

Oregon man survives 12 nails to the head

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon man who went to a hospital complaining of a headache was found to have 12 nails embedded in his skull from a suicide attempt with a nail gun, doctors say.

Surgeons removed the nails with needle-nosed pliers and a drill, and the man survived with no serious lasting effects, according to a report on the medical oddity in the current issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery.

The unidentified 33-year-old man was suicidal and high on methamphetamine last year when he fired the nails — up to 2 inches in length — into his head one by one.

The nails were not visible when doctors first examined the man in the emergency room of an unidentified Oregon hospital a day later. Doctors were surprised when X-rays revealed six nails clustered between his right eye and ear, two below his right ear and four on the left side of his head.

Naked carpenter: I wanted to stay clean

OAKLAND, California (AP) -- A carpenter who keeps his clothes clean by working in the nude was arrested after a client returned home early and found him building bookcases in the buff.

Percy Honniball, 50, was charged with misdemeanor indecent exposure this week for the October incident.

He told officers he stripped before crawling under the client's house to do electrical work because he didn't want to soil his clothes, police said.

Honniball said Thursday that working in the nude gave him a better range of motion and that a skilled craftsman can work clothing -- and injury -- free.

Car Stolen With Pig in Back Seat

WHEELING, W.Va. - Call it a case of pignapping. Police found a missing potbellied pig early Wednesday in the back seat of a car that had been reported stolen in eastern Ohio.

The car's owner, who wasn't identified, had told the Belmont County (Ohio) sheriff's office that the pet pig was in the vehicle when it was stolen Tuesday afternoon from a restaurant parking lot in St. Clairsville, Ohio, according to a Wheeling police report.



Thieves nab head and leave earrings behind

TORONTO (Reuters) - A distraught Canadian family is offering a reward for the return of their mother's head, hacked from her body in a funeral home a year ago by thieves who left cash, and her earrings behind.

Canadian newspapers reported on Thursday someone broke into a funeral parlor in Longueuil, Quebec in July last year, where the body of Cecile Lemay was awaiting burial.

The thief or thieves made off with the 68-year-old's head, but left her earrings and a cash charity donation behind.

"Each morning, when we get up, we ask ourselves: 'Where is the head? Will it show up on our lawn one morning?'," the Globe and Mail newspaper quoted Lemay's sister Carmelle as saying.

"Osama bin Laden" still on run in Sierra Leone

WN (Reuters) - "

Osama bin Laden" is still on the run in the jungles of Sierra Leone -- after escaping with some 20 other chimpanzees from a wildlife sanctuary where they killed a local taxi driver on Sunday.

The chimp, named by wardens after the wanted al Qaeda leader, was among a pack of apes which mobbed and mauled four men at the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in the forested hills outside the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown.

Fiat lends James Bond bulldozer to chase villain

MILAN (Reuters) - British secret agent James Bond has chased the world's most dangerous villains in everything from cars to spaceships, but in his latest adventure, his vehicle of choice will be a bulldozer.

In the opening scene of "Casino Royale," the 21st installment of the popular movie franchise, Bond will pursue his latest enemy in a four-wheel W190 bulldozer supplied by Fiat, the Italian industrial group.

Bank robbery suspects fled in limousine

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - San Francisco police arrested a man and woman suspected of robbing a bank and fleeing in style by using a limousine as their getaway car, officials said on Wednesday.

Roy Westry and Cynthia Johnson, both recent parolees in their 40s, were pulled over on Tuesday afternoon by police officers alerted to a nearby bank robbery involving a 2006 Cadillac limousine. The vehicle belongs to Westry's employer.

Police: Suspects' Car Too Small for Big TV

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio - Police who charged a Cincinnati couple with stealing a big-screen television said they should have thought about a bigger car.



Police stopped Richard and Stephanie North early Wednesday when they noticed their Mercury Sable going down a road with one of the doors open. Police found a 55-inch flat-screen TV on the back seat, hanging out the door.

Drivers run dry to beat gas prices

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some California drivers are resorting to desperate measures to beat the surge in gas prices at the pump -- deliberately running dry on the state's freeways and simply waiting for rescue.

"Every time fuel goes up, we start noticing it. But right now we are noticing it a lot more," Andy Lujan, owner of California Coach Towing in Orange County, said on Tuesday.

"You say to some of them 'hey, you've run out of gas' and they say 'yeah, it's too expensive.' I think the percentage is going to increase," Lujan said.

Gas prices in California, where the car is king, are some of the highest in the nation at more than \$3 a gallon and rising.

Study shows secret to gas-free beans

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Two strains of bacteria are the key to making beans flatulence-free, Venezuelan researchers reported on Tuesday.

They identified two bacteria, Lactobacillus casei and Lactobacillus plantarum, which can be added to beans so they cause minimal distress to those who eat them, and to those around the bean-lovers, Marisela Granito of Simon Bolivar University in Caracas, Venezuela and colleagues reported.

Flatulence is gas released by bacteria that live in the large intestine when they break down food. Fermenting makes food more digestible earlier on.

School sends kids to closed amusement park

RENO (AP) — Four bus loads of students from O'Brien Middle School made the four-hour trip to Six Flags Marine World in Vallejo, Calif., only to find the amusement park's gates locked Monday. The school-sponsored trip was supposed to reward top students.

"It was pretty much a fiasco," said Washoe County School District spokesman Steve Mulvenon. "They ended up wasting a day that those kids could have better spent in class or doing what they were going to do at the park."

School officials said the \$50 fee will be refunded, and the tour company that arranged the trip has agreed to pay for the next one. "The tour company neglected to check the schedule," Mulvenon said.