



HUMAN INTEREST

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Relentless woman fights for 14 cents owed



LIVERMORE, CA -- Janet Maitland is nothing if not a good telephone services consumer. Back about a decade ago, she got her long distance phone service through Costco. It was called TTI and it offered a smoking deal. "They offered a deal where it was 5.4 cents a minute and they broke it down into 6-second increments, so we are talking little tiny bills here. I've got one here that is for 2 cents," she said. She had put \$5 on account and nearly a decade later, she

still has 14 cents left. But then out of nowhere, that 14 cents disappeared. She called several times and was told the money would be sent or charged back to her credit card, or that the money would not be returned. "It is 14 cents, but it is my 14 cents, and they were after me for 2 cents. They sent me a bill for 2 cents, they expected their money," Maitland said. The customer service reps seemed to be getting fed up over these 14 cents. But eventually, one representative agreed to help. "He gave me his direct number, it was a chat line and no surprise, he wasn't there," she said. It turns out TTI is an obscure company in an obscure town. TTI was formerly known as MCI and is now a subsidiary of Verizon Business Global LLC, an obscure division of Verizon. "It appears Verizon took on a pre-existing condition," she said. ([Video](#))



Ayla Brown Rides Senator Dad's Coattails

Massachusetts -- The daughter of Scott Brown chose this week to release her CD. I wonder why. The New York Post says maybe that's what the Massachusetts senator meant when he announced to the world that his daughter was "available." The paper says Ayla Brown sounds a lot like she did when she was a fifth season "American Idol" contestant: "a good but undistinguished singer."

[Video](#)

8-year-old mentioned in Obama's speech wishes president had said his name



Louisiana -- At the end of his State of the Union Address Wednesday, President Barack Obama said that "what keeps me going" is the "fundamental decency that has always been at the core of the American people." It lives on," the president said, "in the 8-year-old boy in Louisiana, who just sent me his allowance and asked if I would give it the people of Haiti." The president did not identify the young man by name, but on Thursday the White House said it was Amirikis Smith, a third-grader at Red River Elementary School in Coushatta, where he lives with his grandparents, Vera and the Rev. Louis Smith Jr., who ministers at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in nearby Shreveport. How did Amirikis Smith end up being cited by the president in his address to Congress and the nation? "I watch the news all the time, I love the news," Amirikis said. But, obviously, sometimes what he sees on the news is disturbing. As he watched the coverage of the

earthquake in Haiti he saw "people were dying." With those images weighing heavy on his mind he went with his grandfather to get his hair cut at Rick's World of Hair -- "the only place I get my hair cut" -- and ran into Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover, also a Rick's regular. [\(Video\)](#)

WHAT THE CLUCK?



New York -- This guy was plain cuckoo. A bizarre video hit the Web on Wednesday of a man rolling around the floor of an uptown 6 train playing with a chicken. Yes, a chicken. As straphangers looked on in awe, a blogger named "Kylie" filmed the strange subway spectacle. The short but hilarious video was later posted to YouTube. The man - who wore a sweatshirt with an MTA logo on it - was lying on the floor of the subway car, beside a shopping cart filled with the trappings of a homeless person.

Holding the chicken above his chest, the weirdo repeatedly spun around the floor, hugging and embracing the feathered creature as if he was out of his mind. Kylie had this to say of the oddball's

antics: "He kept picking up the chicken, holding it over his head, kissing it, hugging it, and [doing] more inappropriate things that I will refrain from detailing," the blogger told the Web site Gawker. "In the simple words of my fellow passenger, Charlotte, 'That is straight-up chicken abuse!'" "It was truly an only-in-New-York event." [\(Video\)](#)

Organic Dog Armor



This battle-ready Beagle looks like he could defend against any attacker.. He is really just posing in the latest creation from a small but growing group of dedicated and very artistic individuals who are embracing the art form of organic pet armor. Deep in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Asheville, North Carolina, Paul Hersey and Jennifer Murphy are creating interesting works of art for humans and their pets. Since 2006, Paul Hersey has been involved in an artistic career with a very narrow focus: Organic armor for dogs and people. The armor suits for the dogs began with a request for Paul to create a piece for a Los Angeles art gallery show in 2006, with a theme of "Dog is Love".

About the same time, the couple's young son developed a love for the Pug breed of dog, and the couple met a woman who ran a Pug rescue organization. To bring attention for the need of a rescue of this breed of dog, Paul made a couple of costumes for the dogs and they were featured on Gizmodo, and became a viral internet success. Now the couple creates and supplies artistic creations for a wide variety of customers wanting dog and human armor suits from all over the globe. The dog armor ranges in price from \$350-\$700, depending on the size of the dog and the complexity of the armor.

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