



## HUMAN INTEREST

Friday, March 19, 2010

### Skateboarding owl is a hit



Kent, UK -- Alby the owl loves to ride. But contrary to expectation Alby is no night rider - instead he displays his wheely good skills in front of stunned shoppers in Folkestone, Kent. Brian Maxted, 73, who runs Folkestone Owl Sanctuary, said he discovered Alby's unusual talent during a trip to the local shopping centre. He said: "I often take some owls into town to try and get some donations from shoppers. "I had the owls out one day last week and a young lad stopped to look at them. "He put down his skateboard and Alby, who'd been fast asleep, saw it and

jumped on. "Someone pulled it along the ground and he loved it so much, we had to get him one of his own." Alby, who is 13, has now developed his technique, which involves him swooping onto the board, using the momentum from his flight to push him along. When the board comes to a stop, Alby takes off and flies in a small circle before re-landing on the board, pushing it along again. Student Paul Lendon, 17, from Folkestone said: "I was stunned when I saw him riding along on his miniature board. "I'm aware of the famous skateboarder Tony Hawk, but I've never before heard of Tony Owl."

### And for more weird animal stories, enjoy this surfing alpaca



[\(Video Here\)](#)

### Nude Gardener Irks Neighbors

Boulder, Colorado -- One can understand wanting to get a little sun when you're working in the yard, but this may be taking too far. [The Boulder Daily Camera](#) says a Colorado couple has irked passers-by with their insistence on gardening in thongs. Police were called with complaints that a 52-year-old

woman was wearing only a “yellow thong and pink gloves” while tending to her plants. The couple are nudists and have a notice posted on their door that reads: “This is a naturalist household,” the note reads. “Except (sic) it when the door opens; if you can not accept this then please go away.” City officials have been working on a rule to ban public nudity and say they’re hurrying to finish up before the weather gets any warmer.

### **Out-of-control hugging leads to ban at Portland's West Sylvan Middle School**



Portland, OR -- The hugs were out of control at West Sylvan Middle School. Students could not pass each other in the hallway without a hug, the principal said. The girls were hugging one another all the time. Kids were late to class because of the hugs. Classes would end, middle schoolers would eye a classmate at the other end of the hallway, "they'd scream, run down the hallway and jump in each other's arms," Principal Allison Couch said. It was, Couch said, a virus of hugs. So the principal banned hugs on the school campus in late February. The campus of nearly 600 seventh- and eighth-graders joined a growing list of schools nationwide that have halted hugs as well as other behaviors deemed detrimental to teaching and learning. Couch said she was prompted to act in part because of a school bus incident that drew police. Though

she would not describe what happened, she said no students had been harmed. Also, it appeared to her that some students were hugging others who did not want the sign of affection. In a March 10 memo written to other school district officials, Couch wrote, "Several parents have called because their child is being hugged, and because there is a 'culture of hugging' here they didn't feel that they could say no." In at least one case, hugging was used as a form of mockery -- when two eighth-grade girls hugged a seventh-grade boy, she said. "They did that to be mean," Couch said the boy told her later. "They don't like me. They did that to be mean." ([Read Full Story](#))

### **Man arrested for hitting door with hoe**



ST. LUCIE, Fla. -- Florida authorities said an 80-year-old man was arrested for attacking his neighbors' door with a garden hoe because he thought they stole his cookies. The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office said the St. Lucie residents called 911 Sunday and reported they were awakened by a "loud banging at the door" that turned out to be neighbor Gene Edward Chambers hitting the door with a garden hoe, TCPalm.com reported Thursday. Chambers told a deputy who arrived at the scene that he first knocked on the door then fetched the garden hoe when there was no answer. He accused his neighbors of sneaking into his house during the night and stealing seven boxes of "Little Debbie Oatmeal Cookies." A

deputy who searched Chambers' home for signs of theft found five boxes of the snacks and a Walmart receipt from the previous day confirming he had purchased five boxes. "Chambers was mistaken thinking he had bought seven boxes," deputies wrote in a report. Chambers was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief. The neighbors' door, which deputies valued at \$200, was "damaged beyond repair," the report said.