

Dorm tenant refuses to leave years after discontinuing classes

A co-ed dormitory at Hunter College in New York City has become the site of a dispute between the college and 32-year-old Lisa S. Palmer, who won't vacate her dorm room despite having discontinued her classes in 2016. Palmer, who works for an architecture firm, has "racked up a staggering \$94,000 in unpaid residence hall charges," a lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court noted.

The *New York Post* reported on Feb. 28 that in June 2016 and fall 2017, she received eviction notices, but she won't budge. Palmer admitted dorm life is "really lonely. I feel very isolated." Palmer was moved into a wing of the dorm that's occupied only by a middle-aged nurse, whom the college is also trying to evict. In fact, Hunter is working on removing nine nurses, who

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

were given rooms in the building when it was owned by Bellevue Hospital.

OOPS

-- Kenny Bachman, 21, had a rude awakening when he racked up a \$1,636 Uber fare on Feb. 23 following a night of partying with high school friends in Morgantown, West Virginia. The *Charlotte Observer* reported Bachman and the friend he planned on staying with stopped at a convenience store during the evening. The friend told Bachman to wait outside as he went into the store, but Bachman was gone when the friend emerged. He had summoned an Uber to take him home -- to Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Bachman was passed out for most of the nearly 300-mile trip, which was subject to surge pricing, doubling the fare. Bachman challenged the charge but ended up paying the full fare; "I feel like there's very little I could have done to reverse it," he said.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

-- Caught red-handed: Leahman G.R. Potter, 48, neglected to conceal the evidence after he stole a pot of meatballs from a neighbor's garage in Hazle Township in Pennsylvania. The meatball owner returned home Feb. 26 to find Potter outside his garage, covered in red sauce, and his meatball pot missing, according to United Press International.

When Pennsylvania State Police arrived shortly afterward, they found the pot in the street and Potter at his home, where he was charged with burglary, trespass and theft.

-- KTAR News in Phoenix reported Peoria Police Department officers were called to a gas station Feb. 23 in response to shoplifting. When they arrived, suspects Marwan Al Ebadi, 28, and Salma Hourieh, 29, set off on foot before hopping over a fence -- directly into a secured parking lot of the Peoria Police Department.

Hourieh tried to hide beneath a bench outside the station, while Al Ebadi jumped back over the fence and was stopped in the street. Both were arrested and charged with shoplifting. "You should never run from the police," said police spokesman Brandon Sheffert, "and if you do, do

not run into a secure parking lot of a police station."

AWESOME!

Name recognition won't be a problem for the Libertarian Party challenger for eastern Arkansas' 1st Congressional District seat: Elvis D. Presley. The Associated Press reported the King impersonator from Star City, Ark., who legally changed his name to match the rock 'n' roll icon's (although the "real" Elvis' middle initial was A), filed campaign paperwork on Feb. 26. Presley works as an auto refinish technician at Camp's Custom Paint in Star City, but his political ambitions aren't new: He's also run for governor, land commissioner and state legislature.

FULL DISCLOSURE

Linda Fein and her husband thought they had

found their dream home in Paradise Valley, near Phoenix. They offered \$1.8 million for the house and 1.3-acre lot, but then found out the house belonged to Kevin and Sandra Otterson and was the setting for their pornography website, *Wife's World*, founded in 1998. "I just can't make Thanksgiving dinner on counters where a porn star has been lounging around," Fein told the *Arizona Republic*. In late February, the couple rescinded their offer on the four-bedroom home. "I certainly believe there are people out there who wouldn't care about the house being used for those purposes," Fein explained. "I'm just not one of them."

Send your weird news items with subject line WEIRD NEWS to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

City competes for \$25K dog park grant

Boyd Foundation donation aims to make state more pet-friendly

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

McMinnville is attempting to fetch a \$25,000 grant through Tennessee Dog Park Dash.

The Boyd Foundation is donating \$1 million per year for three years to make Tennessee the most pet-friendly state in America.

The foundation is guided by Randy and Jenny Boyd.

Each year, the Boyd Foundation grant program will award \$900,000 to Tennessee communities, evenly distributed across the state's three divisions. A contest will be held to find the most pet-friendly community in the state.

Once decided, that community will receive the final \$100,000.

Contest funds will be awarded to one community that applies for the grant, engages in events centered around charitable contributions for pet organizations in need and, as a community, goes above and beyond competitors to show pet pride.

In the first year alone, the donation will fund 36 dog parks.

Over the course of the three years, the donations are expected to impact over 100 dog parks.

McMinnville Parks and Recreation director Scott McCord asked permission of the city Parks and Recreation Committee members to apply for the grant.

"I've looked it over," he said. "There's no match. It's \$25,000 if it's awarded."

Officials earmarked \$20,000 in the 2017-18 fiscal year budget of Parks and Recreation to establish a dog park, and committee chair Ben Newman

says the grant could be used to improve upon that.

"This seems like something that would pay for a lot of the things I thought we would upgrade over the years. Tables for people to sit at. Awnings for shade, and other things like that. Better fencing for the double gates. We had planned to do fencing and maybe a water fountain, but with this we could do a lot more."

A question that has been asked before but not definitely answer was asked again: Where should the city place the dog park?

"We talked about Rocket Park," said Newman.

Alderman Ryle Chastain stated, "I know we've discussed that, but I've had a couple people point out to me, and I don't know how often these are used but I walk by them all the time, the little croquet fields behind the Blue Building. They are already outlined, and people have recommended that we could fence one in for big dogs and fence one in for small dogs. There are benches there. They are downtown. They are within walking distance to things."

"That area wouldn't be large enough," said Newman.

The recommended minimum size for dog parks varies considerably among cities, but is gener-



Lisa Hobbs photo

Plans to establish a dog park in McMinnville could be bolstered by a grant available to Tennessee communities by The Boyd Foundation. The grant seeks to make the state dog friendly by providing \$3 million over three years specifically for dog parks.

ally between half an acre and one acre.

It is also recommended to buffer the park from residential areas.

City administrator Bill Brock offered to review city owned property and report back to committee members any areas that fit the space requirement.

Teacher fires gun, injures three students

SEASIDE, CALIF. (AP) — A teacher at a Northern California high school has apologized for accidentally firing a gun inside his classroom, injuring three students.

The *Monterey Herald* reports Saturday that teacher and reserve police officer Dennis Alexander apologized and thanked community members for their support at a city council meeting Thursday night in Seaside.

Alexander is an elected Seaside councilmember

and a reserve officer for Sand City police.

About 100 students attended the meeting. Students have also organized a petition to keep Alexander teaching at Seaside High School.

Alexander has been placed on administrative leave from his job at the school and at the Sand City Police Department.

Police say no one sustained serious injuries in the incident.

The coastal community is about 115 miles south of San Francisco.

White House says rumors of purge are overblown

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House has pushed back against rumors of a staff purge and insisted that reports of tumult and imminent departures are overblown.

Chief of Staff John Kelly, himself the subject of rumors that his days are numbered, assured a group of staffers their jobs were safe, at least for now.

But days after President Donald Trump's secretary of state was ousted, many close to the president think more upheaval is coming soon.

Several staff members, from national security adviser H.R. McMaster to Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, and even Kelly himself, have been feeling the heat.

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