



HUMAN INTEREST

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Pilot duct tapes bear-shredded plane and flies home



An Alaskan pilot learned a valuable lesson recently while stopped at a hunting lodge in the backcountry: duct tape can fix practically anything, including severe damage to a plane from a hungry bear. While this story was deemed a myth after circulating on Internet message boards for months, AlaskaDispatch.com confirms: it really happened, though some reported details of the story — like fish left in the plane — are inaccurate. Bush pilot Luke Miller, 28, stopped over at a friend's hunting lodge in Southwest Alaska in September 2009 to take shelter during a storm. The lodge owner, hunting guide Gary LaRose, had recently had a few run-ins with a bear intent on stealing some moose meat

from a shed, but had cleaned and bleached the space to avoid additional problems. But that didn't stop the bear from coming back for more. After tearing a window out of the shed and finding it moose-free, the bear apparently decided to give Miller's plane a shot. LaRose discovered the damage in the morning.

The Plane before:



7-year-old raises \$220,000 for victims of Haiti earthquake



UK -- He's no Wyclef Jean or George Clooney, but that hasn't stopped the British 7-year-old from raising more than £136,000 (\$220,000) for victims of the Haiti earthquake. Simpson, who's from Fulham, West London, started out hoping to raise just £500 -- around \$800 -- for UNICEF's earthquake appeal by cycling five miles around a local park. "My name is Charlie Simpson. I want to do a sponsored bike ride for Haiti because there was a big earthquake and loads of people have lost their lives," said Simpson on his JustGiving page, a fundraising

site which launched his efforts. And with that simple call, messages of support flooded the site. Even British Prime Minister Gordon Brown helped to spread the message. His "Downing Street" Twitter alias said, "Amazed by response to the great fundraising efforts of 7 yr old Charlie Simpson for the people of Haiti." Money raised by Simpson will go towards UNICEF's Haiti Earthquake Children's Appeal, which provides water, sanitation, education and nutrition as well as supporting child protection. [Watch Video](#)

Wisconsin inmate loses Dungeons and Dragons fight



MADISON, Wis. - A man serving life in prison for first-degree intentional homicide has lost his legal battle to play Dungeons and Dragons behind bars. Kevin T. Singer filed a lawsuit against officials at Wisconsin's Waupun prison after a policy was initiated in 2004 to eradicate all Dungeons and Dragons game materials among concerns that playing it promotes gang-related activity. The 33-year-old Singer is a devoted player of the fantasy role-playing game that involves recruiting others to play as a group. He argued that his First Amendment rights were being violated and demanded that Dungeons and Dragons material confiscated from his cell be returned. But the 7th U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday that the prison's policy was reasonable.

Coach Makes Miracle Shot



OLATHE, Kan. - He shoots, he scores. Sort of. Olathe Northwest girls basketball coach and science teacher, Joel Branstrom, was slated to be the center of a school joke, until he did the impossible and stunned the entire student body. In an attempt to spoof College Humor's Prank Wars Half Court Million Dollar Shot, the school told Branstrom if he made a half-court shot while blindfolded, he would win NCAA tickets. However, the school never had NCAA tickets to give him, as they never expected him to make the shot. Not only did he make it, he sunk it. Nothing but net, baby. "I really thought it was going to be pie in the face, especially when they put me in a jersey and covered my hair up, I thought I was going to get hit in the face," Coach Branstrom told FOX 4 News. "I probably didn't really know I made it for about a minute." The student body was told to cheer when Branstrom missed the shot. When he made it, the students were momentarily dumbfounded. Now, the school is scrambling to find someone to donate NCAA tickets for the coach who turned the joke on them. [Watch Video](#)

After Tear, Picasso Value Halved



New York -- Following yesterday's news that a woman in an adult education class tore a 6-inch hole in a Picasso painting (whoops!), the [NY Times](#) has some details on what the consequences are for a clumsy catastrophe like that. The painting, Picasso's 1904/05 work titled "The Actor," is currently being mended in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's conservation lab, where they are hopeful the repair will be "unobtrusive." They are reportedly keeping pretty mum and still deciding on the best effective treatment. In a statement, however, they said: "The painting will be displayed, as planned, in the forthcoming exhibition Picasso in The Metropolitan Museum of Art—among some 250 works by Picasso drawn from the Museum's collection—that will be on view from April 27 through August 1, 2010." Meanwhile, one appraiser told the Post that the value of the painting is likely half of what it was prior to the accident—bringing it down to about \$65 million. He said, "When an artwork comes up in auction, that's the first thing people want to know—

were there any repaints or restorations. Even a small hole and Picasso collectors like [Steven] Spielberg are not going to be interested."

Ralph Bustrum is one of the oldest Boy Scouts



BELLFLOWER - When Ralph Bustrum joined the Boy Scouts 75 years ago, he didn't envision a lifelong commitment to the organization. He just wanted to climb a mountain. "I was 12, and our troop leader had a goal to climb Mt. Whitney," Bustrum said. "And I thought, 'Gee whiz! If we can do that, we can do anything!'" The Long Beach/Bellflower area Boy Scout troop spent the next two years practicing in the San Gabriel Mountains. And in 1937, they climbed Mt. Whitney. Inspired by the feat, Bustrum has remained a Boy Scout for the last seven decades. He rose to the rank of Eagle Scout and earned awards including a Scoutmaster's Key, a Bronze Palm and the Silver

Beaver for outstanding longtime service to youth. These days, the 87-year-old stays active in the organization and is an honorary member of the Long Beach Area Council. "They say I'm the oldest Boy Scout around," he said with a chuckle. On Saturday, the 85-year Bellflower resident and former City Planning Commissioner was given a special award from the city and the Boy Scouts of America for his 75 years of service.

Central Talent Booking