treatment she'd received in the emergency room and the fact that her finger later had to be amputated.

One of the experts told the court "the amputation of the patient's left ring finger appears to have been primarily due to the damage to the joints of the finger, caused by bacterial infection".

He found the infection appeared to have been caused by the patient having sustained a bite wound on her finger. He confirmed that a human bite requires concerted treatment, including prophylactic antibiotics, hospitalisation, intravenous antibiotics and debridement.

The judge ordered that the defendant was liable for the damages Malan could prove she had suffered.



ACTIVISTS want elephants Lammie, Mopane and Ramadiba to be released from the Johannesburg Zoo.

Zoo elephants' plight goes to court

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THE Animal Law Reform South Africa, EMS Foundation and Chief Stephen Fritz want three elephants, Lammie, Mopane and Ramadiba, released from the Johannesburg Zoo.

The group has taken the pachyderms' plight to the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, and lodged an application against the Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo and other governmental institutions involved in the running of the facility.

The applicants want the confinement of the elephants at the Johannesburg Zoo declared unlawful and unconstitutional.

They want the elephants released

in an appropriate re-wilding facility. According to them, the elephants are being held in conditions unsuited to their basic needs.

EMS Foundation executive director Michele Pickover said colonialism and apartheid devastated South Africa and disrupted indigenous communities, decimating biodiversity and destroying individual lives.

"These elephants were separated from their families, captured by humans for a life in captivity – experiencing life-long trauma as a result. They live unnatural, isolated and denigrated lives.

"We are failing to teach children anything about elephants – rather forcing them into submission, for the sake of so-called entertainment."

Pickover said a better exhibit would be a live link to the elephants in a natural environment.

In an affidavit, she said: "The elephants are housed in a barren enclosure under conditions far short of their fundamental needs."

Chief Stephen Fritz, a Khoi and community leader and the third applicant in the matter, said imprisoning the elephants showcased the past and the present will to humiliate and disrespect culture and heritage.

"I am relieved that a large number of experts and scientists have united, bringing together a wealth of knowledge to offer these elephants a powerful defence."

The Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo and City of Joburg said they

had been served with a high court application, which did not come as a surprise as communication between the legal teams began in December.

"The applicants have published or caused to be published a number of articles containing allegations we have disputed," Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo said.

"The Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo herewith confirms and wishes to assure the public at large that the elephants are well, and their best interests are and remain our focus; staff is caring for the elephants.

"We had this recently confirmed by independent experts, and accordingly, the elephants will not be relocated or traumatised in any other manner in the foreseen future."



HERBERT Baker Street in Groenkloof, Pretoria, has been named as among the most eye-catching in the world. | JACQUES NAUDE African News Agency (ANA)

WHITE JACARANDAS

City street among the world's most appealing

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DURING winter, Herbert Baker Street in Groenkloof, Pretoria, is an ordinary road like any other, but come spring it becomes one of the most eye-catching sights in the world.

Driving along Herbert Baker Street during this time of the year one would mistake it for having nothing special to offer, with ordinary trees and shrubs.

However, during the rainy season it reveals beautiful hues of purple and white Jacaranda trees which make for a scenic view like no other.

One of the main features that makes Herbert Baker so special is that it is one of the few places in South Africa where white jacarandas grow en masse.

White jacarandas are said to be special because they're very rare; according to conventional wisdom, the white-flowering trees are reportedly sterile and can't be grown from seeds.

The spectacular view of purple and white trees, sprawled against palatial mansions, remains at the top of the list in the world as revealed recently by research conducted by GetAgent.

The property experts conducted the research using eye-tracking software to

determine which streets were most visually appealing to the human eye.

The participants were asked to examine a set of images depicting over 50 of the world's most picturesque roads, and artificial intelligence technology was used to analyse their eye movements in order to rank which streets were truly the most eye-catching.

Following that, the experts ranked the 20 most attractive streets in the world.

First place was taken up by Philosopher's Path in Kyoto, Japan, and second the Rue Principale in the small cliff-top village of Rocamadour in France.

Third place went to Via Baldassarre Galuppi in Venice, while Herbert Baker Street came in fourth place, with fifth place going to Lombard street in San Francisco.

According to the research, the beautiful tree-lined street garnered 256 views and had participants fixated for an average of 4.17 seconds.

"The street comes to life throughout the year, showing off its vibrant blossoms. These stunning shades of purple and white really do make the street stand out, so there's no surprise that it's one of the top five most attractive streets overall," said GetAgent.



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TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION, BUT IT IS BECAUSE FICTION IS OBLIGED TO STICK TO POSSIBILITIES, TRUTH ISN'T | **MARK TWAIN**