



HUMAN INTEREST

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

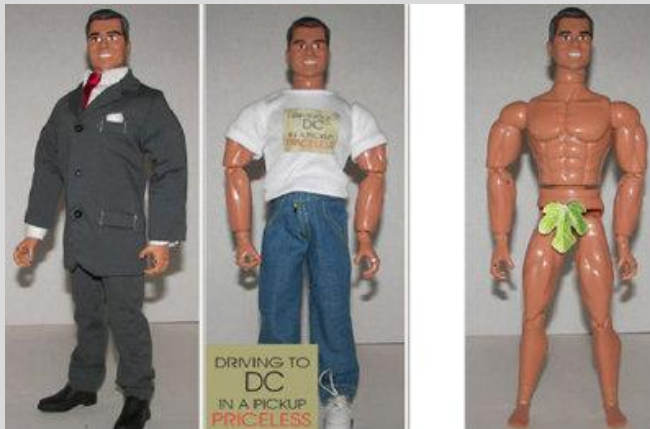
Teddy and the Magic Mushrooms



FEBRUARY 1 -- No, the below police evidence photo does not depict a stuffed animal found in the home of one of those creepy plushie devotees. Instead, the images on the following pages show a teddy bear that had been altered by drug traffickers to house 11 bags of hallucinogenic mushrooms. The bear was recently seized by Florida investigators and submitted to crime lab technicians at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO). An examination of the stuffed animal revealed that a seam had been cut open and the bear was re-stuffed with the dried brown mushrooms. The Drug Enforcement Administration, which has shared the teddy

bear images with other law enforcement agencies, has noted, "This is the first instance of a controlled substance concealed in a teddy bear submitted to the PBSO Crime Laboratory." The cuddly teddy bear joins Mr. Potato Head, Tickle Me Elmo, and actual puppies as inventive vessels for illegal narcotics.

Scott Brown action figures hit Web



OXFORD, Conn., Feb. 2 (UPI) -- A Connecticut company said it is coming out with three new action figures modeled after U.S. Sen.-elect Scott Brown, R-Mass. The company, www.herobuilders.com, said the Scott Brown "Everyman" action figure comes outfitted with blue jeans, a T-shirt and tennis shoes, while the "2012 executive" figure is dressed for business and the "Cosmo man" version sports only a fig leaf, WCVB-TV, Boston, reported Tuesday. Brown, who was elected last month to finish the term of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., cultivated his

image as an Average Joe who drives a pickup truck. The company specializes in dolls modeled after public figures. Previous releases include former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, former Vice President Dick Cheney and various reality TV stars. [VIDEO](#)

Dog Shoots Hunter

LOS BANOS, Calif. (CBS) -- A hunter is recovering from non-life threatening injuries after being shot by his dog on Saturday. The Merced County Sheriff's Department said the 53-year-old man was hunting with a partner off Highway 152 near Los Banos when he set down his shotgun to retrieve his decoy ducks. The shotgun was loaded but the safety was on, according to authorities. The victim was about 15 yards away, retrieving his decoys, when his female black Labrador retriever stepped on the gun. Authorities said the dog disengaged the safety and hit the trigger at the



same time, firing a shell with #2 shot. The man was struck in on the left side of his upper back. The man was treated and released at the hospital the same day.

Mendham police charge teen with eating marijuana stash while being pulled over



NEW JERSEY -- A 19-year-old tried but couldn't quite get rid of his entire stash when Mendham Borough police stopped his car, police said. Ryan Koppersmith, of Long Hill, was pulled over for an obstructed rear-view mirror as he turned from Cold Hill Road onto Route 24 at 10:58 a.m. on Thursday, according to Detective Christopher Gobbi. Koppersmith did not pull over immediately and was observed fidgeting in the vehicle, Gobbi said. Patrolman Chris Hopf approached the vehicle and detected the odor of marijuana. Hopf, while speaking with the driver, also noticed that Koppersmith had marijuana stuck in his teeth and along his gums. "It was determined that he had eaten the marijuana," Gobbi said.

Koppersmith was charged with being under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of marijuana under 50 grams, possession of drug paraphernalia, hindering prosecution, obstructing administration of law, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle, obstructed view and failure to exhibit proper documents. He was released pending a court hearing.

Man injured after homemade backpack rocket for sledding explodes



A 62-year-old Independence Township man remained hospitalized Monday with injuries he sustained after authorities said a rocket-like backpack he rigged to power him on a sled exploded. Oakland County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a backyard sledding party in the 6000 block of Townview at 7:35 p.m. Sunday to aid the host, who had burns over 18% of his body, Undersheriff Mike McCabe said. "Apparently, he has this sledding party every year, and he always does outrageous things at it, but he's never blown himself up before," McCabe said Monday. The man had

been drinking before the accident, McCabe said. The man constructed the backpack from a used auto muffler, which he filled with gasoline and gunpowder, McCabe said. Wearing a motorcycle helmet, he got on an orange plastic sled. "He asked another person to light a wick and then began to sled down a hill. At some point during the ride, the device exploded," McCabe said. The man, whom McCabe would not identify, suffered second-degree burns to his face and right side of his body, and possible eye damage.

7-Year-Old Saves Older Brother After Ice Fall



New Jersey -- A 7-year-old New Jersey boy is being hailed as a hero after holding onto his older brother who had slipped through an icy canal in New Jersey, CBS station KYW-TV reports. Sage, 10, and Tristan, 7, were trying to boogie board on the ice of a frozen canal on Sunday when Sage fell through the ice. "My little brother just grabbed onto me and held on," Sage said. The siblings were alone in the water, but a resident's dog across the canal alerted his owner that something was amiss. "His eyes were so fixed ... and then all of a sudden I saw a red hat and there was movement to the hat,"

said Joanne Abbott, who called 911. The water was a frigid 36 degrees and Sage and Tristan held on for approximately five minutes. "His brother was in the water, head just above the ice. I was able to lean down and grab the young man and pull him out of the water," Officer John Oakes of the Margate City Police Department explained. Sage was taken to an area hospital for evaluation, but he was not seriously injured. [VIDEO](#).

Central Talent Booking