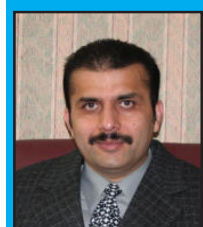




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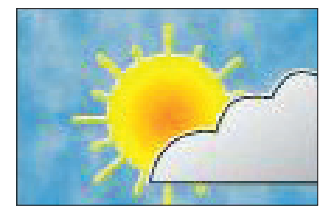


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

AUGUST 3, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 205

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, left, greets Big Spring VA Medical Center Director Daniel Marsh after arriving at the facility this morning. Neugebauer, who was to host a town hall meeting this afternoon at Howard College, helped commemorate the VAMC's 60th anniversary by presenting to Marsh a U.S. flag that had flown over the Capitol.

Wandering child leads to mom's arrest

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring woman was arrested Monday on a charge of abandoning or endangering a child – criminal negligence after law enforcement officials say her 2-year-old was found wandering around a residence in the 1700 block of S. Runnels unsupervised.

Jessica Dawn Page, 22, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 105,



was arrested shortly after police arrived on the scene at 1701 Runnels at approximately 9:15 a.m. Monday. "A neighbor observed the 2-year-old child wandering around the yard with a shirt on and no

Page
See **ARREST**, Page 3A

Big Spring man in fed custody for child pornography

Conroy first arrested here July 3, charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man is currently in federal custody on charges of manufacturing child pornography after being arrested in Howard County for aggravated sexual assault of a child.

John Alan Conroy, 31, was first arrested by law enforcement officials July 3 on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child. According to officials with the Texas Rangers, Conroy has since been charged with manufacturing child pornography.

"After Conroy's arrest, we seized his computers as part of the investigation," said Don Williams with the Texas Rangers, one of the state agen-

cies currently involved in the investigation. "The computers were turned over Texas Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They found the child pornography, which led to him being charged in federal court. That case is being handled by the United States Attorney's Office Northern District out of Lubbock."

According to Williams, Conroy was released from the Howard County Jail on a \$100,000 bond July 14, but was brought back into custody after the child pornography was allegedly found on his computer.

"A detention hearing was set to be held recently, but I haven't been notified of his release on bond," Williams said. "Generally, when a case involves children as victims, the federal judges don't normally allow the suspect

See **CONROY**, Page 3A

Not too late to be a leader; sign up period extended

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Not so fast now. The application deadline for the next Leadership Big Spring class originally set for July 30, has been extended, officials said.

Nancy Davenport of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, said the registration deadline for this year's class, has been pushed to 5

p.m. Friday. A few spots for the class remain open, Davenport said. Leadership Big Spring is a nine-month series of seminar and tours sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce designed to help develop community leaders in this area.

"We want to increase community awareness as to the many great things that Big Spring has to offer," said Vickie Stewart, one of Leadership Big Spring's organizers. "It also develops leadership skills. This gives people the knowledge and skills so they can become an active

part of the community." Up to 25 people will be accepted for the program. Cost is \$400 for chamber members and \$600 for non-members and applications can be obtained at the chamber office at 215 W. Third, Stewart said.

Among the scheduled activities for this year's class are:

- August and September — Participation in a Boy Scout "ropes" course designed to foster trust among class members.
- October — A tour of co-

See **LEADERS**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



Gunman among dead in work shooting

STEPHEN SINGER
Associated Press Writer

MANCHESTER, Conn. — A warehouse driver who was asked resign his job at a beer distributor refused, then opened fire Tuesday morning, a company executive said. Police said the gunman and several other people were killed and others were wounded, one critically.

Authorities were searching the building to make sure everyone was accounted for before confirming the number of deaths, state police Lt. J. Paul Vance said.

At least one person died at Hartford Hospital, spokeswoman Michaela Donnelly said. Another victim taken there was in critical condition, and one was in fair condition, she said.

"We're now just trying to figure out who's shot, who's not accounted for."

About 50 to 70 people were in the warehouse because it was a shift change, said Brett Hollander, the director of marketing at Hartford Distributors. Adding to the chaos was a fire at the warehouse, about 10 miles east of Hartford, that has been put out.

"We're now just trying to figure out who's shot, who's not accounted for," Hollander said.

His cousin, a vice president at the company, was shot in the arm and the face, Hollander said, but he thought he would

be OK. It was not clear if he was among the victims taken to Hartford Hospital.

The gunman was a driver who had worked at the distributor for a couple of years and been called in for a disciplinary hearing, said John Hollis of the Connecticut Teamsters, who's with company officials at the scene of the shooting.

Hollander, whose family owns the distributor, said he did not know the shooter well.

Police officers from numerous agencies and police and fire vehicles surrounded the warehouse, on a tree-lined road in an industrial park just west of a shopping mall. A SWAT team with a police dog was walking around the property a couple of hours after the 7 a.m. shooting.

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Solid first day for Ritchey, Steers

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Phillip Ritchey's message to his Steers on the first day of two-a-days Monday at the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center was clear: be mentally tough.

"If we're not, then maybe people are right about us coming into this 3A district that maybe we don't belong in," he said, explaining that message in detail. "It's going to get a lot tougher down the road. We've got to be able to handle tough situations. That's my message to them: No matter how tough the situation is, you've got to be able to handle it and be ready to perform."

With that in mind, Ritchey and the coaching staff were pleased with the first day of workouts to begin the countdown to the

season opener against Fort Stockton on Aug. 27.

The Steers entered summer workouts with a handful of questions coaches hope to find answers to soon.

For the first day, however, it was all about teaching.

Ritchey said he was glad to get back on the field Monday even though the team is a few days away from being in pads and practice being faster.

In fact, Ritchey said one of the most difficult hurdles of the first practice is getting organized, but he believes players got past that quickly and things should move faster today.

One of the focuses in Monday's practice was the Steers' defense.

A lot of the focus in practice



HERALD Photo/Adam Coleman

Big Spring's defensive lineman practice in the Steers' first day of two-a-days Monday at the Athletic Training Center.

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Astros push winning streak to 6, beat Cards

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Houston Astros who still remain after a house-cleaning are playing as if they're contenders.

Jeff Keppinger had two hits and matched his season-best with four RBIs, including a key hit during a go-ahead three-run eighth inning, and the Astros won their sixth straight to spoil Jake Westbrook's St. Louis debut with a 9-4 victory over the Cardinals on Monday night.

Houston did it without pitching ace Roy Oswalt and slugger Lance Berkman, who are playing elsewhere these days after trades last week.

"It seems like we've got a whole new team," Keppinger said. "We've got a lot of young guys up here trying to prove themselves, prove they belong, and they're coming through."

Albert Pujols homered for the third straight game and Westbrook worked six strong innings for St. Louis, which lost for only the second time in 13 home games. The Cardinals have lost four straight at home to Houston, falling a half-game behind the Reds in the NL Central.

Brett Myers extended his franchise-best streak to 22 consecutive starts of six or more innings to

begin the season. Keppinger's RBI double off Mike MacDougal (1-1) tied it at 4 and Carlos Lee scored the go-ahead run by beating a wide throw home from second baseman Skip Schumaker on Chris Johnson's bases-loaded chopper.

"Finally we're getting some big hits with people on base," Lee said. "I'm telling you, the last I would say 10 games there's been a lot of excitement. It's difficult to see teammates traded but I think that sent a message to the team and now we don't rely on nobody."

Keppinger added a two-run single in a four-run ninth as the Astros batted around against Trevor Miller and Blake Hawksworth. Keppinger is batting .433 (13 for 30) with a homer and 11 of his 40 RBIs against the Cardinals this season.

"Sick," Keppinger joked. "I guess I've got guys in front of me getting on base, giving me opportunities to drive in runs, and fortunately I've been coming through."

Nelson Figueroa (3-1) allowed an RBI double by Felipe Lopez that put the Cardinals ahead 4-2 in the seventh, but Jason Motte walked Michael Bourn and Anderson Hernandez on 10 pitches

to open the eighth, and both scored.

"Second inning, I had no clue where the ball was going," Motte said. "Everything was just all over the place."

Pujols tied it at 2 leading off the third with a liner into the visitors' bullpen in left for his 26th homer of the season and the 392nd of his career, the most in a player's first 10 seasons in major league history. He has three homers and 11 RBIs against the Astros this season, and is a career .366 hitter against Myers, also with three homers and 11 RBIs.

Myers said Pujols hit a fastball that was supposed to be inside and drifted over the plate.

"He's supposed to hit pitches like that," Myers said.

"When I let it go I said, 'He's going to kill it,' and he did."

Westbrook made his first start in a week and had seven strikeouts, one off his season best, and kept the ball down to limit Houston to one fly-ball out. The Cardinals acquired Westbrook for outfielder Ryan Ludwick in a three-way deal with the Indians and Astros.

"A little nervous, a little excited," Westbrook said.

Injured Bryant still catches balls

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dez Bryant is still catching a few balls despite that bulky protective boot on his right foot.

Bryant caught a few light tosses from receivers coach Ray Sherman while standing on the sideline as the Dallas Cowboys' practice got started Monday. Once team drills got under way, the first-round pick was an observer watching with Sherman or another coach while the offense went through its plays.

Coach Wade Phillips

said it's still too early to determine how quickly Bryant could be back after sustaining a high right ankle sprain Friday. The initial prognosis was four to six weeks, which means the rookie receiver could miss the entire five-game pre-season schedule.

"I think the first week is really the big determining factor on how quickly it's going to heal. After that first week I think they can tell you a lot more about it," Phillips said. "Stabilization is the important thing and that's the first

week."

Phillips said the other of the Cowboys' injured top three draft picks could practice as early as Wednesday.

Linebacker Sean Lee, the second-round pick, has missed the past week with a strained quadriceps. Cornerback Akwasi Owusu-Ansah, the fourth-round pick, didn't take part in offseason workouts because of the draft and hasn't practiced at camp because of a hamstring injury.

See **DEZ**, Page 2B

Cowboys need different kicks from Buehler

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Buehler has the booming kickoffs and the macho yet fun-loving persona. None of that erases the big question surrounding the kicker.

And Buehler understands the uncertainty others have about him now that he has to be more than a kickoff specialist for the Dallas Cowboys, his only role as a rookie last season. He is expected to kick the ball through the uprights, too.

"I'm not proven," said Buehler, whose only field goal attempt for Dallas was a 39-yarder he made in a preseason game last year. "I can see why there's doubt ... I haven't been out there

in a game situation. I haven't had the opportunity yet really."

The Cowboys are giving Buehler every chance now.

Buehler is the only kicker in training camp and made 4 of 6 attempts during team drills Monday, when his long was 50 yards and the misses were from 44 and 53 yards. He is 20 of 24 overall.

His nearly constant companion is Chris Boniol, the kicker for the Cowboys in their last Super Bowl nearly 15 years ago who was brought in this offseason as Buehler's instructor.

Former Pro Bowl kicker Nick Folk was released after missing 10 field goals in 14 games

last season. Shaun Suisham finished the year but wasn't re-signed.

Even in this uncapped season, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones preferred to expand Buehler's role instead of spending big money on another kicker. He tried that four years ago with Mike Vanderjagt, then the NFL's most accurate kicker. Vanderjagt got hurt in camp, made only 13 of 18 field goals and was cut by then-coach Bill Parcells only 10 games into a three-year, \$5.4 million contract.

"I've seen (field goals) missed real good by guys that have made kicks in the league before," Jones said.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Youth Basketball Tournament

The 2010 San Antonio Youth Basketball Championships will take place Aug. 6 through 8. This tournament is for boys and girls, third through 12th grade. Visit www.otcybc.com, e-mail risingstars07@yahoo.com or call (979) 417-3721 for more information.

Big Spring Football Season Tickets

Get season tickets at the Big Spring High School ATC. Reserve season ticket holders can purchase tickets from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting July 26 and ending Aug. 9.

Public ticket sales are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting Aug. 10 and ending Aug. 18. The cost is \$25 dollars per ticket book, which includes five home games. The last day to purchase will be Aug. 18. Any questions should be directed toward Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Athletic Physical Exams Notice

Athletic physical exams are required by the University Interscholastic League for all athletes entering the seventh, ninth and 11th grades.

This also includes any new person to athletics who has never completed a physical exam.

Forms can be picked up at the Athletic Training Center. Once completed, the physical form must be turned in to coach Campbell in the training room or to Kay Cook, the athletic secretary.

Prior to Aug. 2, equipment will not be checked out until physical is complete and on file in the training room. For more information, call 264-3662.

Over 80 Scramble

The Big Spring Country Club invites everyone to participate in its over 80 scramble Aug. 14 and 15. It benefits the Big Spring Shirne Club.

Cominbed ages of the 2-person team must be 80 or higher. Entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart. Private carts are welcome.

There is a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days. Entry includes barbecue on the course both days. For more information call the Pro Shop at 267-5354.

Coahoma Girls Softball Association

There will be a meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 10 at the community center and everyone is welcome to attend.

Junior High football equipment pick-up

Pick-up takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 9 and 10 at the junior high school. Make sure if player is entering the seventh grade or is new to the district he has a physical. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the ATC at 264-3662.

Soccer Sign-ups

Big Spring Soccer Association will have sign-ups from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 7, then from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 9 through 13. The last day to sign up is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 14. All sign-ups are at the Big Spring Mall. There will be no late registration. This for 3- to 13-year-olds and cost is \$65.

Call Issac Miramontes at 935-9056 for more information

Obituaries

Eldora Maude Caughey Zant

Eldora Maude Caughey Zant, 94, of Big Spring completed her life cycle Monday, Aug. 2, 2010, joining her Lord and loved ones in Heaven. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, at the Vealmoor Cemetery with Ralph Anderson, minister of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, officiating.

She was born March 21, 1916, in Taylor County to J.L. and Zonie Lancaster. One of nine children, the family moved to the Big Spring area in 1923 and attended school in the Fairview area.

She married Arthur Caughey in 1934. After his death in 1983, she married Nathan Zant in 1990 and moved to Vealmoor. After he passed away in 1994, she moved to Big Spring to be near her daughters. Eldora had worked as a beautician in Big Spring for 17 years before opening her own salon in Knott for three years. She then worked at the Kids Shop for 10 years.

Eldora loved her family and enjoyed raising her chickens and turkeys. She was a member of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

Survivors include two daughters, Geraldine and son-in-law Nathan Hughes, and Betty Pace and the late Fred Pace; grandchildren, Wesley Pace, Teri and husband Eddie Chevallier, and Mitchell and wife Stacia Gill; great-grandchildren, Zachary Rogers, Blade and Seth Gill, Victoria Martinez, Adrian and Jacobi Pace; three great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Marie Chapman; numerous nieces and nephews; and her stepsons, Dale, Dudley, Joe Don, Rex and Warren Zant, and their families.

The family suggests memorials be made to Crossroads Hospice, 421 Main, Big Spring 79720 or to the donor's church home.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Kim Conaway

Kim Conaway, 50, of Stanton died Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, at her residence. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, at the Downtown Church of Christ with Kendall Tomlinson, minister, officiating.

Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, at the Glen Rest Cemetery of Big Lake with the Rev. Buddy Helms, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church of Big Lake, officiating.

Kim was born Sept. 24, 1959, in Big Lake. She grew up in Big Lake and graduated from Big Lake High School. She had worked in the oil fields for many years as a truck driver, and then worked as a waitress until becoming ill.

Survivors include her son, Shayne Conaway of Stanton; her mother, Barbara Conaway of Stanton; her sister, Liza Ewing and husband Jeff of Saranac, Mich.; one nephew; one niece; and one great-nephew.

She was preceded in death by her father, Richard Conaway.

The family suggests memorials be made to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79701.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

- JESSICA DAWN PAGE, 22, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 105, was arrested Monday on a charge of abandoning/endangering a child – criminal negligence.
- ROBERT LEE AIKENS JR., 47, of 1715 E. Highway 350, was arrested Monday on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- JOHN HOWARD SMITH, 61, of 1409 S. Runnels, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- MARVIN LEROY MOHN, 70, of 2627 Hunter, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported in the 1400 block of S. Nolan.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported: In the 900 block of E. 13th Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1900 block of E. 25th Street Apt. 105.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this report.
- JESSICA DAWN PAGE, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of abandoning/endangering a child – criminal negligence.
- ROBERT LEE AIKENS JR., 47, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

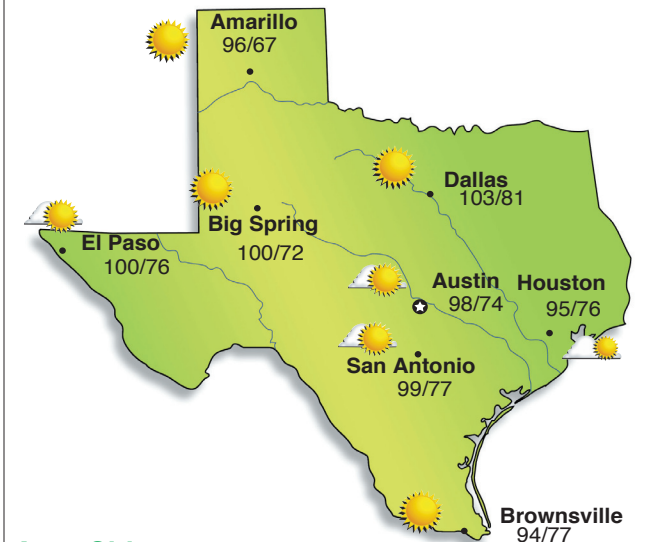
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4000 block of Piper Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 10000 block of Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Wallace. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Carol. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of E. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3900 block of Dixon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of E. 25th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 8/4	Thu 8/5	Fri 8/6	Sat 8/7	Sun 8/8
100/72	97/72	95/72	97/71	94/71
Mainly sunny. Hot. High near 100F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	More sun than clouds. High in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Abundant sunshine. High in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Sunshine. High in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Plenty of sun. High in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 7:03 AM Sunset: 8:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:04 AM Sunset: 8:40 PM	Sunrise: 7:04 AM Sunset: 8:39 PM	Sunrise: 7:05 AM Sunset: 8:38 PM	Sunrise: 7:06 AM Sunset: 8:37 PM

Texas At A Glance



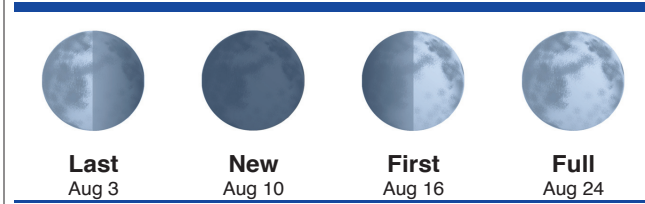
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	102	76	sunny	Kingsville	97	75	sunny
Amarillo	96	67	sunny	Livingston	98	74	pt sunny
Austin	98	74	mst sunny	Longview	99	79	sunny
Beaumont	95	76	pt sunny	Lubbock	98	71	sunny
Brownsville	94	77	sunny	Lufkin	100	77	mst sunny
Brownwood	103	75	sunny	Midland	101	75	sunny
Corpus Christi	94	77	sunny	Raymondville	97	76	sunny
Corsicana	101	79	sunny	Rosenberg	96	76	pt sunny
Dallas	103	81	sunny	San Antonio	99	77	mst sunny
Del Rio	100	77	mst sunny	San Marcos	98	76	mst sunny
El Paso	100	76	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	103	80	sunny
Fort Stockton	99	72	sunny	Sweetwater	101	74	sunny
Gainesville	103	77	sunny	Tyler	99	78	sunny
Greenville	102	77	sunny	Weatherford	103	77	sunny
Houston	95	76	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	104	76	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	95	75	t-storm	Minneapolis	88	65	t-storm
Boston	90	72	t-storm	New York	87	77	t-storm
Chicago	88	70	t-storm	Phoenix	103	82	mst sunny
Dallas	103	81	sunny	San Francisco	57	50	pt sunny
Denver	83	60	t-storm	Seattle	80	60	sunny
Houston	95	76	pt sunny	St. Louis	102	78	sunny
Los Angeles	77	60	pt sunny	Washington, DC	91	78	t-storm
Miami	89	80	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 8/4	Thu 8/5	Fri 8/6	Sat 8/7	Sun 8/8
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

Support Groups

- TUESDAY
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will host a benefit barbecue Saturday to help pay medical expenses for Marianne Garmaker. Serving will be from noon until 2 p.m. at the post home, 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each. An auction will be held at 2 p.m. For more information, call 263-2084. Everyone is welcome.
- The Salvation Army will take applications for its annual school supply program through Friday at the Army's headquarters at 811 W. Fifth. Application times are from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. For more information, call 267-8239.

Lottery

- Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-13-30-32. Bonus Ball: 24. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
- Number matching five of five: 0.
- The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-3-1-5. Sum It Up: 10.
- The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-4-9. Sum It Up: 15.

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A-Rod's quest for 600 hits 2 weeks

NEW YORK (AP) — The numbers on the specially marked balls for Alex Rodriguez's at-bats must be getting up there — perhaps, uhm, close to say 600.

The Yankees slugger's quest — and by now it is one — for membership in the exclusive 600-homer club extended into its 11th game Monday with an 0-for-5 night against the Toronto Blue Jays.

"I thought I swung the bat better today. I had some pretty good pitches to hit," Rodriguez said after the Yankees' 8-6 loss. "The difference between 0 for 5 and 2 for 5 is small."

A-Rod's drive to become the youngest player and seventh overall to reach the milestone began after he homered off Kansas City reliever Robinson Tejeda on July 22 and has

gone on for 48 plate appearances against four teams in three cities.

He's hitless in his last 14 at-bats and is 9 for 43 overall with eight RBIs during the drought. The closest he has come to the homer is a couple of long fly balls that were caught in front of the warning track.

Most of the 47,034 fans remained in their seats Monday for one more chance to see him bat in the ninth, and they got it. But Rodriguez grounded to shortstop against Kevin Gregg to end the game.

"The way I'm swinging, it's probably going to take a while. Everybody get comfortable," Rodriguez said, smiling on Sunday.

Rodriguez began the search for 600 by saying that he isn't going to feel the pressure the

same way he did when he was going for No. 500 in 2007, a wait of 10 days and 28 at-bats. He even playfully checked out the marked balls that are switched in before he steps to the plate in one of his first at-bats, way back on July 23.

His manager says Rodriguez can't possibly ignore the significance of the pending homer.

"With the flashbulbs going off all the time and changing the ball, I don't know how you don't think about it," Joe Girardi said.

Nearly a week past his 35th birthday, the three-time MVP appeared loose before Monday's game, hitting many balls over the wall in batting practice, including a rare shot that banged off the black glass of a sports bar in center field — way beyond the 408-

foot sign and above monument park.

While Rodriguez needed 41 at-bats to hit his first homer this season and has just 16 home runs this year, a stretch like this while approaching 600 is unusual. Babe Ruth separated 599 and 600 with one at-bat, Hank Aaron two. Barry Bonds' spell was eight, Sammy Sosa's was 13 and Ken Griffey Jr.'s 17, according to STATS LLC. Willie Mays went 21 homerless at-bats before his milestone shot.

Girardi said he hasn't seen the frustration growing, but he did keep his clean-up hitter out of the starting lineup against Tampa Bay on Sunday. Rodriguez struck out looking as a pinch-hitter in his lone at-bat.

"Nothing told me that he didn't have good at-bats or

wasn't being patient," Girardi said Monday. "He just didn't get any hits."

In his first game back at Yankee Stadium after a fruitless seven-game road trip to Tampa Bay and Cleveland, Rodriguez was greeted with loud cheers. But fans only in seats beyond the walls in right and left field are standing now with every pitch.

Thousands of camera flashes still burst in a brilliant sparkle with each pitch — and fans roared when the count turned to Rodriguez's favor in the third. The groans were just as loud when he struck out on a 96 mph pitch from Brandon Morrow.

Rodriguez joked that he doesn't notice the flashes, saying, "I'm used to it; it's been about a month."

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

practice was on coverages and the defensive front and it was a chance for a few new faces to make a good first impression on Defensive Coordinator Don Kelso.

For Big Spring, three starters — free safety Mike Menefield, strong safety Dennis Merworth and defensive end Devonte Lloyd — are set and who the other eight will be by the time Aug. 27 gets here will be determined during the next few weeks.

"I told them, basically, those three guys have their position," Kelso said. "There's eight spots that are open for a fight right now. Do we have ideas of who we think might win it? Yes we do. But there's a surprise every year."

Kelso said he'll find out more about his unit as two-a-days continue but Monday was all about making sure everyone is in sync.

The good news, Kelso said, is everyone is picking up things quickly even though there are a lot more practices left.

Where it seems like the Steers have no worries is on the other side



HERALD Photo/Adam Coleman

The Steers huddle up before breaking off for special teams in their first day of two-a-days Monday at the ATC.

of the ball on the offensive line. They return all five starters, including standout guard Jackson Watkins.

With the O-line arguably begin the strongest unit on the field for the Steers, Watkins said he and the rest of his unit understand how important they are to Big Spring's success this year.

"Just lets you know you have a lot of responsibility," he said. "You have to be there for the rest of the team to build on, for the whole team to do better."

His unit will be in the

spotlight today along with the rest of the offense and the coaching staff might be a step closer to finding out what it has at the skill positions.

Ritchey pointed out before two-days that one of the biggest questions might be who's going to be moving the ball for BSHS this season.

It starts with quarterback and Ritchey has options. He said the staff is looking at Merworth, among others, to fill the spot. Then there's receiver and running back, where the Steers also need replacements.

"Our first offensive practice, we're going to start evaluating receivers," Ritchey said. "Probably moving some people around. We've got some ideas of where somebody might play but once we see them, it could change in a hurry."

"That's what the rest of the week is about is evaluating kids just as far as catching and running, able to perform the assignments."

Contact Sports Editor Adam Coleman at 263-7331 ext. 237.

Indy makes plan for Super Bowl

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP) — NFL officials and the Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee have a contingency plan if a work stoppage postpones the 2012 Super Bowl.

Committee president and CEO Allison Melangton told The Associated Press on Monday that the league wanted Indy's Super Bowl venues and hotel room blocks left open for the weekend of Feb. 5, the scheduled Super Bowl date, and the following weekend. Melangton said Indy has kept both weekends open.

The NFL Players Association fears team owners will lock out players before next season.

"We are working with the NFL, I'm not going to say every day, but we are working closely on any other plans that need to be made," Melangton said. "But we all know that it is their (the NFL's) priority to resolve these contract issues as soon as possible and we are confident that they will."

The current contract

expires March 5, and NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith has said he does not expect a new CBA to be completed until then.

Smith has repeatedly said he believes owners, who opted out of the CBA two years ago, are intent on locking out players because the television networks will continue to pay the owners even if the games are not played.

Melangton said NFL officials also discussed a backup date with Indy's committee during the bidding process. Indy was awarded the game on the same day — May 20, 2008 — that owners opted out of their collective bargaining agreement.

"This is not unusual as local Super Bowl host committees will include in its bid a number of possible dates it could host the Super Bowl," league spokesman Brian McCarthy said. "As part of its ... bid, the Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee said it would hold both Feb. 5 and Feb. 12, 2012 as possible dates.

DEZ

Continued from Page 1B

Bryant appears to be moving with ease while wearing the boot that covers much of

his lower leg below the knee. The only practice Bryant missed was Saturday morning, the first session after he got hurt, before returning that afternoon.

Phillips said there is no problem with the receiver

moving around like he is.

"As long as he's in that boot, there's no problem there. It's stabilized what they want to stabilize and that's why he's out there," Phillippsaid. "He's out there to see the plays and mentally get reps."

If Lee returns to practice this week, he could possibly play in the preseason opener Sunday night against the Cincinnati Bengals. The Cowboys then play again the following Thursday at home against Oakland. Owusu-An-

sah is less certain.

"Lee is a little different case than Akwasi in that he's been participating in everything. He went part of the first week here and he went to all of the OTAs," Phillips said. "Akwasi hadn't been in any of that.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

"I'm being cute, but Buehler is capable.

Unlike the \$2 million kicker I paid that came in and didn't hit anything but squib kicks for field goals, but we still went with him. We're going to go with how it looks and how (Buehler) is feeling."

With five preseason games and no other kickers, the Cowboys have an unfettered opportunity to evaluate Buehler as a field goal kicker.

They will look at other options only if necessary later in camp, Jones said.

Buehler excelled at what he was supposed to do last season, when he led the NFL with 29 touchbacks. Dallas had none the previous year.

He last kicked field goals in college, making 26 of 33 in 37 games for Southern Cal from 2006-08.

He made all but one of his 118 extra points.

"I know a lot of people think, 'He hasn't really kicked, he hasn't really done too much kicking.'

"But I have," Buehler said.

"I have kicked under coach (Pete) Carroll. I've kicked in Rose Bowls.

I've kicked in big games where it matters. I've been there and done that."

Boniol is now providing the kind of instruction Buehler has never had.

"He took a massive leap this offseason," said punter Mat McBriar, also his holder. "Bringing Chris in here was one of the smartest things that the team did."

Buehler doesn't have the typical background — or persona — for a kicker.

He likes to hit and tackle.

He was a goal-line tailback, safety and special teams guy who also happened to kick off while playing in junior college before getting a scholarship from USC.

At the pre-draft scouting combine in 2009, the 6-foot-2, 225-pound Buehler bench pressed 225 pounds 25 times, more than some offensive linemen drafted in the first round.

The Cowboys picked him in the fifth round and then during training camp last year, Buehler beat rookie defensive back DeAngelo Smith in a 50-yard dash.

When the Cowboys signed a standout college sprinter to a contract last week, coach Wade Phillips quipped that they weren't going to let Buehler race him.

While there is that "unique personality," Boniol said Buehler has the right mindset.

"He's one of the most coachable and teachable kids I've ever been around. ... He wants to learn, he wants to get better," Boniol said.

"His personality is very energetic, but he more than any kicker I've ever seen knows how to flip it on and off."

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TxDOT to hold public meeting

ODESSA — The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold another open-house style public meeting in Odessa for public input into the development of the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035.

The first meeting was held in May. The meeting will be held in the Large Conference Room of the Odessa District office on Thursday, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 3901 East Highway 80.

The purpose of this second meeting is to present a plan update and to solicit additional comments and input to aid in the final development of the 25-year plan.

Information will be available for viewing, including exhibits and videos about the status and results to-date. Representatives from TxDOT will be in attendance to discuss the development of the plan and answer questions. Forms will be provided for submitting written comments.

For those unable to attend the open-house style public meeting, written comments can be submitted:

(1) on the project website at: www.txdot.gov, key word: transportation plan 2035;

(2) by email at: TPP_txtranplan@dot.state.tx.us; or

(3) by mail to: Peggy Thurin, P.E., Project Manager, Statewide Transportation Plan 2035, 4544 Post Oak Place, Suite 224, Houston 77027.

World/Nation

Officials say 45 people gunned down in Pakistan's Karachi city in wake of lawmaker's killing

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Gunmen killed at least 45 people in Pakistan's largest city after the assassination of a prominent lawmaker set off a cycle of revenge attacks, officials said Tuesday. Dozens of vehicles and shops were set ablaze as security forces struggled to regain control of Karachi.

Schools were closed and most business ground to a halt Tuesday in the southern city of more than 16 million, Pakistan's main commercial hub. While a thriving trading center, Karachi has a history of political, ethnic and religious violence and has long been a hide-out for al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

The latest unrest came after Raza Haider, a provincial lawmaker, was shot dead along with his bodyguard in a mosque while preparing to offer prayers Monday in Nazimabad area.

Kagan confirmation in sight as Senate begins debate on Supreme Court nominee

WASHINGTON (AP) — A confirmation vote is all but assured for Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan as the Senate begins debate on making her the fourth female justice.

Supporters and opponents were to weigh in during debate starting Tuesday on President Barack Obama's nominee. A vote is expected before week's end. Confirming Kagan, 50, for a lifetime seat on the court is one of the last pieces of business senators will attend to before departing for a monthlong vacation. Kagan is in line to succeed retired Justice John Paul Stevens.

CONROY

Continued from Page 1A

to bond out." Williams declined to discuss the details of either case — the federal case alleging manufacture of child pornography or the charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child currently pending in Howard County — due to the ongoing investigation.

"All I can tell you about the aggravated sexual assault charge is the victim was under

14 years of age and the criminal activity took place in Howard County," he said. "Normally, in a child pornography case like this, each child that was photographed is also considered a victim, so I can't go into their ages or any other information about them."

Williams said how the cases will be tried is up to both the federal and district court prosecutors.

"The federal prosecutors and the district prosecutors will have

State briefs

Texas claim leads to driver linked to Marine death

DALLAS (AP) — An insurance claim helped police find a driver accused over the May 19 hit-and-run death of a Marine on layover at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Irving police say 44-year-old Richard Dean of Hurst faces a third-degree felony charge of failure to stop and render aid to 23-year-old Lance Cpl. Evan Sanchey of Yakima, Wash. The Marine was struck while trying to cross Highway 183.

Witnesses say Sanchey was hit by a light-colored Mazda Tribute, which lost some parts during impact.

Police searched an insurance database for Tarrant County and located the claim.

Dean on Saturday surrendered. He is free on \$30,000 bond.

Investigators on Tuesday did not immediately provide information for an attorney for Dean, whose telephone number was not publicly listed.

Pipe trouble: Day 2 of little water in Weatherford

WEATHERFORD (AP) — A busted pipeline in Weatherford could mean limited water supplies to the city of nearly 28,000 until mid-August.

Fire Department Chief George Teague says crews worked Tuesday to put a temporary pipe above ground and splice in about 150 feet of pipe.

Teague, who's also emergency management coordinator in the city 25 miles west of Fort Worth, told The Associated Press that Weatherford could be on limited water supplies for up to two weeks.

A boil water notice is in effect, after the pipeline problem was discovered early Monday.

Teague says tankers hauling water were supplying the county jail, with about 400 inmates, and Weatherford Regional Medical Center.

He says bottled water is available. Portable toilets have been set up. Restaurants are closed.

U.S. to reopen consulate in Mexican border city

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. consulate in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez will reopen after closing for two working days for a review of security threats.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley says the consulate will open Tuesday. He provided no details on the outcome of the review or the security threat that prompted the unexpected closure on Friday and Monday.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said there would be no comment on whether security had been increased.

The shutdown was the most drastic measure the State Department has taken to keep its consulate employees safe in increasingly violent Mexican border cities. The city across the border from El Paso, Texas is one of the world's most dangerous,

ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

diaper and reported it," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department. "The mother was inside the residence and appeared

to be intoxicated when officers arrived. There were several other people at the residence, but no one was watching the child."

Everett said the 2-year-old, along with another infant who was inside the residence, were taken into custody by Child Protective Services at the time of their mother's arrest.

Neither of the children were injured, Everett confirmed. Page was taken into custody without incident.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

LEADERS

Continued from Page 1A

county agriculture sites and participation in the annual Ag Appreciation Day activities.

• November — Personal Development Day, in which class members work on developing social and interpersonal skills.

• December — A tour of all county medical facilities, including Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the VA Medical Center, Big Spring State Hospital and the Texas State Veteran's Home.

• January — A tour of

city/county agencies.

• February — A tour of county educational agencies, including Howard College and the three public school systems.

• March — A tour of county industrial facilities.

• April — A tour of utility and communication agencies.

• May — Local attractions such as the Heritage Museum, Hangar 25 and the Vietnam Memorial will be visited.

For more information, contact the chamber at 263-7641.

Contact Staff Writer

to get together to decide how to try the case," Williams said. "Conroy could be looking at 30 years in prison for the child pornography charges alone. Aggravated sexual assault of a child is a first-degree felony, so he could face five to 99 years to life in prison if convicted on that charge."

Conroy would face the child pornography charges in the Northern District Federal Court in Lubbock. The charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child is expect-

ed to be handled in 118th District Court.

Conroy first found himself in the public eye in late November 2009, after claiming a bell ringer with the local Salvation Army verbally abused him and his children as they were leaving the Big Spring Post Office. The bell ringer was subsequently relocated to the sidewalk in front of the federal facility after Conroy argued the Salvation Army's operation on federal property

was illegal.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff
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News Editor

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Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Area's teen-agers now hard at work readying for play

Once again, the dog days of summer have definitely arrived. Nonetheless, several hundred high school students throughout the Crossroads area are hard at work toiling in that heat, many taking part in two-a-day drills designed to hone a plethora of skills.

Most schoolboy football players began two-a-day practices Monday.

But it is important for us to realize it's not just the area's football teams that toil in the heat.

Volleyball players, as well as cross-country team members and tennis players at some schools will also be honing their skills and conditioning for their seasons.

Also hard at work will be members of high school bands throughout the area. Just like the athletes in their schools, they have their eyes set on mastering skills that will show up in front of the entire community.

The West Texas sun beats down almost unmercifully in August, so coaches and band directors in the area do their best to schedule practices at times other than when the sun is at its scorching hottest.

Still, there's no real escape. Two-a-days by their nature, even if they were conducted in air conditioned comfort, are a grueling task.

So why on earth would the young people of this area put themselves through the agony?

It's the desire to be the best they can possibly be at their particular extracurricular endeavor.

We here at the Herald think that's admirable and that's why each year at this time we take the opportunity to salute each and every one of them.

Whatever the upcoming season holds, we believe these young people are most certainly en route to a job well done.

All of us should be proud of them. We certainly are.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We emit self-confidence, Lord, when we walk with You by our side.

Amen

Too young for making major decisions

Bristol Palin, 19, and Levi Johnston, 20 seem destined to become the poster children for youthful mistakes. First, the unmarried couple had a child — which we'll have to assume was by mistake, not design — and, now, the couple plans to compound their foolishness by getting married.

I'm all in favor of Palin and Johnston trying to be a couple in order to give their child a two parent home. That's the responsible choice and responsibility has not been a key value for Johnston for much of his time in the public eye.

There should, though, be a few interim steps between "blasting your baby's grandmother in the press" and marrying her daughter.

How about dating, co-parenting and actually dealing with the reality of life instead of living in the short-lived media frenzy "hey, we're on the cover of US Magazine," whirlwind?

In being a parent and being in a marriage, the only two easy parts are getting married and creating the baby. Everything else takes effort and it's hardly glamorous or exciting the way

the initial rush of getting married or having a baby is.

At 19, you essentially know nothing. My 19-year-old self would disagree with that, but he would be wrong and he would still think "Rock Me Amadeus" was a good song, so nobody should be listening to him.

At 19, I had long hair and tended to wearing ill-fitting T-shirts with unbuttoned button-down shirts over them. Add in some too loose jeans, a few skinny ties, along with glasses that came right out of the Sally Jesse Raphael collection and I looked like a poorly-tailored rock and roll Muppet.

This was not a good look then, anymore than it would be a good look now, but to my teenage self my clothing choices — like all my choices — seemed well thought out.

In fact, at 19, I was even more sure that I was right about everything than I am right now and that's coming from a guy who writes a newspaper column mostly to tell you how he's right about everything.

All 19-year-olds think their love will stand the test of time. It's part of the foolishness of youth mixed with the complete lack of knowledge of the real world that most college age kids have.

Reality, however, says that teenage love with its giddy rushes and crazy highs rarely

turns into the real thing. And, when it does, it takes time, life experience and the maturity to see beyond the surface.

My 19-year-old self dated my current wife. I loved her pretty much immediately, but had we gotten married or had a child at that stage of life, we would have been making a foolish decision that would have almost certainly ended in divorce.

Pretty much everyone over the age of 19 looks back on their teenage self with a mix of laughter and cringes. The teenage years are for experimenting, finding yourself and discovering what you want to be.

Bad outfits, foolish pursuits and plain old mistakes mark these years, but most of us don't make poor choices that threaten to set the rest of our lives on the wrong path.

Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston — despite their undeserved fame — are not so different than the rest of us and that's why it's a pretty safe bet to say their marriage will fail.

In general, if you're not old enough to be mature enough to tell your parents you intend to marry, then the odds of a successful marriage are pretty much zero.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com



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On bullying: It takes one to know one

President Obama was apparently moved enough by a letter from a Philadelphia fifth-grader about bullying that he wrote back and encouraged his correspondent to continue her quest to end bullying.

Oh, how rich the irony!

Barack Obama is nothing if not a bully. There, I said it, and I believe it's true, no matter how politically incorrect and inconsistent with the mainstream media's narrative it is.

Before getting to some examples, let me direct your attention to the White House's comments on the exchange and the reaction of Obama's fifth-grade correspondent, Zina Stokes.

White House spokeswoman Moira Mack said, "The president feels it is important to hear directly from the American people about their ideas and concerns."

Zina Stokes said: "He showed how he cares. I think even before his four years are up, when he gets done with the oil spill, something will be done with bullying in school."

Though those two statements appear innocuous enough, they reveal a prevalent attitude being promoted by the Obama White House and increasingly embraced by a growing dependency culture.

It's laudable for a president to want to hear the concerns of the people, but it's not healthy to encourage people to believe that the buck for every problem stops at the White House.

Many problems fall outside the proper scope of government, and classroom bullying is one.

Though liberals often try to politicize aspects or categories of "bullying" and to twist the term to serve some politically correct agenda, this is a matter best left to local school administrations

and school boards.

When government fosters the notion that eradicating bullying is the federal government's business, it does a disservice to our culture.

In her response, Zina Stokes makes my point. "When he gets done with the oil spill" — as if he's going to remedy that personally — "something will be done with bullying in school."

Clearly, Zina believes Obama should and will intervene directly on this matter and micro-manage a solution in her school and others across the nation. To her credit, however, at least Zina is also taking a proactive approach and lobbying schools to address the problem. Even she instinctively understands that people must not wait on a big federal government to solve their problems.

But it's especially ironic that Obama's spokeswoman touted Obama's receptiveness to the will of the people, for in his own bullying, he exhibits the opposite tendency.

He consistently runs roughshod over the will of the people to implement his agenda, about which he will brook neither dissent nor criticism.

Now for a few disturbing examples among the plethora.

- The White House started railing against BP and condemning it for the spill, saying it would keep its boot on BP's throat. With Attorney General Eric Holder at his side, Obama shook down BP for millions to contribute toward the problem. Concerning the spill, Obama told Matt Lauer he was talking to experts about "whose ass to kick." Also, as Obama was pointing fingers at BP, he said he wouldn't tolerate finger-pointing from oil executives. Too rich for words.

- When inspector general Gerald Walpin blew the whistle on Obama's friends, the White House not only summarily fired Walpin but also slandered him as someone who'd lost his mental faculties.
- When non-Republican attor-

ney Tom Lauria publicly objected to the administration's gross discrimination against his preferred creditor clients in favor of Obama's union friends on the Chrysler restructuring, a lawyer for Obama's auto industry task force called Lauria a terrorist, and Obama castigated his client, which was just trying to assert its legal rights, as "a small group of speculators."

- When John McCain openly disagreed with an Obama point during the health care summit, Obama reminded McCain "the election is over." Some dialogue there, huh?

- Obama said he didn't want opponents of his agenda — "the folks who created the mess" — "to do a lot of talking."

- When the Supreme Court properly lifted curbs on corporate campaign contributions, Obama publicly condemned the court and belittled it in his radio address and in his State of the Union speech with many of the justices present.

- Without benefit of the facts, Obama said the Cambridge police acted "stupidly" in arresting his friend, Harvard professor Henry Gates.

- Obama derided large financial institutions as "fat-cat" banks and smeared pharmaceutical companies for "obscene profits" when their profit margins were objectively in the mainstream.

- He categorically maligned general practitioner physicians and surgeons as corrupt and greedy when he said they would deliberately perform unnecessary but more lucrative procedures.

- He has badgered our steadfast Middle East ally, Israel, even going so far as to "condemn" its actions — an unprecedented rebuke of an ally from a chief executive.

I could go on.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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LANCE ARMSTRONG WON THIS CYCLING RACE A RECORD SEVEN CONSECUTIVE TIMES.

ANSWER: TOUR DE FRANCE

Bicycle Word Find

With summer cycling time drawing to a close, see how many related words you can find and circle in the puzzle.

BICYCLE	HELMET	SAFETY
BRAKES	RACE	SPEED
FAST	RECREATION	TOUR
GEAR	RIDE	TRAVEL

E V G V L V T J P F R M
Y Q E B C M B E C P E A
T X A G C I A A M E C V
E R R H C A L A E L R C
F G I Y S E K A R B E N
A F C D V S P E E D A H
S L O A E L I R Q U T J
E D R C T S A F H M I B
M T P G T C T G R I O Z
W R D I E V Z T J U N M
E Y O W K M I H W W O G
S H W P W P X A G S E T

Bicycle Scramble

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

1. N U N A M O T I bikes have thicker tires.
2. Find a T E S A that is comfortable for you.
3. Always wear a L H E M T E for safety.
4. Ride in the E E S R T T not on the sidewalk.

Answers: 1. mountain 2. seat 3. helmet 4. street

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

• 1789: U.S. CONGRESS ESTABLISHES THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

• 1959: THE 'EXPLORER 6' LAUNCHES INTO SPACE FROM CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA.

• 2007: BARRY BONDS BREAKS HANK AARON'S HOME RUN RECORD.



downshift

to shift a mode of transport into a lower gear

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Bicycle

SPANISH: Bicicleta

ITALIAN: Bicicletta

FRENCH: Bicyclette

GERMAN: Fahrrad

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IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO WEAR SAFETY EQUIPMENT WHILE RIDING A BICYCLE. A HELMET SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR RIDING GEAR.



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BIKE WHEEL

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Ancient Egyptian jewelry was stolen from the Forest Museum. The security guard says he was throwing away trash as the thief flung open the door and fled. The guard claims he couldn't give chase because the door slammed into his head and knocked him out. Why doesn't Slylock Fox believe the security guard?



HOW TO DRAW a construction worker



YOUR DRAWING



The scrambled words are things found at the beach. How many can you unscramble?
1) EWTRA
2) NSDA
3) UFDLAERIG
4) BLHSEL

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on Tuesday, August 10, 2010, in
the Administration A-Wing, Room
131, Howard College, 1001 Bird-
well Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at
which time they will be read into
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not occur. The college will
negotiate with qualified buyers
concerning the bids submitted.
Payment shall be made in full upon
receipt of the cattle. Cattle will be
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Junior College District reserves
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#6633 August 1 & 3, 2010

Tomorrow's Horoscope

If you are starting to think that your lifestyle seems to require more endurance and strength than you have, you're not alone. We never understand the full scope of a situation until we are in it, and if we knew going in, we probably wouldn't bother. But you also don't know how strong you can be. The Taurus moon helps you find out.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are more creative than you are rich. Steal the time to work on your skills and hone your vision. Keep your eyes open for sponsors. You'll need financial help to make this dream come to life.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are susceptible to the influence of your peers — everyone is to some degree. But it's time to shake loose from a certain person's hold. Recognize who is influencing you and what this person's agenda is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Much is determined by your socio-economic circumstances. Then again, much more is attainable on this earthly plane than you once thought. Take a risk. It will pay off immediately.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't have to know what your day is about — it will tell you as it goes along. The same is true of your work. All you have to do is commit to an action and a theme will begin to develop on its own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Your mind will be occupied with business matters. You have more to offer the world and feel certain you can get paid for it. Whether you are a small company or a one-person operation, you are never too little to think big.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Try not to finish too much on your own. You need the input of the group — well, maybe you don't need it exactly, but it benefits you to involve others. If you do too much, they won't feel like they are a part of the action.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Dealing with family, especially the young, the elderly and those closest to you, will bring challenges. Breathe deeply. It's an instantly relaxing act that will help you get through the more stressful moments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Those who make a habit of passing judgment on others are usually so self-critical that they find it difficult to relax and have fun. Consider having fewer opinions. Take life as it comes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will be a rock of stability for your family, and the best part is that you don't have to do anything out of the ordinary to create a feeling of security and comfort. Dinner on the table is more than enough.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's only fair to admit when you're wrong — but not so quickly. Lately, you've been apologizing a smidge too often. You have rights, too, you know! Avoid saying "I'm sorry" when "excuse me" will do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Feb. 18). It benefits you now to follow the rules, instructions and maps. There's a good reason why you were advised to go a certain direction instead of taking what appears to be a shorter route.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be presenting your ideas. A sketch is better than a finished layout. Leave room for input. Don't fill in all the blanks. Invite others to bring their imaginations to the process.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 3). Mediocrity only recognizes itself, but those with talent can recognize exceptional brilliance. You'll be among those who see and are seen for their unique contributions to the world. A mentor helps you make money in September. New work excites you in November. Loved ones whisk you off on a June adventure. Scorpio and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 31, 4, 39, 32 and 18.

ARABIC PARTS: THE PART OF ABILITY: The Arabic Parts is an astrological method of analyzing one's natal horoscope chart using mathematical equations to pinpoint specific qualities. The first of the 97 parts is Ability. If you have your birth chart in front of you, please find your Ascendant, Mars and your Ascendant's ruling planet. The formula we're using is: Ascendant plus Mars minus Ascendant's Ruling Planet equals The Part of Ability. There are tools online to help with the math — look for an Arabic Parts calculator. As an example, let's say that your Ascendant is 26

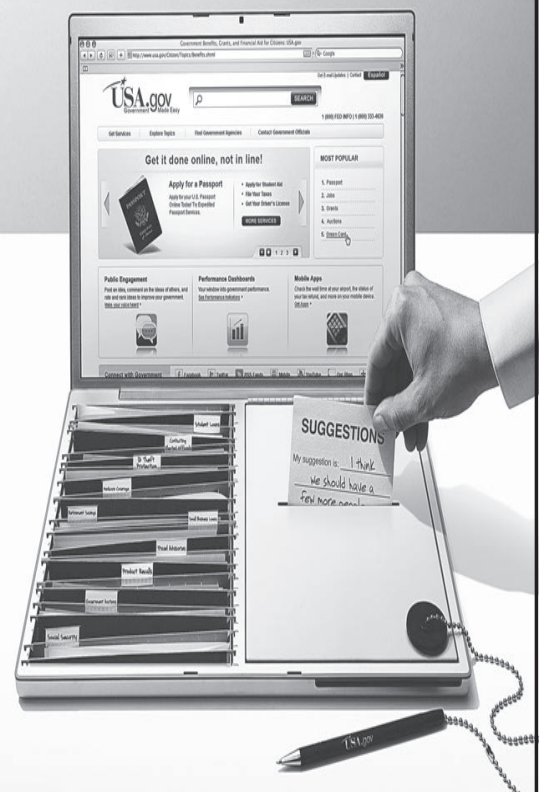
degrees Scorpio and your Mars is 2 degrees Sagittarius. The ruling planet of Scorpio is Mars. (Scorpio people should use Mars as their ruling planet, rather than Pluto, which was not known to the ancient world.) Go to the calculator, plug in your own information, and determine your Part of Ability. The person in the above example had Ability in 26 degrees Scorpio. This person has a wonderful ability to transform herself. Like a snake, she sheds her old outgrown persona when it no longer serves her and emerges renewed, refreshed and ready to assume a new life.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ultimate homemaker Martha Stewart is a Leo, with Mercury, the sign of communication, in Cancer, the sign of home and mothers. Venus in detail-oriented Virgo suggests that her love and appreciation of details is matched only by her amazing capacity to tend to them. Stewart's moon is in Sagittarius, the sign that represents expansion, social ease and good fortune.

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Bird Poop:

Western kingbird survives
strange, exhausting ordeal

Obviously, from the dried grasses and twigs left on various levels of our live oak tree, the year's nesting season had been a success. Doves, robins, mockingbirds and kingbirds had taken advantage of the protective branches and foliage to raise their young.

By early August the comings and goings of parents with food had diminished. Fall and winter winds would cause deterioration of the once pristine abodes. With spring, other generations might construct or weave more architectural wonders.

From the front window, movement near the top of the tree was puzzling. Not having seen any activity by avian parents, I assumed all fledglings

were scattered throughout the neighborhood. A look through our binoculars to confirm this was startling.

Hanging upside down was a youngster held captive by string. Its struggle to be free was futile. Asking Art to get the big ladder, I once again looked at the area only to find the bird was tethered to its nest. If we didn't hurry, it would either damage its leg, die from stress, or both.

Trying to place our stepladder among the branches, Art was confronted with numerous twigs and branches. For the safety of nesting birds, we had never pruned the oak. The abundance of natural obstructions had prevented cats and squirrels from reaching most of the nests. Now it was our turn at trying to scale the tree.

Having inserted our 14-footer in among the large limbs, Art held it while I started to climb through the dense armor of the unforgiving oak. My denim jacket,

jeans and a hard hat from Art's days at the refinery deflected most of the scratches I would have suffered.

After leaving the top of the ladder, I was still at least five feet from the bird. As I wiggled and twisted upward, each foot had to be carefully placed on a sturdy limb. Fortunately, the density of the growth helped prevent me from falling.

Above, exhausted, a Western kingbird hung motionless. As my movements jostled the upper limbs, it struggled weakly. With one more step and braced against the foliage, I grasped the bird in one hand and lifted the remains of its home in the other.

Tucking the bird back in its nest, I placed them inside a small pillowcase. Clutching the cloth in my teeth, I began the arduous descent. With the kingbird secure just under my chin, I felt it had a chance.

Once on the ground, Art removed the string from the bird's leg. In its juvenile plumage, the flycatcher was a pale rendition of its parents. Its soft gray crown segued into its grayish-olive back. With dark wings, black tail bordered with white, and faint yellow belly, the



Courtesy photo

In defending its nesting territory, the Western kingbird will chase and peck, in flight, hawks, vultures, grackles and any other birds seen as a threat to its young. Seldom seen and hidden by gray feathers on the top of its head is a reddish-orange streak that is acquired as the bird reaches maturity.

kingbird would hopefully grow to be another tyrant of the power lines and tree tops just like previous generations.

Trying to figure out what might have happened led us to wonder if the bird had ever left the nest, or returned to the nest and become ensnared. Had a parent continued to feed the captive bird? Was it trapped for a short period of time?

Because of what might have happened parental instinct could have met the youngster's insatiable appetite. Only the juvenile's desire to fly had left it hanging upside down.

After placing the kingbird inside a carrier to rest, we examined the nest. In addition to bits of twigs and weed

stems were cellophane from cigarette packages, feathers, dryer lint and more string. Since there were usually four eggs to a nest, it was a miracle that its three siblings had not become entangled in the structure.

An hour later, the kingbird was standing. Not knowing if it could perch, fly, or would eat on its own, we placed it in a large container with limbs varying in size and height. Accustomed to an insect diet, it was offered crickets and mealworms.

Deciding to hold it overnight gave us the opportunity to observe its behavior during the rest of the day. Relieved to find it on the highest roost, we discovered later in the afternoon

the count of its dinner morsels was decreasing.

The next morning our easement was deemed the best area for release. With the surrounding neighborhood offering large trees, and the alley way strung with utility lines, it could join other kingbirds that used both locales.

As it left the container it flew to the top of a mesquite. Looking around, the kingbird flew to the next high-top tree and then to the top of a telephone pole. With it went our questions. Only nature had the answers.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop on Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

su | do | ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

4	9							7
			6	1				
		1		7		2	6	
1			3					
		7		5		4		
					2			6
	6	3		2		1		
			5	3				
7								9 5

Parent's Corner:

Interesting parody on monkeys
makes you wonder about man

Iread a very interesting parody last week that I found fascinating. Let me share it with you.

You begin with a cage containing five monkeys.

Inside the cage, hang a banana on a string and place a set of stairs under it.

Before long, a monkey will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana.

As soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the other monkeys



DARRELL
RYAN

with cold water.

After awhile, another monkey makes an attempt with the same result, all the other monkeys are

sprayed with cold water.

After a while, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

Now, put away the cold water.

Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new one.

The new monkey sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs.

To his surprise and horror, all of the other

monkeys attack him.

After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original five monkeys and replace it with a new one.

The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm!

Likewise, replace a third original monkey with a new one, then a fourth, then the fifth.

Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

Most of the monkeys that are beating him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs or why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

After replacing all the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys have ever been sprayed with cold water.

Nevertheless, no monkey ever again approaches the stairs to try for the banana.

Why not? Because as far as they know, that's the way it's always been done.

The moral of the story is that many policies, procedures, traditions and mannerisms are formed in the same fashion; we have always done it that way!

Could we be guilty of the same thing, even in our family relationships?

Interesting concept, huh?

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

BSHS Class of '65 reunion

The Class of 1965 is looking for classmates prior to the Sept. 17-18 reunion. Call Mariann Williams at 267-8537.

Gary Anderson, Billie Bailey McMahon, David Burns, Grace Chavez Martinez, Jena Kay Cole, Dennis Col-

ins, Selena Ann Coyle Gould, Jan Currey Billings, Lynda Davidson Evans, Roy Doporto, Handley Driver, Jean Fannin McGuire, Robert Settles, Bryans Fitzhugh, Linda Harkrider Hattenback, Judy Hinds Frye.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Bread-and-Butter Hands

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠742
♥A5
♦K109862
♣107

WEST
♠KQ1065
♥743
♦J753
♣6

EAST
♥93
♦QJ106
♣4
♠KQ9842

SOUTH
♠AJ8
♥K982
♦AQ
♣AJ53

against any distribution of the opponents' cards, provided he takes a few necessary precautions.

Dummy's long diamond suit is good for six tricks unless one defender has four or five diamonds to the jack. Declarer's primary concern, therefore, is to guard against an unfavorable diamond break.

The first protective step is taken when West's king-of-spades lead is allowed to win. Refusal to take the trick acts as a barrier to continuation of that suit and prevents the spade suit from later being run against declarer. This could happen if the ace were taken and East later gained the lead to return a spade through the J-8.

Let's assume West shifts to a heart at trick two. South takes care to win with the king, cashes the ace of diamonds and leads the queen. After West follows, declarer overtakes the queen with the king to guard against the possibility that West may have been dealt the J-x-x-x of diamonds.

This protective step may cost declarer a trick (when the diamonds are divided 3-2), but it ensures scoring at least five diamond tricks, thereby guaranteeing the contract. The diamond ten is next led, and at least nine tricks become a certainty.

Overtaking the diamond queen may seem wasteful, but since it provides against any possibility of defeat, it is clearly the right play.

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — king of spades.
In the ordinary course of events, declarer will encounter a number of deals where his contract is sure to make regardless of how the opponents' cards are divided and how he chooses to play them. Such hands are sometimes called pianolas.

In other hands that also are certain to succeed, a moderate amount of skill may be required to protect against the possibility of defeat. These are the hands that appeal to the real student of the game.

Today's deal is from that class. South is sure to make three notrump

Tomorrow: The better way.

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su | do | ku

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ANSWERS

4	9	6	2	8	3	5	7	1
7	5	2	4	6	1	9	8	3
8	3	1	9	7	5	2	6	4
1	8	9	3	4	6	7	5	2
6	2	7	1	5	8	4	3	9
3	4	5	7	9	2	8	1	6
5	6	3	8	2	9	1	4	7
9	1	4	5	3	7	6	2	8
2	7	8	6	1	4	3	9	5



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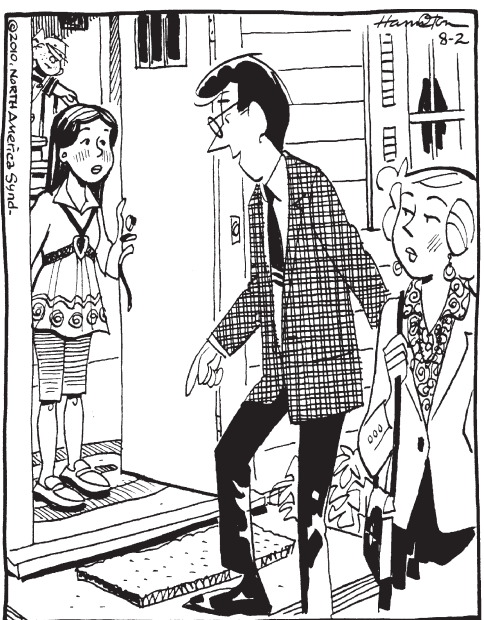
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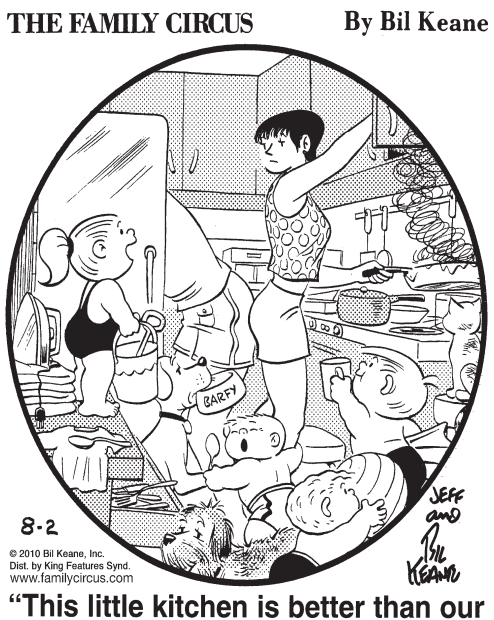
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Vida Notic.	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News King	King Granger	Chumney Business	BBC	King	Dirty Jobs: Bite	Silence of the Lambs, Scott Glenn	Texas Ranger	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck Phineas	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Mi Pecado (SS)	Two Men Ent	News	Ei Cartel II	News Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Van Impe	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	Dirty Jobs	Entourage	Bones	Wizards	Hannah	Football	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Atlanta Braves.	
7:PM	The Bachelorette	Hasta que el Dinero	Lie to Me	How I Met Rules	Ei Clon	America's/ Talent	Fam. Guy	Upd Hansen	Gospel Music of the Statler Brothers	90210	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Ladykillers	The Closer	Movie: I Got the Hook-Up	Movie: Legally Blondes	Deck	2010 Poker	Baseball Tonight
8:PM	The Bachelorette	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)	The Good Guys	Two Men Big Bang	Ei Fantasma de	Last Comic Standing	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Stevie Ray Vaughan Live	Married... Married...	Day of the Shark 3	Rubicon	Rizzoli & Isles	Game Deck	Game Deck	2010 Poker	Baseball Tonight	
9:PM	The Bachelorette	Cristina (SS)	Simpsons	(:01) CSI: Miami	...Elisa? La Diosa	Dateline NBC	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Married... Married...	Day of the Shark 3	Rubicon	Rizzoli & Isles	Game Deck	Game Deck	2010 Poker	Baseball Tonight		
10:PM	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez	House	Roseanne	Day of the Shark 3	Rubicon	UFC 117: Count.	The Closer	The Mo'Nique	Wizards	E:60	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Letterman	A Corazón Abierto	Jay Leno	Tonight	Name	Scrivner	Bernie	Shark Attack	Mad Men	Knockout Sports	Rizzoli & Isles	Wendy Williams	Nation	Baseball	
12:AM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Corazón Salvaje	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Jeff and Jim Keane	Name	CCM	T. Smiley	Cops	CSI: Crime Son	Hawthorne	Movie: Do the Right Thing, Ruby Dee	Wizards	NASCAR Now	NFL Live	
1:AM	Extra	Amar sin Limites	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Cortes	Sex & Cortes	Off Air	Day of the Shark 3	Movie: The Ladykillers	Star Trek: Voyager	Hawthorne	Suite Life	Suite Life	Racing	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Dirty Jobs: Bite	Star Trek: Voyager	Hawthorne	Suite Life	Suite Life	Racing	SportsCenter		

DENNIS THE MENACE



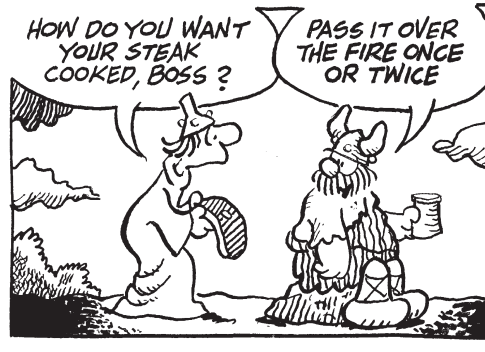
"BY THE WAY, THERE'S AN EXTRA KEY UNDER THE MAT IN CASE DENNIS LOCKS YOU OUT AGAIN."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"This little kitchen is better than our big one at home 'cause it saves you steps — right, Mommy?"

HAGAR



HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR STEAK COOKED, BOSS? PASS IT OVER THE FIRE ONCE OR TWICE

BLONDIE



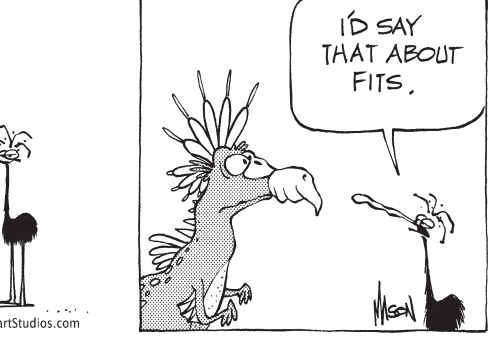
HONEY, LET THE ANSWERING MACHINE GET IT

BC



HI THERE! I'M A DOPEKATYRANACONFLAPADOSAURUS.

WIZARD OF ID



I'D SAY THAT ABOUT FITS.

AGNES



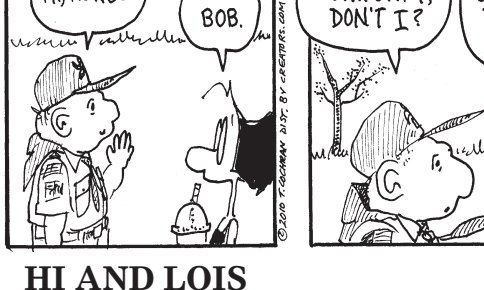
WE CAUGHT THIS BOY SCOUT DOING GOOD DEEDS ALL OVER THE KINGDOM

HI AND LOIS



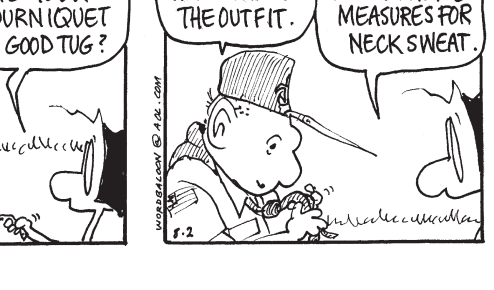
I LOOK WAY COOL IN THIS UNIFORM, DON'T I?

THE OTHER COAST



I CAN'T OPEN THIS DARN PLASTIC PACKAGING.

SNUFFY SMITH



WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO GIVE YOUR TOURNIQUET A GOOD TUG?

BEEBLE BAILY



I NEED A NEW PILLOW

BEETLE BAILEY



DO YOU WANT FIRM, SOFT, FOAM, FEATHER, FIBER...?

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Aug. 2, the 214th day of 2010. There are 151 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, seizing control of the oil-rich emirate. (The Iraqis were later driven out in Operation Desert Storm.)

On this date:

In 1610, during his fourth voyage to the Western Hemisphere, English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into what is now known as Hudson Bay.

In 1776, members of the Continental Congress began attaching their signatures to the Declaration of Independence.

In 1876, frontiersman "Wild Bill" Hickok was shot and killed while playing poker at a saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory by Jack McCall, who was later hanged.

In 1909, the original Lincoln "wheat" penny first went into circulation, replacing the

YARD GOODS by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

10 Sharp-eyed birds

11 Gave happiness to

12 Baseball official

13 Opposite of WNW

21 Make good as new

22 Perform better than

26 Rainy mo.

27 Seem suitable for

28 Sunrise direction

30 Clever folks

31 James Bond, e.g.

32 Remove the rind from

33 Tax reduction

34 Place of residence

35 Like some mountain views

37 Not many

38 Violin kin

39 Bank-acct. entry

44 Trousers

46 Current fashions

48 Unable to sit still

49 Number of Little Pigs

50 Fashion-show strutter

51 Book of maps

52 "One of ___ days . . ."

54 Heroic deed

55 Mexican snack

56 Low-cal, on a label

57 Approx. landing hour

58 Cookie container

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Manicurist's tool
- 5 Maple-syrup sources
- 9 Smooth transition
- 14 Creative thought
- 15 Very much
- 16 Tropical trees
- 17 Football officials, for short
- 18 Kitchen-flooring piece
- 19 Open-mouthed
- 20 Natural universe
- 23 ___ as a fox
- 24 Hospital areas: Abbr.
- 25 Preowned
- 26 Chimp, for example
- 27 Wager
- 29 Uses needle and thread
- 32 Mama's mate
- 34 Is in charge of
- 36 Playful bite
- 37 Community structure
- 40 Historical period
- 41 Send off, as a payment
- 42 Brings to a halt
- 43 Moistens
- 45 Give permission to
- 46 Explosive initials
- 47 Airline to Israel
- 49 Prefix for angle
- 50 Small rug
- 53 Clergy member
- 57 DVD-player button
- 59 Make, as money
- 60 Doing nothing
- 61 Armored vehicles
- DOWN**
- 1 Lawyers' employers
- 2 Absolutely perfect
- 3 Southpaw's nickname
- 4 Make simpler
- 5 Literary spoof
- 6 Wanted-poster info
- 7 Opinion survey
- 8 Slow-cooked meal
- 9 Practices boxing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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			47	48			49			50	51	52
			53			54	55			56		
57	58					59				60		
61						62				63		
64						65				66		

New ID theft targets children's SS numbers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The latest form of identity theft doesn't depend on stealing your Social Security number. Now thieves are targeting your kid's number long before the little one even has a bank account.

Hundreds of online businesses are using computers to find dormant Social Security numbers — usually those assigned to children who don't use them — then selling those numbers under another name to help people establish phony credit and run up huge debts they will never pay off.

Authorities say the scheme could pose a new threat to the nation's credit system. Because the numbers exist in a legal gray area, federal investigators have not figured out a way to prosecute the people involved.

The sellers get around the law by not referring to Social Security numbers. Instead, just as someone might pay for an escort service instead of a prostitute, they refer to CPNs — for credit profile, credit protection or credit privacy numbers.

Julia Jensen, an FBI agent in Kansas City, discovered the scheme while investigating a mortgage-fraud case. She has given presentations to lenders across the Kansas City area to show them how easy it is to create a false credit score using these numbers.

It's not clear how widespread the fraud is, mostly because the scheme is difficult to detect and practiced by fly-by-night businesses.

But the deception is emerging as millions of Americans watch their credit scores sink to new lows.

Figures from April show that 25.5 percent of consumers — nearly 43.4 million people — now have a credit score of 599 or below, marking them as poor risks for lenders.

They will have trouble getting credit cards, auto loans or mortgages under the tighter lending standards banks now use.

The scheme works like this:

Online companies use computers and publicly available information to find random Social Security numbers. The numbers are run through public databases to determine whether anyone is using them to obtain credit. If not, they are offered for sale for a few hundred to several thousand dollars.

Because the numbers often come from young children who have no money of their own, they carry no spending history and offer a chance to open a new, unblemished line of credit. People who buy the numbers can then quickly build their credit rating in a process called "piggybacking," which involves linking to someone else's credit file.

Many of the business selling the numbers promise to raise customers' credit scores to 700 or 800 within six months.

If they default on their payments, and the credit is withdrawn, the same people can simply buy

another number and start the process again, causing a steep spiral of debt that could conceivably go on for years before creditors discover the fraud.

Jensen compared the businesses that sell the numbers to drug dealers.

"There's good stuff and bad stuff," she said.

"Bad stuff is a dead person's Social Security number. High-quality is buying a number the service has checked to make sure no one else is using it."

Credit bureaus can quickly identify applications that use numbers taken from dead people by consulting the Social Security Administra-

tion's death index.

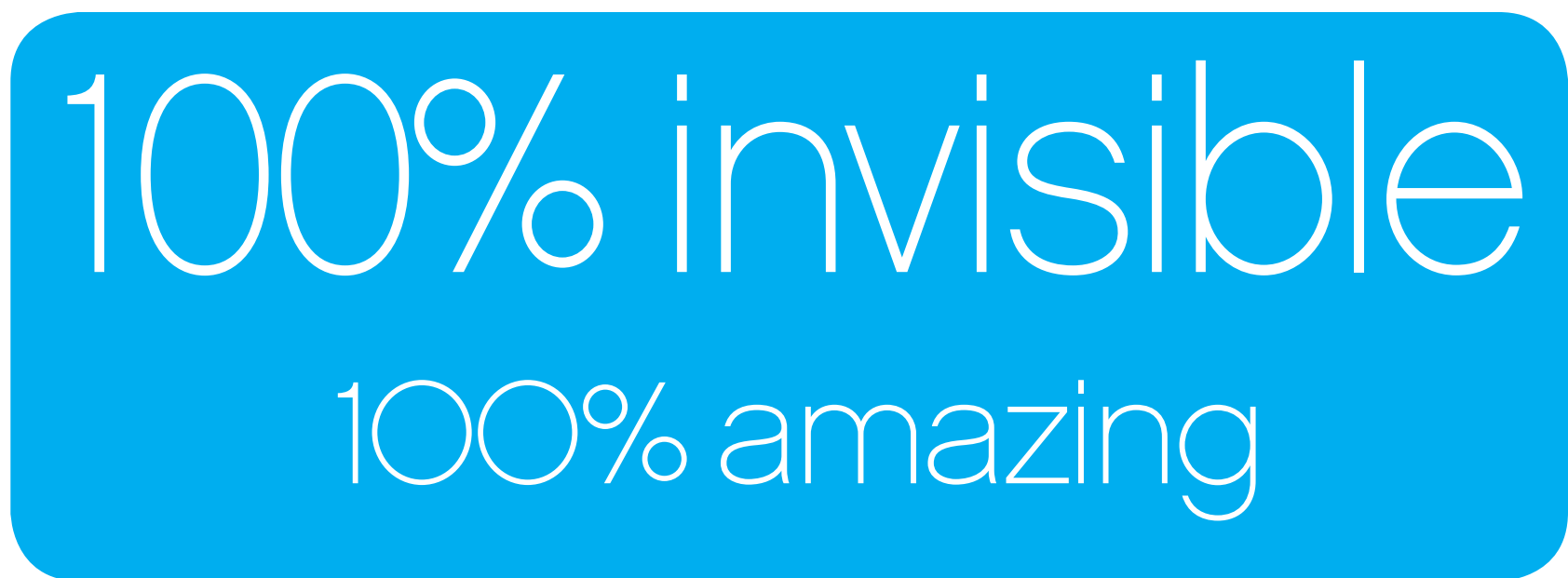
Social Security numbers follow a logical pattern that includes a person's age and where he or she lived when the number was issued. Because the system is somewhat predictable, sellers can make educated guesses and find unused numbers using trial and error.

A "clean" CPN is a number that has been validated as an active Social Security number and is not on file with the credit bureaus. The most likely source of such numbers are children and longtime prison inmates, experts said.

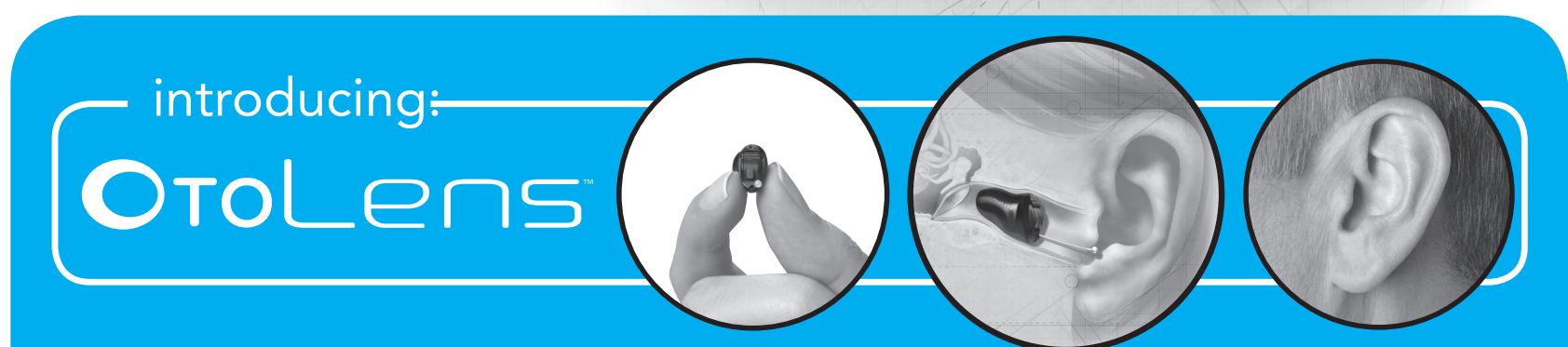
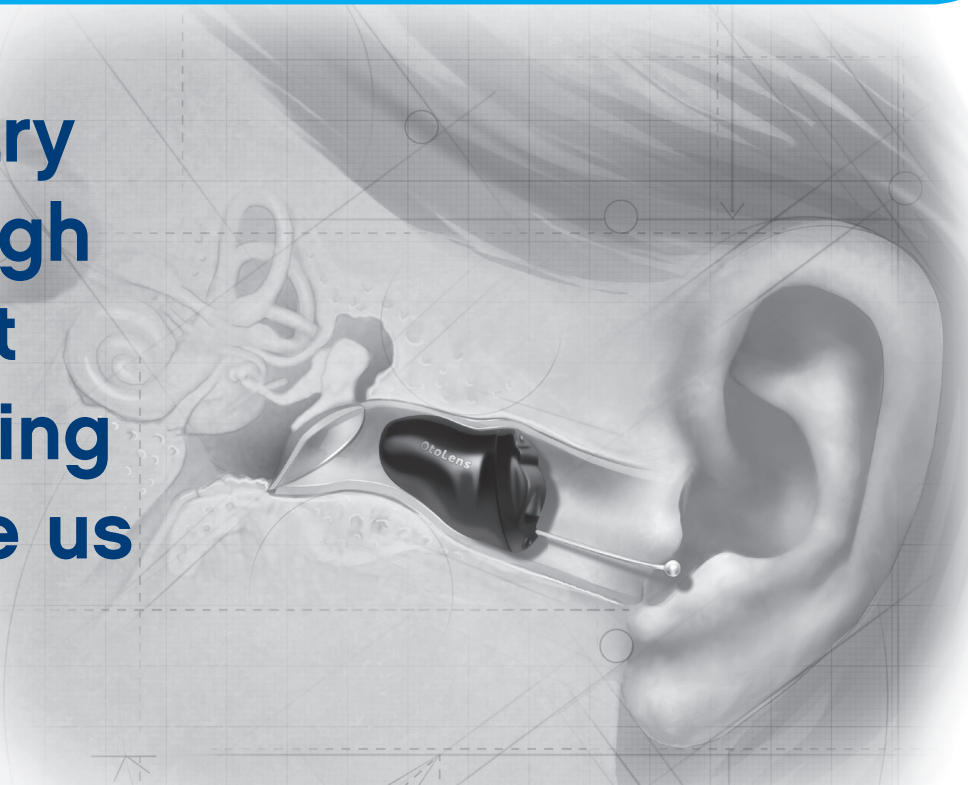
Robert Damosi, an analyst with Javelin Strat-

egy & Research, said the crime can come back to hurt children when they get older and seek credit for the first time, only to discover their Social Security number has been used by someone else.

"Those are the numbers criminals want. They can use them several years without being detected," Damosi said.



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Celebrating The Boy Scouts Of America 100 Anniversary In This Great Nation, 1910-2010

Court considers admission policies

AUSTIN (AP) — An appeals court is scheduled to consider a lawsuit Tuesday that challenges the use of race and ethnicity in undergraduate admissions policies at the University of Texas at Austin.

A three-judge panel of the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is set to take up the case filed in 2008 by two white students who were denied admission. The lawsuit claims that the policies violate the Constitution and federal law.

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks of Austin dismissed the lawsuit last year, ruling that the university's use of race and ethnicity as factors in admissions is constitutionally acceptable. The students appealed.

Affirmative action policies were effectively banned in 1996 by the 5th Circuit ruling known as Hopwood. But in 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld affirmative action at the University of Michigan's law school in a decision known as the Grutter opinion. UT resumed considering race starting with its 2005 entering class.

The case now being appealed represents the first challenge of a university's affirmative action policies since the Grutter opinion, according to a report in Tuesday's Austin American-Statesman.

"Our argument is relatively simple," said Edward Blum, director of the Washington-based Project on Fair Representation, which opposes the use of race in public policy and which is helping to pay the plaintiffs' legal bills. "We believe that the reintroduction of race and ethnicity in the admissions process by the University of Texas is unconstitutional and falls outside of the parameters where race is allowed to be used."

UT and the Texas attorney general's office, which is defending the university's policy, argue that it does not breach the guidelines. "The university believes that its admission system is well within the guidance the Supreme Court has given us in the Grutter case," said Patti Ohlendorf, UT's vice president for legal affairs.

In dismissing the case last year, Sparks said UT's admission system includes some race-neutral policies, such as a state law guaranteeing admission to students who rank in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class and scholarships aimed at underrepresented parts of the state.

"But, despite those efforts, UT still found diversity lacking in its student body and thus decided to consider race as part of its admissions process," the judge wrote.

Abigail Fisher and Rachel Michalewicz filed the lawsuit, claiming that UT's race-conscious policy violated their civil and constitutional rights.

1910

February 8: The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.
June 21: Thirty-four national representatives of boys' work agencies met in a temporary national headquarters in a YMCA office in New York to establish the Boy Scouts of America.
Founders of Scouting:
Robert Baden-Powell, or Baron Baden-Powell: As a youth, Robert Baden-Powell greatly enjoyed the outdoors, learning about nature and how to live in the wilderness. After returning as a military hero from service in Africa, Baden-Powell discovered that English boys were reading the manual on stalking and survival in the wilderness that he had written for British soldiers. Gathering ideas from men like Ernest Thompson Seton and Daniel Carter Beard (whose success in gathering youth into nature-focused organizations in America was like a blueprint to his vision), he rewrote the manual as a nonmilitary nature skills book and called it Scouting for Boys. To test his ideas, Baden-Powell brought together 22 boys to camp at Brownsea Island, off the coast of England. This historic campout was a success and resulted in the advent of Scouting in Europe. Thus, the imagination and inspiration of Baden-Powell, later proclaimed Chief Scout of the World, brought Scouting to youth the world over.
Ernest Thompson Seton: As a young man he immigrated to the US in the 1880s, where his fascination with the wilderness led him to become a naturalist, an artist, and an author. Through his works, he influenced youth and adults and eventually established a youth organization called the Woodcraft Indians. He became the first Chief Scout of the BSA in 1910, and his writings, intelligence and enthusiasm helped turn an idea into reality.
Daniel Carter Beard: The 1st National Scout Commissioner, or "unit doctor"! As a woodsman, illustrator, and naturalist, Daniel Carter Beard was a pioneering spirit of the Boy Scouts of America. Already 60 years old when the Boy Scouts of America was formed, he became a founder and merged it with his own boys' organization, the Sons of Daniel Boone. As the first national Scout commissioner, Beard helped design the original Scout uniform and introduced the elements of the First Class Scout badge. "Uncle Dan," as he was known to boys and leaders, is remembered as a colorful figure dressed in buckskin who helped form Scouting in the United States.
William D. Boyce: In 1909, this Chicago publisher lost his way in a dense London fog. A boy came to his aid and, after guiding the man, refused a tip, explaining that as a Scout he would not take a tip for doing a Good Turn. This gesture by an unknown Scout inspired a meeting with Robert Baden-Powell, the British founder of the Boy Scouts. As a result, the Boy Scouts was incorporated by William Boyce into the United States of America.
James E. West: 1st Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America in 1911. James was an avid advocate for children's rights, and his personal history clearly explains his passion. Although orphaned and physically disabled, he had the perseverance to graduate from law school and become a successful attorney. When William Boyce brought the Scouting idea into America, his determination provided the momentum to help build Scouting into the largest and most effective youth organization in the world. When he retired in 1943, Dr. West was recognized throughout the country as the true architect of the Boy Scouts of America.
President William Howard Taft: honorary president
The Former President Theodore Roosevelt, honorary vice president and Chief Scout Citizen

1911

First annual meeting at the White House, Washington, D.C.; all were addressed by President Taft.
The Scout Oath (or Promise) On my honor I will do my God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. And the Scout Law
A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.
--These were adopted along with several merit badges and fundamental policies.
1912
August 12: First Eagle Scout, Arthur Eldred
Boys' Life became the official BSA magazine
1913
First local council charters were issued
Scouting became the official magazine for volunteers
1914
First Scout Sunday was celebrated
First tree-planting project was held in New York
Training for Scout leaders was developed
First gold medal given for the conservation of wildlife
1915
National office to train all Scouters was established
Fifty-seven merit badge pamphlets were issued
The Handbook for Scoutmasters was issued
1916
Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Constitution and bylaws were adopted
The first college course in Scouting began at Teachers College, New York

1917

Scouting's full resources were placed at the service of the government
Slogan: "Help Win the War" The first winter camp was held by Chicago Scouts.
Scouts' War Effort: 1917-1918
Sold Liberty bonds and war savings stamps totaling more than \$355 million.
Collected 100 railroad cars full of nutshells and peach pits for gas mask manufacturing
Distributed more than 300 million pieces of government literature
Aided in food and fuel conservation projects
Planted 12,000 Boy Scout war gardens
1918
BSA adopted the slogan "The War Is Over, but Our Work Is Not"
Scouts rendered nationwide service during the influenza epidemic
1919
First four Gold Medals were awarded for saving a life at the risk of the rescuer's own.
President Woodrow Wilson established National Boy Scout Week
1920-1929
1920: First World Jamboree in London, England, where 8,000 Scouts from 34 countries were present.
1923: The international left handclasp (handshake) was adopted.
1923: Northern Tier High-Adventure Base began offering canoe adventures.
1924: Every Scout a Swimmer program began.
1924: Second world jamboree in Copenhagen, Denmark
1926: First 22 Silver Buffalo Awards for distinguished service to boyhood were awarded, the first was awarded to Baden-Powell.
The second was presented in the honor of the unknown Scout whose Good Turn brought Scouting to America.
1927: National office was moved to 2 Park Avenue, New York City.
1930-1939
1930: Cub Scout program was formally launched, with 5,102 Cub Scouts by the end of first year.
1934: President Roosevelt called for help from the Scouts for the distressed and needy (a Nationwide Good Turn). They collected 1,812,284 items of clothing, household furnishings, foodstuffs, and supplies.
1935: Membership passed 1 million.
1937: First national jamboree, in Washington, D.C., at the invitation of President Roosevelt. 27,232 attended, representing 536 councils.
1938: Philmont Rocky Mountain Scout Camp established (known today as Philmont Scout Ranch). It was a gift from Waite Phillips of 35,857 acres of land near Cimarron, New Mexico.
1940-1949
1941: Philmont Scout Ranch established with additional gift from Waite Phillips, including residence and ranch buildings, livestock and operating ranch equipment, and additional land resulting in a total combined acreage of 127,000.
1949: Within the realms of Scouting property, the totals of councils and campsites were: 543 councils, 831 campsites, and 288,545 acres.

Scouts' War Effort: 1941-1945

Included 69 specific requests from the government
Collected 30 million pounds of rubber during a two-week drive
20,000 Scouts earned the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Medal for Victory Gardens
Distributed pledge cards for war bonds, savings stamps, air-raid posters, and stamp posters
Collected aluminum and wastepaper, and conducted defense housing surveys
Served as messengers, dispatch bearers, and fire watchers
Assisted emergency medical units
1950-1959
1950: Second national jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania—47,163 Scouts and leaders attended.
1950: First Boy Scout stamp issued by the U.S. Post Office Department.
1952: 2 million pounds of clothing collected for domestic and foreign relief.
1952: Distributed more than a million posters and 30 million Liberty Bell doorknob hangers in the Get-Out-the-Vote campaign.
1952: 20-millionth member joined.
1953: Third national jamboree at Irvine Ranch, California—45,401 Scouts and leaders attended.
1954: National office moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey,
1954: More than 100,000 units (packs and troops).
1954: More than 1 million adult volunteers
1957: Fourth national jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania—50,100 Scouts and leaders attended.
1960-1969
1960: Scouting's Golden Jubilee.
1960: Fifth national jamboree in Colorado Springs, Colorado—53,378 Scouts and leaders attended.
1964: Sixth national jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania—52,000 Scouts and leaders attended.
1965: 500,000th Eagle Scout honored, and 40 millionth member registered.
1967: BSA hosted the 12th world jamboree at Farragut State Park, Idaho, and 12,000 Scouts and leaders from 107 countries attended.
1969: First female Explorers (a Scouting program that has shifted into what is now known as Venturing. Exploring now exists as a partner program to Scouting through Learning for Life).
1969: Seventh national jamboree at Farragut State Park, Idaho—35,000 youth and leaders attended.
1970-1979
June 5, 1971: Scouting's 1st Keep America Beautiful Day, in which Scouts collected more than a million tons of litter.
1972: National Eagle Scout Association formed.
1973: Eighth national jamboree at two sites, Moraine State Park, Pennsylvania and Farragut State Park, Idaho—64,000 youth and leaders attended.
1977: Ninth national jamboree, at Moraine State Park, Pennsylvania—28,600 Scouts and leaders attended.
1979: National office moved to Irving, Texas.

1980-1989

1980: 30 millionth Cub Scout.
1980: Florida National High Adventure Sea Base was opened for Scouts.
1981: 10th national jamboree, at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia—30,000 Scouts and leaders attended.
1982: The 1 millionth Eagle Scout, Alexander M. Holsinger.
1985: 75th anniversary, themed: "Pride in the Past ... Footsteps to the Future."
1985: 11th national jamboree, at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia—32,615 Scouts and leaders attended.
1988: First Scouting for Food National Good Turn—more than 60 million food items were collected.
1989: 12th national jamboree, at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia—33,000 Scouts and leaders attended.
1990-1999
1991: Learning for Life established as a character-building program for the classroom (700,000 youth participated in the first year).
1993: 13th national jamboree, at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia—33,000 Scouts and leaders attended.
1997: 14th national jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia—35,000 Scouts and leaders.
Coed program, Venturing, was launched for youth 14 to 20 years old.

2000-2009

2000: The 100-millionth youth member, Mario Castro.
2001: 15th national jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia—40,000 youth and leaders attended.
2002: National Scouting Museum was built, a 50,000-square-foot facility, next to the national office in Irving, Texas.
2005: 16th national jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia—43,000 Scouts and leaders attended. \$5.6 million worth of improvements made to national parks by Boy Scouts of America.
2009: The 2 millionth Eagle Scout, Anthony Thomas.
2009: The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve comes into Scouting's world as the single largest gift ever made to the BSA. It is near Beckley, West Virginia and is the future home for: the Scouting Leadership and Training Center and National Scout Jamborees of the future.
2010-
Scouting's 100th Anniversary, 2010. National Anniversary Jamboree (July 26-Aug 6) held first week in Washington D.C. and second week in Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia.

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