



HUMAN INTEREST

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Pilot hits his own house with plane



MONTREAL - The pilot of a small ultra-light plane hit his own house after it crashed Tuesday afternoon near Chertsey, north of Montreal. The plane's 53-year-old male pilot did suffer minor injuries, mostly from flying glass, authorities said. The man's 17-year-old son, who was a passenger on the aircraft, was not hurt at all. The accident was caused by a faulty maneuver on take-off, SQ spokesperson Benoît Richard stated. Police were continuing to investigate if the plane crashed directly into the house or if it ended up hitting it after landing. Witnesses said there was no one in the house at the time and the house was owned by the pilot himself.

Shamrocks on S.I. Ferry Raise Ruckus Instead of Morale

STATEN ISLAND - Jared Largo wanted to spread a little St. Patrick's Day cheer. A mate on the Staten



Island ferry who sometimes steers the boat, Mr. Largo stamped shamrocks around the ferry's pilothouse, marking the poles and ceiling with black copies of the Irish symbol. Mr. Largo, 32, a half-Irish son of Brooklyn, said he thought the shamrocks might lift morale. "I looked at it as the same thing as Christmas decorations," he said. He quickly realized, however, that his supervisors were not entertained. Friends began calling, saying bosses were asking about who had stamped the cabin. "The one that got me in trouble was the one by the time clock," he said. Mr. Largo

went to see his supervisors. They showed him a video of him sipping a cup of coffee, taking the stamp out of his pocket, stamping, and then taking another sip of coffee. "I kind of had to have my hat in my hand," he said, "because I saw they were taking it very seriously." Mr. Largo volunteered to bring in a ShamWow (what could be better for removing stubborn shamrock stains?) and sandpaper to clean up the damage. He said his plan all along had been to clean off the stamps after the holiday. But the stampings were considered vandalism. Mr. Largo was ordered to appear before an internal Department of Transportation judge, he said. The morning of his court date, he grabbed a hunter green pair of shoes, thinking they were black. "The judge was like, 'What, you think you're funny, wearing green shoes here?'" he said. ([Full Story](#))

Barack Obama look-alike in demand in Asia



JAKARTA - Striding purposefully, his smile lighting up a rainy afternoon, Barack Obama appears to have arrived here early to tour an elementary school he attended as a boy. But wait. It's not him. The U.S. president is still back in Washington shepherding his healthcare bill toward passage. He's not due to arrive in Indonesia until next week. So who is *this* guy? He's Ilham Anas, a 34-year-old teen-magazine photographer who has parlayed a striking resemblance to the American president into his own brand of celebrity. Since his sister told him in 2007 that he looked like the then-presidential candidate, Anas' face and megawatt smile have been seen on Southeast Asian TV and the Internet, pitching over-the-counter medicine and other products. He has also appeared on his nation's premier television talk show and had a cameo in a movie, all while fielding offers from marketers across Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. Anas is the first to admit it: He's an impostor, a walking mannequin out of Madame Tussauds. But he'll also tell you this: He's in incredible demand. "I've got so

much work I can't handle it all," he says. He's even penned an autobiography, "Because of Obama." The jacket review says Anas' resemblance to the president has "turned his life around 180 degrees." But it hasn't been easy. When his sister first commented on the resemblance, Anas says, he dismissed her with a wave of his hand. "I was in denial," he recalls. "I said: 'Nah. I don't care.'" Then a colleague at the magazine where he works asked him to pose as Obama in front of an American flag. At first he refused. "I told him that I'm a photographer, not an object for the camera," he says. As soon as he relented, his career took off. ([Full Story](#))

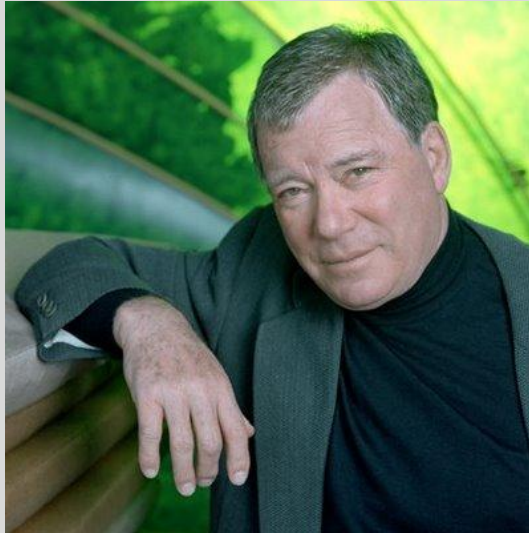
Helicopter rescues horse stranded on Ariz. Sandbar



PHOENIX -- It's not every day you see a horse fly. But with the greatest of ease, a heavy-duty helicopter plucked a mustang named Colorado off a western Arizona river sandbar Tuesday morning, reuniting him with his owner. Colorado spent five days stranded on the sandbar along the Gila River about 36 miles southwest of Phoenix. The Gila's swift-moving current prevented an earlier rescue and the horse was trapped on the sandbar with a few bushes and trees to munch on. His rider was one of three people rescued after they tried to

ride in the river Friday. A veterinarian prepped the 900-pound horse for the flight Tuesday by injecting him with a tranquilizer before placing him in a harness with blinders on. Once he was airborne, Colorado flew effortlessly and never bucked, his black mane and tail blowing in the wind. As the helicopter gently let Colorado down, the horse's back legs buckled a bit before he straightened up. Colorado's owner Vickie Eshenbaugh and volunteers were there to greet the flying mustang's aerial arrival about a half mile from where he was stranded. "He's doing good," Eshenbaugh told KTVK-TV in Phoenix. "I always wanted a Pegasus." Veterinarian Dr. Julie Lewis of the Southwest Equine Medical and Surgical Center in Phoenix said Colorado was well-behaved during the flight despite the loud noise from the helicopter. "He did great. He stood quiet the whole time. Flew quiet. I didn't see him spinning," Lewis said. Anonymous donors paid for the rescue. ([VIDEO](#))

William Shatner Has a Social Network: MyOuterSpace.com



LOS ANGELES - MyOuterSpace.com is a Sci Fi Social Network for those with a passion for the arts," reads William Shatner's new social network. That's right, William Shatner is now competing with Facebook. The MyOuterSpace.com site targets science fiction, horror and fantasy fans seeking a career in the science fiction industry. It launched Friday with a mission statement by Shatner himself, which to the outsider is equal parts description and confusion: "Register on the planet that hosts your talent, fill out a profile and connect with others in your field. Submit your resume for a Starship project that needs your talents. Whether you are an actor, writer, animator or gamer MyOuterSpace.com has a home for you." Planets and starships? Here's the scoop: The network is divided into 12 categories. Those designated as Planets represent the entertainment arts: There's one for designers and animators called Anteros,

for example, and another for writers and directors called Creatia. The six Starships are virtual production companies, each with a project being made into a film, stage or animated production, explains Shatner on the site. And MyOuterSpace.com implies that these six main projects will ultimately be curated by Shatner himself. "I will be monitoring all Starship projects, and reviewing each Captain's Log, where progress will be recorded each step of the way," Shatner explains on the home page. Shatner mentioned the site first on his Twitter feed Thursday, when the actor explained "you are now the FIRST to hear of the new social network for aspiring filmmakers, design and game artists: MYOUTERSPACE.com! My best, Bill." Even if you're not interested in science fiction or looking for a career in the creative arts, take a minute to watch the video explanation that Shatner has posted. As the actor hovers in outerspace in a red Chevrolet space ship, he hams it up for the audience as only he can. Priceless.

Montana man spends 4 days stuck in car in snowbank



HELENA, Mont. — A 67-year-old country musician from Montana who spent four days in his car stuck on a remote mountain road said he wrote a goodbye letter and was preparing himself for death when he was rescued. "I thought before I lose my bearings or start hallucinating, I'm going to write my last letter and tell my last goodbyes to my friends and relations," Louis Rogers, of Lakeside, said Tuesday, two days after his rescue. "I told them to have faith in the Lord and don't go cracking up because we are going to see each other again." Rogers — who has played guitar for big names in the country music business, including Merle Haggard and George Jones — left northwestern Montana's Flathead region Thursday to make a trip to Calder, Idaho. He decided to take the remote Gold Creek Road across the Bitterroot Mountains, a route he had taken several times before and which he knew could shave more than an hour off the trip. After about nine miles and with dusk setting in, the road got too snowy for Rogers' 1996 Cadillac STS, which was loaded with musical equipment, so he decided to turn around — and got stuck in

a snowbank. He checked his cell phone — no service. "That is very rough country up there. There's nothing but big, steep mountains all around you," he said. Rogers has health issues, including diabetes, liver troubles and a history of heart problems, so he decided to wait for help. He melted snow

to drink and occasionally turned the car on to run the heater at night. He slept very little the first night. On Friday morning, Rogers said he looked out the window and saw a silver wolf staring back at him 100 yards away. The wolf moved to within 75 yards of him before bounding down the mountainside. Other than the wolf, he didn't see another living soul. Rogers said he spent his time praying and thinking about the mistakes he'd made in his life, but his thoughts kept going back to the wolf. "The Indians say if a man ever gets in trouble, that is your guardian angel and he's there to make sure he watches you until you get out of danger," he said. ([Full Story](#))