



## HUMAN INTEREST

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

### Texas Governor Kills While Jogging



AUSTIN, TEXAS -- Pistol-packing Texas Gov. Rick Perry has a message for wily coyotes out there: Don't mess with my dog. Perry (R) told the Associated Press on Tuesday that he needed just one shot from the laser-sighted pistol he sometimes carries while jogging to take down a coyote that menaced his puppy during a February run near Austin. Perry said he carries his .380 Ruger -- loaded with hollow-point bullets -- when jogging on trails because he is afraid of snakes. But when a coyote came out of the brush toward his daughter's Labrador retriever, Perry charged. "Don't attack my dog, or you might get shot . . . if you're a coyote," he said Tuesday. He is living in a private house in a hilly area southwest of downtown Austin while the Governor's Mansion is being repaired after a 2008 fire. Perry, who holds a concealed-handgun permit, carries the pistol in a belt. He said he was jogging without his security detail shortly after sunrise when the coyote focused

on the dog. Perry said the laser pointer on his gun helped make a quick, clean kill. "It was not in a lot of pain," he said. "It pretty much went down at that particular juncture."

### Texas Woman's House Demolished By Mistake



FRISCO, TEXAS -- A 69-year-old woman in Frisco, Texas, now has a pile of rubble to call home after a bulldozer operator screwed up and leveled her house instead of the one across the street that was supposed to be demolished.

The house across the street had been slated for demo after repeated violations including high grass and weeds, outside storage, junked vehicles and failure to secure the structure. That homeowner had been notified in January of the need to repair or face demolition. Last week, the demo company

got the permit to raze that house and notified the utilities to cut service. And then they flattened the wrong home. "I don't have the words to say," explained the wronged homeowner, whose family had lived in the house for 47 years. "I just want this house put back together... I think I need a lawyer." She



says that she has been made offers of \$5,000 or a new home. Like the house that was supposed to be demolished, this house had been given a warning about violations at a recent hearing. The homeowner promised to make repairs by July 15, but that might be a little difficult now. Lucky for her, a City Council rep says the homeowner can file for an extension.

### 'Aunt Aggie' Faces Foreclosure: 100-Year-Old Woman Raised 40 Foster Kids On Her Monee Farm

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - Let the bankers come with their foreclosure notices. Invite the building inspectors, too. At

100 years old, Agnes Albinger has lived on her 70-acre patch of farmland longer than most of those people have been alive. She has seen two world wars come and go, survived the Depression — in part by subsisting on minnow stew — and raised 40 foster children. Now, she has become a rallying point in this rural community as she fights to keep her Monee farm. "I'll never leave," she said one recent morning, as she stood with a walker on her sagging front porch, looking out over the fields she tended for most of her life. "I'd like to stay here until I die. This is my home. This was my land. I owned everything once. I worked awful hard on this place to make it what it was." As Albinger faces foreclosure on the property where she has lived since 1949, a coalition of friends and strangers has mobilized to help the woman everyone calls "Aunt Aggie." They have set up a , Web site, [saveagnesfarm.com](http://saveagnesfarm.com), and volunteered to help with cleaning and repairs. On a recent Saturday, nearly 100 people showed up to clear brush and haul away rusting farm equipment. For many in Will County, helping Albinger seems to be one of the few ways they can push back against the waves of foreclosures and layoffs that have swept the nation. ([Full story](#))

### Teen mowing lawn runs into TNT



HOOPER, UTAH -- Here's an excuse not to mow. A 17-year-old Utah boy cutting the grass ran into a canister of TNT. Taylor Wood says he heard a thud as the mower hit something solid in a pasture behind the family's home in Hooper, Utah. He saw the words "TNT shell" on the side, and his mother called authorities. Officials say the potentially explosive shell could date back as far as World War II. The Weber County sheriff's department took it away for safe disposal.

### And The Award For Convoluted Legalese Goes To ...

A new award recognizes the worst in "official" writing — and attempts to shame governments and companies into communicating better. The Center for Plain Language hopes the award will encourage clear and useful writing. Founder Annetta Cheek started the nonprofit center after being a federal employee for 25 years. "I just got so tired of all that bureaucratic and legalistic writing," she said. Here are some finalists for the Center for Plain Language's contest for the worst — and best — official writing: a form distributed to foreigners visiting the US which reads, voting

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### Departure Record

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instructions in the state of Minnesota and an emergency pamphlet on Philadelphia trains which reads, "How many people know what Egress, Parlor or Vestibule is on a train?" ([Full story](#))