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Flock of black vultures vexes Virginia woman

RIDGEWAY, Va. — The birds are watching Nancy Cox, waiting on her lawn and slowly chewing their way inside her Ridgeway home. After a flock of almost 200 black vultures moved to Ridgeway this fall, Cox has had a steady stream of 30-35 large, hostile, hungry visitors each day. "I can't even sit down to eat at the table," she said. "The vultures watch me through the window and fly into the doors trying to get into the house." Cox has the only home in her neighborhood with rubber roofing. But she may not have it much longer. The vultures are steadily ingesting the rubber, leaving Cox with a leaky roof and shaky nerves. According to Scott Barras, state director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services Program, black vulture infestations are a common problem in Virginia. He said the vultures often damage property because they enjoy picking on rubber, although no one is sure why. They damage roofs by pulling off corners of shingles, and they chew off the rubber seals around exhaust pipes, Barras said. He added that they often pull the rubber blades off windshield wipers while damaging a vehicle's paint with their large talons.

80-year-old magician still up to his old tricks

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. - These days, the ultimate magic trick for 80-year-old magician Dick DeYoung is figuring out how he's going to load his 14-foot trailer with the fake flowers, wands and oversize contraptions used in his magic show. As the octogenarian admitted while preparing for his sold-out performance recently at Oostburg High School, he's just not as strong as he used to be. But when the curtains parted and the Sheboygan Falls native took the stage, the man affectionately known as "Grandpa Wizard" by his family still felt like the teenage boy who discovered magic all those years ago. That's why DeYoung has no intention of hanging up his wand. "If my wife had her way, I'd have been retired 20 years ago," said DeYoung, who now lives in the Town of Lima. "But I'm not ready to retire yet. People still seem to enjoy it." Based on the applause and smiles from the 230 people at the performance in Oostburg -- which capped his 60th year as a professional magician -- the old man's still got it. Wearing a red suit and gold medallion around his neck, DeYoung warmed up the crowd by making a pair of birds disappear. Then he moved on to more elaborate illusions, including one where he appeared to saw off an assistant's leg. Fellow magician Jon Hughett, 52, of Milwaukee, who attended the Oostburg show, said DeYoung is among a handful of magicians still performing well into their golden years.



Iowa Man Spells Out Wife's Birthday Message in Manure



ZWINGLE, Iowa - Ask this Iowa wife if she got the perfect birthday present and she'll tell you her hubby "dung good. Carole and Dick Kleis live together on their eastern Iowa farm. This year for her birthday, Dick used more than 120,000 pounds of manure to spell out a special message. It basically says 'Happy Birthday, Love You,' but in shorthand. And it only took three hours to spell it all out in a stinky, but mushy way. "It's not hard," said Kleis. "Any manure will work but the good, soft, gushy, warm stuff works the best. It kind of melts the snow." Carole say Dick's birthday is in May and she's already thinking of ways to beat out his gift. Click [HERE](#) to see what it looked like.

World's First Sex Robot Can Do More Than Chat

LAS VEGAS — A New Jersey company says it has developed "the world's first sex robot," a life-size rubber doll that's designed to engage the owner with conversation rather than lifelike movement. At a demonstration at the Adult Entertainment Expo in Las Vegas on Saturday, the dark-haired, negligee-clad robot said "I love holding hands with you" when it sensed that its creator touched its hand. Another action, this one unprintable, elicited a different vocal response from Roxxy the robot. The level of sophistication demonstrated was not beyond that of a child's talking toy, but Roxxy has a lot more brains than that – there's a laptop connected to cables



coming out of its back. It has touch sensors at strategic locations and can sense when it's being moved. But it can't move on its own, not even to turn its head or move its lips. The sound comes out of an internal loudspeaker. Douglas Hines, founder of Lincoln Park, N.J.-based True Companion LLC, said Roxxy can carry on simple conversations. The real aim, he said, is to make the doll someone the owner can talk to and relate to. "Sex only goes so far – then you want to be able to talk to the person," Hines said. The phrases that were demonstrated were prerecorded, but the robot will also be able to synthesize phrases out of prerecorded words and sounds, Hines said. The laptop will receive updates over the Internet to expand the robot's capabilities and vocabulary. Since Hines is a soccer fan, it can already discuss Manchester United, he said. It snores, too. ([Company Site](#))

No Pants Day on NYC's trains and subways



New York -- Drawers and jaws were dropping all over town Sunday, just as fast as the bitter winter temperatures. It was the ninth annual No-Pants Day on the city subway and practical jokers of all shapes, sizes, and underwear types joined in the gag. Passengers who didn't know about the tradition were stunned. Some giggled and others stared. "I thought something was up when I saw a Speedo on the platform," said Sandi Rabinowitz, 63, riding uptown on the 6 train. "It makes people laugh it's good. That's it. I'm taking my bra off!" The crowds of mostly young people met at Foley Square and at other points in Queens and Brooklyn Sunday afternoon, organized by a group called y Improv Everywhere. In small groups they began taking their pants off, until pant-less riders outnumbered shocked riders in some cars. "I want to take a picture of you, but my boyfriend would kill me if he finds a photo of you here," said Amy Ragone, 33, staring at Jonathan Sanders, a 24-year-old Staten Island man wearing a t-shirt, light sweater and black tighties. "I woke up this morning and sensed it was going to be a good day for not wearing pants," Sanders offered. "Hey, I look good like this." ([Watch Video](#))

The oldest dog in the world ... unofficially anyway



Uno walks over to his water bowl, sniffs, and decides the contents are not up to his standards. He turns and walks away. "It doesn't make any difference how thirsty he is. If the water isn't fresh, he's not drinking it," Sherman Oaks optometrist Norm Steinberg says. "Same with his food. Uno's very picky. He's a real 'alta cocker.' It's a Jewish term for old man," he laughs. The moniker fits on a couple of levels. Uno's a cocker spaniel and, according to Steinberg, just turned 22 New Year's Day. That puts him around 110 in human years. Hell, I'd be picky, too. And cranky. "Uno's an amazing dog," says Robert

Clipsham, veterinarian at the Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group.

"I would not have predicted him doing this well this long. He has his share of geriatric age problems, but for a guy pushing 110, he's phenomenal." Steinberg adopted Uno in 1990 from two women in Valencia who were opening a day care center and could only keep a few dogs. They told him Uno had been born on Jan. 1, 1988. Which is why when Steinberg, and his girlfriend Cherie Gigliotti saw on the "Today" show last year a Dachshund mix dog named Chanel going into the 2010 Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest living dog in the world at 21, they did a double take. They had the oldest living dog in the world lying at their feet right now dining on a chicken breast and some fresh ground turkey. LISTEN to story on NPR [HERE](#)

