

# The Insider

»»» The Turkey Bowl Committee



"Tornado Tyler" Mack

## The Big Mack Attack By Bill Nicolls

**Toledo**— "The Big Mack Attack" is Preparing To Baste Their Opponents in Turkey Bowl XXX. "Tornado Tyler" and "Larrupin' Logan" Mack have been a formidable force in their YMCA Football League as they form a "double your trouble" two-some that cannot be stopped. They have the talent to play on both sides of the ball. "Tornado Ty" is the larger of the two and uses his brute force to strike terror into his opponents. "Larrupin' Logan" may be smaller but uses his super-power moves (learned from Spi-

derman and Avengers) to intimidate his foes. Scouts agree that the twin towers of terror will be at the top of the list for recruiters in years to come.

Unfortunately, their father "Big Ben the Mack Truck" will be unavailable for the game as his talents are desperately needed by his employer at this time of year. The struggle to keep the ever-growing twins fed keeps him working day and night.



"Larrupin' Logan" Mack



## Jonathan "Illini" Wildt Visits Buckeye Country By Bruce Nicolls

**Columbus**—Well, Jonathan Wildt was initiated into the Buckeye culture on November 3 when he attended the OSU— Illinois game in Columbus. I believe he was cursed at only once as we walked down Lane Avenue with him in his Illini jersey (Jonathan's alma mater). He smiled and waved as I assured him Illinois is a relatively minor annoyance in Columbus compared

to Michigan. More friendly was Don Nicolls' neighbor Neil Chessin who we ran into in front of the stadium. He was pleasant despite Jonathan's Illini sports ware. Jonathan enjoyed seeing the stadium, OSU traditions, and experiencing the game day atmosphere there. Script Ohio was also a hit, however, watching the game was a less enjoyable experience for

Jonathan as his Illini took it on the chin with a 52-22 Ohio State victory. To soften the blow, we headed to Schmidt's Sausage Haus in German Village for some German comfort food and drink where Jonathan's spirits were greatly restored. It was a great time and I enjoyed the weekend with my son-in-law. Hillary, you did well.





In 2011, Wolfe found a friend in Danny. Show me your teeth!



Is it a wolf, a dog, a jackal or some combination thereof?

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**“We need you all  
out in Colorado  
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## Mission: (Wolf) Impossible? A Call to Colorado

By Kathy Nicolls

**Colorado**—If it looks like a jackal and walks like a jackal, it must be a ... Holy Cow! I was driving home today from Colorado Springs and saw a jackal on the side of the road! Actually, I saw road kill on the side of the road, but I asked myself, “What was that?” Since it was no longer possible for this furry animal to get up and walk, I couldn’t use the old standby, “If it looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it must be a duck,” to form a conclusion. I knew it couldn’t be a wolf. When we first moved to Colorado in 1993, my parents, my children, and I saw what we were sure was a wolf crossing Parker Road, only to be informed, ever so politely, by Bob (native to Colorado, by wishful thinking, if not by birth) “That’s ridiculous, there are no wolves in Colorado!” I submissively accepted my wolfly ignorance for years until Cousin Cheri came to Colorado to celebrate the

Nicolls/Wildt nuptials in 2010. As she fearlessly hiked trails by Mt. Princeton without caution, water bottle, or fear, to what did her wondering eyes appear? Must have been the same out of place wolf my parents, kids, and I saw years before.

Since that time, many of the Nicolls Cousins have ventured off the plains and out to the wolf sanctuary in Colorado. At this haven for hybrids, we were informed by another learned docent that the scientific way to tell for sure whether an animal is a dog or a wolf is whether it “looks like a dog or a wolf.” So ... was the animal I saw this morning a wolf that looked like a jackal (in which case, by docent standards it was a jackal) or a jackal that looked like a wolf (which can’t be the case, because Bob still says there are no free roaming wolves in Colorado and I’ve been told he’s always

right, notwithstanding the fact that he has been proved wrong twice.)

Okay, long story – short message: We need you all out in Colorado this coming summer for more research and reunion. The meals are not as on schedule as the Thanksgiving reunion, meaning we eat whenever it’s ready; but no one ever said they starved. The activities are all by request: bird watching, mammal watching and/or whatever the tour guide decides. Safety issues are always addressed by the staff. (Staff tour guide uses wife as a guinea pig so you don’t have to fear.) Date will be determined by whoever is still in walking/talking shape after the Bucks football game. Come and be a part of it all! If Pennsylvania can have young bucks, silver bucks and even now, female bucks, I think Colorado can have wolves, imaginary and real.

## Mission: Elephant

By Marieta Nicolls



Marieta taming the elephants of Thailand.

**Thailand**—I was working at a refuge where neglected, abused, mistreated elephants came from generally the tourism industry in Thailand. These elephants were not fed properly and beaten if they did not perform a trick or do a handstand correctly. For some reason there are many Thai’s who gain pleasure from torturing these elephants and watching them suf-

fer. So our job at the center was to comfort these elephants back to health by feeding them, cleaning their wounds and making them feel safe to hopefully gain their trust back towards humans. We were able to touch and be right next to most of the elephants; however others were very dangerous to be around since they did not trust people anymore after what they

endured— highly understandable. I was at the Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand. My mom came out after 5 weeks of me being there. I loved it so much and definitely want to go back! I was in Thailand for eight weeks. I spent half the time at the refuge and the other half backpacking all around.