

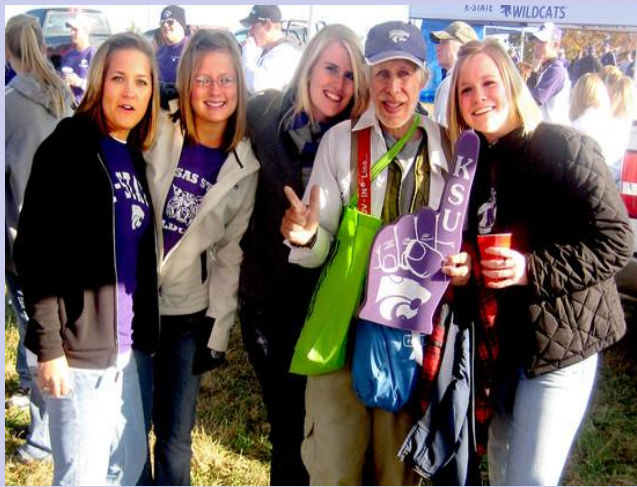


## Human Interest

Central Talent Book

Monday, November 16, 2009

### Wild Turkey Plays Chicken in Traffic



LEESBURG, Va. - Something's gone fowl on the streets of Loudoun County, Virginia. A wild turkey has reportedly been on the attack in Leesburg along Route 7, playing chicken in the traffic and chasing cars. Animal control officers and sheriff's deputies have been trying to keep the turkey off the road, to the amusement of passersby who get out of their cars to take pictures and laugh. Animal control officer Virginia Newsome first spotted it pecking on the door of a sheriff's deputy, looking through the window of his vehicle. The turkey has a fascination with trucks, and jumped on top of one. The officers used the truck as

bait to get the turkey to walk down Janelia Farm Boulevard to a field near a flock of turkeys. But they say he seems to really like Route 7, and they won't be surprised to see him back there again. They've named the turkey, by the way. They're calling him Tom. ([Watch Video](#))

### This Poor Fan Never Misses a Kansas State Game



MANHATTAN, Kan. -- Robert Lipson may well be one of the most loyal college football fans in the land. He has attended every home game of the Kansas State University Wildcats since 1972, and every road game in the team's conference since 1973. "I've got all 141 ticket [stubs] in exact order in my safe-deposit box," he says. He'll be at the University of Missouri Tigers game here on Saturday. His isn't the most prolific attendance record in college football: Giles Pellerin, for example, saw 797 consecutive USC Trojan games from 1926 until he died

in the parking lot of a game in 1998 at age 91. But followers of college football say the 59-year-old Mr. Lipson stands out for a couple of reasons. First, he spends hours before and after the

games schmoozing with other fans. Each season he publishes the exact sequence of tailgaters he will be visiting at home games on the Web site [GoPowercat.com](http://GoPowercat.com). "Please do not motion me from a distance away to visit your tailgate immediately," Mr. Lipson advised in this year's posting. "I cannot skip rows or tailgates within a row." And his Wildcats had one of the most atrocious records in college football. During the first 18 years of Mr. Lipson's streak, the Wildcats won just 47 games while losing 149 -- and during three straight years went without a conference win. By 1989, K-State was statistically the worst team in NCAA Division 1 football. "I did this because they needed the fans to help them," Mr. Lipson says. Mr. Lipson stopped first at the sports booth of KMAN radio. "Do you know I was 2 years old when you started doing this?," said Matt Walters, a show host. "I wish you had been 22," Mr. Lipson replied. "We could have hung out." The 5-foot, 6-inch Mr. Lipson -- who has never played on a football team -- grew up in Sullivan County, N.Y., enrolling in K-State in 1970 to study biology. He dropped out in 1974, going on to make a living as a salesman for advertising specialties and promotional products. By then he was well on his way to his real calling: becoming the football team's No. 1 fan." It started when I decided to travel to all the conference games to see the other stadiums, and just went from there," he says. At first, being a true fan was a lonely job. Between 1975 and 1977, the 'Cats went 0-21 in Big 8 Conference play. "I took more satisfaction from adding to my streak than watching the games," he says. The Wildcats are now part of the Big 12. Decades later, Mr. Lipson has become a K-State institution. ([Full Article](#))

### In Prison, Playing Just to Kill Time and Just Maybe to Help Solve a Murder



COLUMBIA, S.C.- A form of gin rummy breaks out in the courtyard of the Campbell Pre-Release Center as the inmates, Mark and Mario, toss their unwanted cards into the discard pile. But from deuce to ace, nearly every card is a face card, looking up in silent appeal. The cards ask: Do you know who killed me? And they ask: Do you know where I am? And they ask: Do you know something? Anything? The South Carolina Department of Corrections started selling these decks in its prison

canteens for \$1.72 about a year ago; since then, inmates have bought more than 10,000 packs. Each card asks that you please call 888-CRIME-SC if you have any information about a case; each card also whispers, "Call \*49," an anonymous prison hot line. Another discard spins into view: Brian Lucas, 29, forever smiling on the ace of spades. He was one of four people shot to death in an isolated motorsports shop outside Spartanburg on Nov. 6, 2003. My case is unsolved, his card says. Please call. Brian Lucas's father, Tom Lucas, is the one who decided that his son would be the ace of spades, and that the three killed with him would also be aces. In the midst of their frustration, Mr. Lucas learned of a company called Effective Playing Cards and Publications, which had produced "unsolved" playing cards that were being circulated in the state prisons of Florida, as well as in county jails in several other states. And he thought: Why not cards for unsolved South Carolina cases — like my son's? Backed by the Crime Stoppers, Mr. Lucas met with Gov. Mark Sanford, collaborated with law enforcement officials, designed the cards and raised the money. He also worked closely with corrections officials to have the cards sold in the state's 28 prisons, as well as in many county jails. "There's a lot of information inside a prison," Mr. Lucas says. He pressed police officials to choose the cases they wanted to include, and accommodated families whenever possible. When they first appeared a year ago to replace another brand of playing cards, they prompted several altercations. Inmates kept interrupting games by picking up a card in play to take a closer look. The dead and the missing are known here. "I remember she was quiet," one inmate says of the three of diamonds. Says another of the

five of diamonds: "People say he got what he had coming." The "unsolved" decks, long since stripped of any reverence, are now part of the everyday prison culture here. Inmates say that the cards are too expensive, that the cards are not as sturdy as those they replaced, that sometimes a card is just a card. ([Full Article](#)) ([Card Website](#))

### First men to row more than 6,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean



SAN FRANCISCO- Two British rowers who set out from Japan on May 8, 2009 to be the first to row more than 6,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean, have just rowed under the Golden Gate Bridge and into the record books. They were greeted by a flotilla of boats, helicopters and well-wishers as they rowed under the bridge shortly before 8:30 a.m. Friday morning. The two rowers, Mick Dawson and Chris Martin, battled 60 foot waves, electrical and mechanical problems and nearly capsized at least once on the epic 6,000+ mile long journey they called Golden Gate Endeavour. The two rowed in shifts; two hours on and two hours off, 24 hours a day

in a specially designed rowboat they named Bojangles. There is a reunion with family and friends planned at San Francisco's Golden Gate Yacht Club where presumably someone will provide a hot, home-cooked meal--their first in six months. ([Website](#)) ([Photos and Video](#))

### Help wanted: a government dog-sledder

ANCHORAGE- The federal a one-of-a-kind job running kennels in Denali National Park in Alaska. In aren't many jobs with a steady mushers live off the bounty of their skills and marketing savvy. Within a employs 19.7 million people, there is mushing job. And it's open. The for a new kennels manager at Denali job that in addition to running Denali's mushing into one of America's great range -- between \$33,477 and generous cost-of-living adjustment -- earn in a race season. As part of the there's more to it than mushing and caring for dogs. "Our candidate must be a strong leader with supervisory skills and will be relied upon to provide all manner of services as a park ranger -- from rescuing visitors and patrolling the park wilderness to presenting educational programs and community outreach," Philip Hooge, Denali's deputy superintendent, said in a news release. Karen Fortier, a Connecticut native who held the post for nearly 10 years, calls it "a great job." It changes markedly depending on the season.



government has an opening for and mushing into the wilderness the world of dog mushing, there paycheck. Professional race earnings, dog-breeding federal government that one -- exactly one -- dog-National Park Service is looking National Park and Preserve, a 31-animal dog kennel includes swaths of wilderness. The pay \$66,542 a year, plus a is more than many mushers federal bureaucracy, though,

### Man cited in downtown Giraffe gaffe



ASHLAND- 24-year-old 'enamored' of stuffed animal, police said. A giraffe spent Friday morning at the Ashland Police Department, after an officer rescued it from the clutches of a drunken man who was trying to take it home. The 4-foot stuffed giraffe, located outside the downtown children's store Bug A Boo, was a tempting target for Ashland resident Sean Patrick McDowell, 24, who is accused of having twice tried to steal the animal early Friday, police said. "He was apparently pretty enamored with it and decided he was taking it home," said Sgt. Bob Smith with the Ashland Police Department. McDowell was cited for theft after his second encounter with the giraffe, according to police. At about 1 a.m., Officer Theron Hull observed McDowell pick up the giraffe and simulate making sexual advances on it, Smith said. "Then he turns and

sees Officer Hull and so he puts the giraffe down and walks away," he said. Later, at about 2:30 a.m., just after the downtown bars had closed for the night, McDowell returned to the Bug A Boo storefront and again picked up the giraffe, Smith said. McDowell was walking with the giraffe toward a parking lot at Water and B streets when Hull apprehended him. "It took a little more alcohol, but about an hour-and-a-half later, he decided to try it again," Smith said. "Maybe he had struck out with all the women at the bar and this giraffe was looking pretty good, so he said, 'I'm going to take it back to my own place,'" he joked. Police returned the giraffe to Bug A Boo Friday morning.

#### **House Cat Terrorizes Family In Dramatic Hostage Situation**



NEW YORK- A Midtown family was held hostage by its pet cat until rescue workers were able to trap the feline yesterday afternoon. It all started at around 3 pm, when Carmen — a 16-pound Russian blue with diabetes and a thyroid condition — turned on her owners, Rosa Davila and her son Victor Marte, 27, the Post reports. According to Davila, the incident began when Carmen "started making strange noises" and launched herself at Marte. "I yelled, 'Carmen! Calm down!' I wanted her to jump off, but then she started attacking my son. I was in shock — I was very scared for my son," she told the paper. The mother and son tried to flee from the cat, but Carmen chased them, "hissing all the way." Marte managed to evade the cat and hide in a rear bedroom, leaving his mother alone with Carmen. Davila tried to push the cat into

a bathroom, but Carmen refused, so she ran to the bedroom, shut the door, and called 911. Rescue workers arrived at the apartment near the corner of 42nd Street and Dyer Avenue about 25 minutes later and used a stick to guide the cat into an animal carrier. Davila claims that Carmen began acting oddly months ago, when she started begging for food "every five minutes" and gaining weight. Since Davila cannot afford Carmen's costly diabetes treatment, the Manhattan Animal Care and Control Center will shelter the cat for ten days and might put her up for adoption depending on her health and behavior