

Monday, November 2, 2009

Man dressed as purple Teletubby wanted by police



LONDON, Ont. - An armed suspect dressed as an oversized purple Teletubby is wanted by police in London, Ontario in connection with a robbery on Halloween. A woman reports she was walking home alone just after midnight, when she was approached by a man dressed as a Teletubby, carrying a handgun. Police say he demanded money from the victim, then fled on foot with an amount of cash. No injuries are reported. The suspect is described as a 6 ft. 2 in. man weighing 200 to 240 pounds, with short dark hair, clean shaven, and a muscular build.

7-year-old girl delivers free lunches, care goods to homeless



ANNAPOLIS- Leah McConnell's brown-bag lunches aren't anything special, just a simple sandwich, snack and a drink. Neither are the plastic baggies she filled with snacks and items like socks and a toothbrush. It's the heart and compassion that the 7-year-old Davidsonville resident mixes in that make them stand out. Leah, a second-grader at Davidsonville Elementary School, has spent the past two years trying to help the homeless. She makes lunches for the Light House shelter in Annapolis and hands her "Treats to Streets" care packages to local people in need. "I am certainly impressed with her 'social awareness,'" Harry Cole, executive director of the Light House, wrote in an e-mail. "Showing compassion for people who are less fortunate and taking actions to help others is a lifelong skill that will take (her a) long way in life. I am very proud of her and wish that more adults would 'take cues' from Leah McConnell." Leah, who used to live in Annapolis, started her Treats to Streets initiative first. She got the idea after riding around the city and seeing homeless people. She said she thought about what it

must be like to be hungry and need help and decided to do something about it. Leah, the oldest of three children, worked with her mother, Anne McConnell, to develop the Treats to Streets idea. She gives away the Ziploc bags whenever she spots someone in need. She has also given the baggies to neighbors and friends so that they, too, could hand them out, and distributed them to

customers at her summer lemonade stand for the same purpose. "I feel it's just nice to do it," she said, smiling. "It's not bad (other children) don't do it. They (just) don't think of it." Her mother said she wasn't that surprised when her daughter approached her with the idea, and was happy to assist. "Kids are naturally curious and thoughtful," said Anne, a pediatric nurse practitioner. "I just thought it was something we could do as a family." Leah, who also sings, is a cheerleader and competes in pageants, said she wants to keep helping the homeless as long as possible. "I'm a very busy girl," she quipped with a chuckle. "Probably when I'm not doing (all) this, I'm sleeping!" Leah added to her activities late this summer by making lunches for the Light House. She delivers about 50 each month. "It's absolutely wonderful," said Lori Balzano, Leah's teacher. "I think she's very mature for her age. She has knowledge beyond her years and she's very kind to others. It reflects her parents." Holly Mallonee, operations managers and volunteer coordinator at the Light House, was equally impressed with Leah's efforts. She especially liked that her Treats to Streets bags contained items like socks, a welcome commodity. "There's a huge need," Mallonee said. "A lot of people think they should give toys for children, but socks are a great idea." Leah made her most recent lunch delivery to the Light House last week, but will be helping out again this weekend in a different capacity. She was selected to sing at the Bountiful Harvest Gala at Loews Annapolis Hotel, a fundraiser for the Light House. Leah will perform ABBA's "I Have a Dream." "We're very thrilled to have her singing," said Susan Walker, chair of the event. "It'll be powerful and compelling."

Meb Keflezighi caps stirring comeback by winning New York City Marathon for his adopted country



NEW YORK- In the final steps of his historic run, of the greatest day of his running life, Meb Keflezighi pointed to the red block letters on his singlet. The letters spelled USA. Keflezighi wanted to make sure everybody noticed them, as if there were any chance that they wouldn't. Keflezighi was not merely a few seconds from finishing the ING New York City Marathon Sunday, and becoming the first U.S. runner to win the race since Alberto Salazar in 1982. He was on the brink of

capping a stirring comeback from a bottom that had left him considering retirement, scoring his first marathon victory against a completely loaded field, remembering a fallen comrade as he went. "It's a special day," Keflezighi said. In the 40th running of the New York Marathon, there was a record 43,741 starters, and a transcendent story that belonged to the 34-year-old Keflezighi, who ran a personal-best time of two hours, nine minutes, 15 seconds, bolting away from four-time Boston winner, Robert Cheruiyot, in the hills of Central Park with two-plus miles to go. On a day in which the race also served as the U.S. Championship, it was fitting that six of the top finishers were Americans - the most in 30 years. In his last marathon here, the Olympic trials two years ago, Keflezighi was the favorite, but wound up eighth, a crushing disappointment on a day that produced infinitely worse news, when Ryan Shay, among the nation's top prospects, died from cardiac arrest during the race. When Keflezighi passed the spot where Shay was stricken Sunday, he crossed himself and thought of his friend. "I knew I was going to give all he had." Weeks after the trials, Keflezighi learned that he had run the race with a stress fracture in his hip. He spent most of the next 18 months underdoing grinding therapy, thinking more than once that his world-class days may be done. "It shows what a miracle this is," said his wife, Yordanos Asgedom, as she held their two young daughters near the finish line. "You visualize and you visualize, but when it hits home, it's pretty sweet," Meb Keflezighi said. "I can't put it into words." [\(Video\)](#)

[and Full Article\)](#)

City Attorney Demands Proof of Cocoa Krispies' Immunity-Boosting Claim



San Francisco -- Kellogg's just can't get a break. First, one pissed-off cereal consumer realizes that Froot Loops cereal contains no actual fruit and decides to sue for false advertising. Now Kellogg's is dealing with more false advertising claims, this time from San Francisco City Attorney, Dennis Herrera, who just announced that he has written a letter to the CEO of the cereal company demanding evidence that Cocoa Krispies really "helps support your child's immunity" as it purports to do on the front of the box. Herrera claims that the company is playing to the public's fears about the recent swine flu epidemic by insinuating that eating Cocoa Krispies is analogous to, say, getting a flu shot. "The immunity claims may also mislead parents into believing that serving this sugary cereal will actually boost their child's immunity, leaving less likely to take more productive steps to protect their children's health," reads Herrera's letter. Herrera's spokesman, Matt Dorsey told SF Weekly that although other cereals may make similar medicinal

claims, oftentimes those companies will include "language that adds 'truthiness,'" he said. "The content and prominence of the line 'now helps support your child's immunity' is a significant departure from normal marketing-speak." Kellogg's has not yet returned SF Weekly's calls. Cocoa Krispies' ingredients do not include flu vaccines (and the "immunity" cereal is 40 percent sugar by weight). Yet, according to Kellogg's Web site, the breakfast cereal is laden with high-fructose corn syrup, which is apparently very healthy -- if you believe corn syrup advertisements sponsored by corn farmers.

Woman Reports Herself Driving Drunk



WISCONSIN- Mary Strey called police in Clark County, Wisconsin to report a drunk driver. What made this call so unusual was that she was reporting on herself! "Somebody's really drunk driving down Granton Road," she told the 911 dispatcher. The dispatcher asked if the Strey was behind the drunk driver, to which she replied "No, I am them." The dispatcher asked, "Okay, so you're calling to report you're driving drunk?" "Yes," Strey said. Strey pulled over and waited for the responding officer, who gave her a Breathalyzer test which showed her blood alcohol level was .19. Strey is due in court over the matter in December. ([Watch Video](#))



NH Restaurant Sets Meatball Record

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - The bouncing mega-meatball record has landed in the East Coast. Matthew Mitnitsky, owner of Nonni's Italian Eatery in Concord, said Sunday that a 222.5-pound meatball was authenticated as the world's largest after being weighed by state weights and measures officials. A Guinness Book of World Records official confirmed

the big meatball as a record breaker and presented Mitnitsky with a plaque. The old record of 198.6 pounds was set just over a month ago after Los Angeles-based talk show host Jimmy Kimmel vowed to beat a record set in Mexico. That record - 109 pounds - was set in August. Mitnitsky said he got involved "to bring the meatball back to the East Coast because that's where it originated."

La-Z-Boy From DWI Case To Be Auctioned



DULUTH, Minn. -- A motorized La-Z-Boy used by a man who pleaded guilty to driving it drunk is going up for auction. But police said interested bidders need to keep it off the streets. The chair, powered by a lawnmower engine, comes equipped with a stereo, cup holders and lights. Police in Proctor, in northern Minnesota, are putting the seized chair up for auction on eBay on Thursday. The proceeds will go to the police, state and the prosecuting attorney. But Chief Walter Wobig cautions that the chair isn't "street legal," so any buyer should stick to the living room -- or at most a parade. The former owner, Dennis LeRoy

Anderson, pleaded guilty this month to operating the chair while intoxicated. His family is also auctioning on eBay an autographed photo of him riding the La-Z-Boy to help with his fees.

Central Talent Booking