



Friday, December 4, 2009

Leukemia-stricken Jasmina Anema spends 10 magical minutes with President Obama



Washington DC -- It came a week later than planned, but little Jasmina Anema's wish was finally granted Wednesday. The leukemia-stricken Manhattan girl met President Obama in the White House - and spent 10 magical minutes with him. "It was like they were really best buddies," said Jasmina's mom, Thea Anema. "It was just how he spoke to her, like a daddy. It was so sweet. He was really relating to her." Obama also delighted his little visitor with a couple of gifts - a box of M&Ms emblazoned with his name and the presidential seal and a matching presidential yo-yo. A still-glowing

Jasmina wasn't in the mood to discuss her surreal encounter last night. But she let her smile do the talking. "She's sitting here still beaming," Anema said. "She feels very special." Jasmina was treated like a VIP as soon as she arrived at the White House about 2:30 p.m. A group of staffers met her at a rear entrance and called her by name. "Hi, Jasmina," one aide said, according to Anema. "Someone's waiting for you." Jasmina, wearing her special pink sweater dress, could hardly contain her excitement as she waited to be led the Oval Office. The White House took photos of the visit but did not make them available. It was a trip - sponsored by the Make-A-Wish foundation - that almost never happened. Jasmina fell ill Nov. 25 and remained in a hospital until yesterday. But once she caught a glimpse of the President alone in his office, Jasmina's eyes lit up, her mother said. ([Video](#))

Cody the convenience store dog must go, state warns



Florida -- Cody, a chocolate Labrador, has for months greeted customers at the Clearwater BP gas station and convenience store at U.S. 19 and Nursery Road. A St. Petersburg Times story in November introduced thousands more to the jovial dog. And thanks to the wonders of the Internet, the canine's drive-through window presence spawned hundreds of positive responses from across the country. "Now I have two reasons to go to Florida again," commented one tampabay.com reader. "One, to see my friends and their sons. Two, to see

Cody." But on Thursday morning, a state health inspector put an end to Cody's stint as a convenience store clerk. Karim Mansour, the store and dog owner, received a warning: Remove the dog or the Florida Department of Agriculture would declare all of Mansour's food products — mostly bottled sodas, Slim Jims and candy bars — unfit for consumption. Mansour, who adopted 6-year-old Cody three years ago, had no choice but to sign the warning. His primary violation: "Prohibited animals present in a food establishment. Dog seen in retail area." The store doesn't

serve hot food such as hot dogs or even fresh cold deli-type items. The only food it carries are packaged products such as chips, crackers and candy. But food, apparently, is food. Michael Lombardi, who manages the Agriculture Department's inspectors, said since food items touch the main counter, the inspectors said it is off-limits to dogs. But, Lombardi said, "If he has a back room where food isn't stored, that would be fine." If Cody were cut off from interacting with people, Mansour said he might as well leave him home with his two other dogs. "Cody would think he was being punished if I put him back there," he said. A health inspector visited the business Nov. 23 and noted Cody as a source of environmental contamination, but was appeased when Mansour "put dog in back where there is no food," according to the inspection report. ([Video](#))

The Power of Two



China -- This story beats love at first sight. Two people longed for each other, though they may have never met. They felt connected though they may never have touched. They'd even been given the same first names, though their families were strangers. By the time Meredith Grace Rittenhouse and Meredith Ellen Harrington were finally introduced, love was almost beside the point. Their bond was more mysterious, more fundamental. The Merediths are Chinese fraternal twins who were adopted by two different American families. The girls

found each other almost six years ago, when they were 4, and haven't let go since. Jiangmen, China, is a subtropical city, but during the winter it can cool off quite a bit. It was on an early December day that Meredith Grace's birth mother left the newborn baby girl outside and said goodbye. In China, children who are abandoned by their parents are often left in public places where they are found quickly. Meredith Grace's mother chose a busy part of town, the entrance to Holiday Park, across the street from an orphanage. If anyone knew how long Meredith Grace waited on that sidewalk or heard how loudly the baby cried, it might have been her own mother—women who abandon their babies have been said to wait nearby, still watching over their children, unable to do more than see who comes along. Meredith Grace was taken in by the Jiangmen City Social Welfare Institute on Dec. 8, 2000. She was described as weak upon arrival in the single typed page of history the orphanage gave her adoptive family. The administrators guessed she was 1 week old and gave her a birthday of Dec. 1. Two weeks later, another baby girl, also found nearby, arrived. She was given a birthday of Dec. 16, though now she celebrates on the first day of the month. ([Full Story & Photos](#))

LED Tattoos Could Turn Skin Into Screens

Scientists are researching biodegradable, silicon-silk devices that could be implanted inside the human body for various applications, potentially including the development of "LED tattoo" skin displays. Unlike the current breed of "rigid" implantable chips (such as the ID tags that can be put into pets), these devices would build a silicon circuits into thin films of silk that would be flexible and could conform to the surface of human tissue. Wired explains that the implants would eventually melt away in the body: The silk substrate onto which the chips are mounted eventually dissolve away inside the body, leaving just the electronics behind. The silicon chips are around the length of a small grain of rice -- about one millimeter, and just 250 nanometers thick, and the sheet of silk will keep them in place, moulding to the shape of the skin when saline is added. So what might be the applications for this technology? According to Wired, "these tattoos could carry LEDs, turning the wearer's skin into a screen." You could show off your latest Flash animations, watch TV on your arm, or have a built-in PDA screen. MIT's Technology Review also notes, The group is developing silk-silicon LEDs that might act as photonic tattoos that can show blood-sugar readings, as well as arrays of conformable electrodes that might interface with the nervous

system. [\(Read More\)](#) [\(Video\)](#)

3-Year-Old Learns Bad Word From Doll



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Brandy Westberry's 3-year-old daughter Kelsey got a Hannah Montana doll last week as a gift, a seemingly innocent gesture. But Westberry did not share that same sentiment when she found out the doll taught her daughter a bad word. "I was just really shocked," Westberry said. When you push the doll's stomach, it sings Christmas carols. "My kid was walking around the house singing the Christmas carols, and she started to say a really

profane word, and I was like, "Where is that coming from?" Westberry said Kelsey blamed the doll. "She went and brought me the baby doll, and I listened myself, and that's what I thought it was saying, the same thing she was," Westberry said. The doll sings "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree," and it's supposed to be saying, "Later we'll have some pumpkin pie." But Westberry said she believes it's saying something else. She thinks Hannah Montana drops an F-bomb. Kelsey still wanted to play with the doll, so to remedy the problem, Westberry pulled the batteries out. "A doll that a 3-year-old is playing with or a 5, 6-year-old, no, it's not appropriate for them," Westberry said. "And they should be recalled and truthfully check them." [\(Video\)](#)

Man on 'chicken-licking' charge

A former shelf-stacker who was allegedly filmed licking raw chickens at an Asda supermarket in Preston has been charged with criminal damage. Adeel Ayub, 30, of Spinney Brow, is accused of putting the chickens back on shelves, slashing colleagues' coats and smashing eggs. He was charged after police were given mobile phone footage which appeared to show a worker committing the offences. He is due before Preston Magistrates on 15 December. The alleged offences date back to 2005.

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