



Wednesday, November 25, 2009



Dog in a BP shirt greets customers at Clearwater store

The sequence of events happens dozens of times every day at the BP gas station/convenience store at U.S. 19 at Nursery Road. An unsuspecting customer pulls up to the drive-through window. But instead of a store clerk, up pops two paws, deep brown eyes and the tongue-flapping grin of a happy chocolate Labrador retriever named Cody. Kids in the back seats of minivans often squeal with joy. Even the

usually stony faces of gruff construction worker-types can't help but crack a smile under the dog's unpretentious greeting. "He hears the bell and goes running. When he pops up, that sets it off,"



said Karim Mansour, the store's and dog's owner. "Uncontrollable giggling." The only thing that tops Cody's enthusiasm for a customer, is a customer who has a dog with him. It all started one day five months ago when Mansour decided to bring his dog to work. He didn't think much of it at the time — he just wanted to have his best friend with him while he worked the sometimes slow, and occasionally, dangerous, early morning shift. The dog was given free rein of the store, and as a joke, Mansour put a shirt with a BP logo

on the dog, and gave him a name tag. "While he's here, he's an employee. My rule is, 'all employees need to wear the shirt,'" Mansour said. Without trying, Cody, always eager to greet any friendly stranger, quickly became a celebrity among store regulars. "The first time I saw him, he had his tail just waggin' and waggin'," said Richard Mealey, who comes in a few times a week. "I love dogs. He's great." But the best part might be the double-takes the dog elicits at the drive-through window. "Oh, he's adorable," said customer Candy Thompson when greeted at the window by Cody. "Oh, he's such a big lover."

Lovers have sex in clock tower above Sydney

Australia -- The couple astonished onlookers by getting down to business on the roof of one of the city's landmarks in the middle of the afternoon. Crowds gathered at the foot of the building — a former department store converted into university accommodation — and at least one member of the public thought fit to capture their passions on camera. "A few other people had noticed as



well and when I started taking photos everyone in the area started to look up and point, laugh, grin," a witness told the Australian Daily Telegraph. "From the looks of it, the couple did seem to know they could be seen and seemed completely unfazed." Australian newspapers are now appealing for the couple to come forward. There is speculation that they were students staying in the building who decided to make love on the roof as a prank. The pictures above were taken at 3.30pm on Friday – as testified by the clock above the couple. The property on which they displayed their affection was constructed for the Grace Bros department store in 1923, and remains one of the most prominent buildings in the city.

Furry felons rob SAfrican tourists, steal food

CAPE TOWN, South Africa – Visitors to South Africa's premier holiday destination who are worried about becoming victims of the country's high crime rate could find themselves instead robbed by a more furry kind of felon: baboons. The cheeky primates have learned how to open car doors and jump through windows in pursuit of tasty sandwiches and snacks. City officials are battling to control the increasingly aggressive troupes and there are fears the problem will only worsen with the influx of visitors to Cape Town during the World Cup next year. On Tuesday, a troupe of 29 baboons raided four cars outside Simon's Town, a small coastal neighborhood. A baboon dubbed "Fred," the leader of the group, opened unlocked doors and jumped through windows to search for food. He ransacked a bag in the back seat of a red car as a couple panicked about their passports. A girl screamed nearby as a baboon hopped into her car through a back window. Others climbed on car roofs and hoods, looking for ways inside. Many of those who stopped to watch the raid had their own cars broken into by other baboons. "We spend the whole day basically rescuing tourists," said Mark Duffels, a volunteer who monitors the baboons in an effort to keep them at bay. There are about 420 baboons in 17 troupes that roam the city's outskirts, especially the popular scenic sites along the coast. Baboons are a protected species under South African legislation but their persistent pursuit of food has led to conflict with residents. The baboons associate humans and cars with food although people are strongly discouraged from feeding the animals. But Justin O' Riain, head of the baboon research unit at the University of Cape Town, fears that the influx of visitors next year will only feed the primates' taste for human foods even more. "Tourism is going to go through the roof, and this equals exposure to naive people and rich pickings," he said. "People who stop the car, they're going to get raided." Concerned Simon's Town residents asked Monday for a crossing gate to be put up on the road that leads to the nearby Cape of Good Hope nature reserve. Cars would be stopped before they enter baboon territory and given a brochure in their native language explaining why they should stay in their cars, lock their doors and close their windows if they see baboons. "We're so anxious about tourists who can't read or understand English. It puts them at risk," said Liz Hardman, who is leading the campaign. "The perception is that the baboons are harmless and they're not. They're wild animals."

Stuck in a vent: Suspected burglar caught at business — again, cops say



Randy Eugent Cliett was extracted from the ventilation system at the supermarket in Haines City this morning — more than five years after he was accused of breaking into the same business. Screams coming from the roof of La Placita Mexico Supermarket early Tuesday meant Randy Eugene Cliett got stuck in another jam at the popular Polk County grocery. A veteran Polk County burglar, Cliett spent Monday night trapped in a rooftop air shaft at the same 10th Street market where he got busted for burglary in 2004, according to acting

Haines City Pollice Chief Chief Sammy L. Taylor. "He really had no concept of time. He wasn't sure when it happened," Taylor said. Convicted on 14 of his 16 arrests for burglary, drugs and

domestic violence since 1990, Cliett finished serving his fifth stretch in state prison less than two months ago. That five-year sentence was for breaking into the same supermarket at which he was discovered Tuesday, police, court and prison records show. "He's not a regular customer," said Danny Paulino, a member of the family that owns the full-service market, which has a butcher shop and hot food counter. The only other time the Paulinos remembered seeing Cliett was when he was caught after the last burglary.

Police: Dad Leaves Boy And Goes Into Strip Club

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - A man was arrested after police said he left his 5-year-old son in a tractor-trailer while he ducked into an Indianapolis strip club to drink. The 39-year-old was arrested at 1:15 a.m. Tuesday on child neglect and public intoxication charges after calling police to report his truck stolen and his child missing. Police said the man was too drunk to remember where he had parked. They found the boy inside watching cartoons on a television inside the cab. The keys were in the ignition, and the doors were unlocked. Police said the suspect put his son in jeopardy by leaving him exposed in a high crime area. The man was taken to the Marion County jail, where his wife picked up him and the child.

Central Talent Booking