

# Man returns to homeland, discovers he's dead

Constantin Reliu, 63, appealed unsuccessfully to a court in Barlad, Romania, in March to overturn a death certificate his wife had obtained after not hearing from him for more than a decade. According to The Guardian, Reliu left Romania for Turkey in 1992 to look for employment, but neglected to keep in touch with his family. In 2003, Reliu's wife, believing he had died in an earthquake in Turkey, argued in court for a death certificate, which didn't come to light until Reliu was deported back to Romania because of expired papers in Turkey.

Upon his arrival, immigration officers explained to Reliu he had died in 2003. His appeal failed, as the court maintained he was too late, and the ruling is final, leaving Reliu in an odd state of limbo. "I am officially dead, although I'm alive,"

Reliu told Romanian media outlets. "I have no income and because I am listed dead, I can't do anything."

## DIVINE INTERVENTION

Destiny Church in Columbia, Maryland, tried a novel approach to attract new members to its congregation. On March 4, the church gave away five used cars to "demonstrate God's unbelievable, no-strings-attached goodness," according to The Washington Post.

The idea was hatched to increase attendance at the church's new location after several years meeting in a high school auditorium. "Who doesn't need a new car?" asked Sandy Dobson, who came with her son. "Different people have different things that bring them to Christ, to church. It doesn't always have to be traditional methods." Pastor Stephen Chandler added

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

that Jesus himself taught that giveaways are guaranteed to draw a crowd: The biggest gatherings Christ preached to came on the two times he distributed free loaves and fishes.

## RESTORING FAITH IN HUMANITY

The Rev. Alex Santora of Our Lady of Grace Church in Hoboken, New Jersey, called local police March 14 when a suspicious package was delivered to the house of worship. But after officers from the Hoboken Police Department declared it to be safe, church staff found a surprising delivery inside: a baby Jesus statue that had been stolen from the church's Nativity scene about 90 years ago.

WPIX-TV reported an unsigned note inside the

package explained: The statue was stolen when the note-writer's mother was a young girl, and it became a sort of heirloom in her family. When she died, it was passed on to the note-writer, who thought it should be returned.

## FERULA!

Springville, Utah, resident Tiffany King has weathered devastating health problems. FOX 13 reported she suffers from a condition for which the medication weakened her immune system. In January, she contracted pneumonia, which led to a blood infection, and complications forced doctors to amputate both her legs and arms. King, who is engaged, hopes to complete therapy and walk down the aisle with prosthetic legs and

arms, which is where a unique fundraiser comes in: On March 17, King's friends announced "Phoenix Wing Productions Welcomes Harry Potter to Burlesque," a caricature of the blockbuster movies based on J.K. Rowling's books. All proceeds from the event April 20 at the Utah Arts Alliance in Salt Lake City will go toward buying King's prosthetic limbs. "I'm going to work hard," King said, "because I have a family I need to get back to."

## LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Siblings Antoine Dorsey, 23, and Antoinette Dorsey, 27, of St. Louis cooked up a clever scheme to steal a car. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported on March 14, the two went to Joe-K Used Cars and asked to test drive a 2012 Dodge Charger. The salesman drove them off the

lot, and the Dorseys asked him to drive to their apartment building so they could retrieve their IDs.

In the parking lot of the apartment, Antoinette got out of the car, and an unidentified person drove up next to the Charger in a Volvo and got into the Charger, pulling a gun on the salesman and demanding he get out of the car. Then the man with the gun got back into the Volvo and drove away, while Antoine took off in the Charger. However, Antoine crashed and flipped the Charger, then was tracked down by police aided by witnesses to the wreck. Both siblings were charged with first-degree robbery.

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

# Second Amendment should be repealed, Stevens says

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is calling for the repeal of the Second Amendment to allow for significant gun control legislation.

The 97-year-old Stevens says in an essay on *The New York Times* website that repeal would weaken the National Rifle Association's ability to "block constructive gun control legislation."

Stevens was on the losing end of a 2008 ruling in which the high court held that the Second Amendment gives individuals the right to own a gun for self-defense. He had previously called for changing the Second Amendment to permit gun control.

Stevens says the decision

in that case, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, "has provided the NRA with a propaganda weapon of immense power." Stevens retired from the court in 2010, after more than 35 years.

In his essay published Tuesday, Stevens talks about the "March for Our Lives" events on Saturday which drew crowds in cities across the country. Stevens said the demonstrations "reveal the broad public support for legislation to minimize the risk of mass killings of schoolchildren and others in our society."

He said the support "is a



STEVENS

clear sign to lawmakers to enact legislation prohibiting civilian ownership of semiautomatic weapons, increasing the minimum age to buy a gun from 18 to 21 years old, and establishing more comprehensive background checks on all purchasers of firearms."

But Stevens called on demonstrators to "seek more effective and more lasting reform."

"They should demand a repeal of the Second Amendment," he wrote.

Repealing the amendment would be extremely difficult. An amendment to the Constitution can only be proposed either by Congress in both houses or by a constitutional convention called for by two thirds of the state legislatures. The amendment then has to be approved by three quarters of the states.

# Tennessee in its element

BY LACY GARRISON  
Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The second part of Rotary's two-part tribute to the late Stephen Hawking was presented by Dr. Joseph H. Hamilton, physicist and Vanderbilt professor. Hamilton played a key role in the discovery and synthesis of a series of super-heavy elements, one of which was named Tennessee.

"It is a big honor for our state because it is only the second element named for a state in the Periodic Table," explained Hamilton. "Californium, Element 98 is named after California, but now we have Tennessee, which is Element 117."

As fascinating as the science is, it's the cooperation across international boundaries moving politics and rivalries aside in the pursuit of scientific discovery that is truly amazing. Although the berkelium produced in minute quantities and at great expense at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, was twice refused entry into Russia, where the final synthesis of the new element would take place, scientists persisted. "Finally, customs

officials were satisfied with the paperwork," chuckled Hamilton at the ridiculousness of such an issue.

"After the fifth go-around across the ocean, the berkelium was made into a target and was bombarded by known elements with neutrons and alpha particles and we produced six new atoms," said Hamilton.

Hamilton advises high school students if they make a discovery to get it in print because if they don't somebody else will. To illustrate his point, he explained the history of the periodic table. Although earlier discoveries were made by scientists such as Antoine-Laurent de Lavoisier and John Newlands, the sole credit for its creation goes to Dmitri Mendeleev, who first published it.

Hamilton was the guest speaker during Thursday's Rotary Club of McMinnville luncheon.



Lacy Garrison photo  
**Dr. Joseph H. Hamilton, internationally honored physicist and Vanderbilt professor, discussed new discoveries and the story behind naming element 117 on the Periodic Table Tennessee after his adopted state.**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, county meetings are held at the Warren County Administrative Building located at 201 Locust Street and city meetings are held at City Hall located at 101 E. Main Street.

### MONDAY, APRIL 2

The county Education Committee will meet at 5 p.m. for an update on school projects.

The county Safety Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. for an update on EMS and to discuss its proposed fiscal year budget for 2018-19.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

The county Health and Welfare Committee will meet at 4 p.m. to discuss Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center.

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**PROPOSED PLAN - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC MEETING**  
Former Spencer Artillery Range, Spencer, TN

**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
Mobile District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has issued a Revised Proposed Plan for the former Spencer Artillery Range. The former Spencer Artillery Range was used by the Army during World War II for live-fire artillery training. A Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS) were performed to determine if munitions hazards remain and assess the risk to human health and the environment. The Revised Proposed Plan proposed the preferred alternative remedial actions to be implemented at the former Spencer Artillery Range Project Areas. The RI report, FS Addendum Report, and Revised Proposed Plan are available for review at the Chamber Office Building, 66 Sparta Street, Spencer, TN 38585.

The public is encouraged to ask questions and comment on the proposed alternatives. Public comments will be considered before any action is selected and approved. A public meeting will be held during the public comment period (date, time, and location to be determined) to present an overview of the Proposed Plan. Written comments will be accepted throughout the public comment period from April 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018 and should be sent to:

Mr. William Noel  
5021 Bradford Drive East  
Huntsville, AL 35805  
[William.F.Noel@usace.army.mil](mailto:William.F.Noel@usace.army.mil)

If you have questions or would like additional information, please call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, at 251-690-2511