

# Prowler knocked out cold by flying brick

Shanghai, China, police posted a video on social media of two men trying to break into a business on Feb. 14 by using bricks to shatter the glass storefront. But as United Press International reported, when Suspect A's brick bounced off the glass, he bent to retrieve it and ended up squarely in the path of Suspect B's brick, which struck him in the head and apparently knocked him out. In the video, Suspect B can be seen dragging Suspect A away from the store. Police remarked: "If all burglars were like this, we wouldn't need to work overtime."

**THE LITIGIOUS SOCIETY**

Crestline, Calif., resident Claudia Ackley, 46, has teamed with "Discovering Bigfoot" filmmaker Todd Standing to sue the state of California, requesting on Jan. 18 that state agencies acknowledge the existence

**NEWS OF THE WEIRD**

of a Sasquatch species. Ackley and her daughters, 11 and 14, say they were hiking a trail at Lake Arrowhead in March 2017 when they spotted a large figure braced in a pine tree. "I ran into a Sasquatch -- a Bigfoot. We were face to face," Ackley told the San Bernardino Sun. Forest rangers insisted at the time that Ackley and her daughters had seen a bear, and Ackley fears that by not acknowledging the presence of the legendary creatures, the state is putting the public at risk. "People have to be warned about these things," she said. "They are big."

**INEXPLICABLE**

Firefighter Constantinos "Danny" Filippidis, 49, from Toronto, was the subject of a weeklong search by more

than 250 people using drones, dogs and helicopters starting Feb. 7, when he disappeared from Whiteface Mountain ski resort in New York's Adirondacks. When he finally turned up in California at the Sacramento International Airport on Feb. 13, he was still dressed in his ski pants and ski boots, and he still had his helmet, along with a new iPhone and a recent haircut.

But, according to the Syracuse Post-Standard, Filippidis couldn't tell officers anything about how he had traveled across the country, other than he rode in a "big-rig-style truck" and "slept a lot." The truck dropped him off in downtown Sacramento, but he was unable to explain how he got to the airport. He was taken to an area hospital.

**COMPELLING EXPLANATION**

A woman claiming to be on a mission from God led a Kentucky State Police trooper on a chase at speeds up to 120 mph on Feb. 10, stopping only when another trooper pulled in front of her car. According to the Elizabethtown (Ky.) News-Enterprise, Connie Lynn Allen, 52, of Goodlettsville, Tenn., told officers she was Mother Mary, en route to pick up Baby Jesus, and that God had given her permission to speed. She also said she had died six years ago. She was charged with several offenses and is being held in Hardin County.

**SUGAR HIGH?**

Staffers at a Bangor, Maine, day care called Watch Me Shine were happy to receive Valentine's cookies made by a parent -- until those who ate them started

to feel high. "Within 15 minutes, teachers were reporting they had concerns about those cookies," Tiffany Nowicki, director of the center, told the Bangor Daily News.

About 12 staff members felt the effects of the treats, which were confiscated by the police and are being tested. "If they find something that shouldn't be in those cookies," Nowicki said, "that's a big problem and we'll make sure it's addressed." The day care has instituted a new policy that no outside food can be brought in for the children or staff.

**WEIRD HISTORY**

Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., excitedly announced Feb. 13 a librarian flipping through the brown pages of a 1793 almanac found a real historical treasure: a lock of President George

Washington's hair. Librarian John Myers came upon an envelope with "Washington's hair" written in script on it, and inside, tied with a thread, were several strands of grayish hair.

Keith Beutler, associate professor of history at Missouri Baptist University and the author of a book called "Washington's Hair," told The New York Times that in Washington's day, it was not uncommon to exchange locks of hair as **r e m e m b r a n c e s**. "Exchanging locks of hair were like the selfies of the day," Beutler said. Experts are examining the almanac and its provenance to determine whether the hair likely belongs to our first president, but in the meantime, college officials are learning how to preserve it.

Send your weird news items with subject line WEIRD NEWS to [WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com](mailto:WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com).



Lisa Hobbs photo  
**Savannah Scott has been raising backyard chickens for 10 years. Her passion was hatched by the 4-H Chick Chain program.**

## Fine, feathered friends make nice companions

BY **LISA HOBBS**  
*Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)*

It's the chick time of year as spring and early summer are historically the most popular times to stock up on baby chicks.

"I buy mine at Tractor Supply every year," said Savannah Scott, who could be considered a chick-rearing enthusiast. "I enjoy it. I started doing this 10 years ago when I was 9. My passion started with the Chick Chain in fourth grade."

The 4-H Chick Chain project is designed to teach 4-H members recommended practices for growing and raising chickens.

"After the Chick Chain, I started doing it on my own," said Scott. "Now I hatch them on my own. I know it sounds crazy, but you bond with them.

They get attached to you and they'll follow you around the yard. They have their own personalities. One might be really friendly, while another one doesn't want to have anything to do with you. You play with them the same, so they definitely have their own personalities."

Scott says the rewards can be egg-cellent.

"I like the eggs. Once you've eaten farm-fresh eggs, you can't eat store bought. Farm fresh eggs taste so much better. A lot of people who do this sell the eggs. I try to, but we eat a lot of eggs. Because of that, we usually don't have any to sell."

Hens start laying eggs at about 5 months old.

However, Scott noted raising chicks can be for the birds and some people should think twice.

"If you can't part with

them, don't do it," said Scott. "At one time, I had like 65 chickens. I couldn't keep count anymore. For me, about 30 is doable. I finally had to part with some of those."

Scott recommends people educate themselves on daily care, the different types of birds, how to protect the flock from predators, and proper cooping before purchasing chicks to raise.

Also, check local ordinances, zoning laws and property association rules to see if you can raise chickens in your area.

Tractor Supply, which also has baby ducks, offers tips for setting up a backyard flock and its benefits.

## City plans six-day scavenger hunt

BY **LISA HOBBS**  
*Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)*

McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department is providing residents with some spring-related fun, a scavenger hunt for all ages and an Easter egg hunt for children.

The department is holding its first McMinnville City Scavenger Hunt from March 26-31. The adventure begins at 8 a.m. at the Civic Center on day one. The first person to make it to the final destination, while completing the requirements along the way, is the winner. Cost is \$3 per participant.

Clues will be given at each stop.

"Gather your friends and family this spring and see just how well you know the great city of McMinnville," said Kyle Clyde, event coordinator for McMinnville Parks and Recreation. "People who sign up before March 26 will receive an extra clue."

Participants will be given clues they must solve in order to advance through the destinations, which are local businesses. At each business, participants will be given another clue and must complete the following:

- Like their Facebook page
- Take a photo of yourself at that business
- "Check in" on Facebook at that business

Add the photo to your "check in" post

The hunt lasts for several days because businesses have varying hours of operation. Clyde encourages participants to plan ahead to arrive at the businesses when they are open. Businesses closed on Saturdays will have posted instructions on where to obtain their clues. All Facebook requirements must still be met.

The first person to finish the hunt will choose from the prizes donated by participating businesses. All other finishers will be entered into a drawing to see who will get to pick



from the remaining prizes.

Business owners interested in participating are asked to call 473-1212.

Applications must be complete before March 19.

An Easter egg hunt will be offered Saturday, March 31 for children, newborn to 14 years, at the Jungle Jym behind the Civic Center.

The city of McMinnville is partnering with First Baptist Church, McMinnville First United Methodist Church, and Pioneer Community Church to

provide the Easter egg hunt. Children will be broken up into four age categories:

- For newborn to age 3, the hunt begins at 6 p.m.
- For ages 4-6, the hunt begins at 6:30 p.m.
- For ages 7-10, the hunt begins at 7 p.m.
- For ages 11-14, the hunt begins at 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$2 per child in advance at the Civic Center, or \$3 per child the day of the event. Children ages 7-10 and 11-14 are encouraged to bring flashlights because it will be getting dark.



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