

Rural firefighters entertain at ‘Big for a Day’ event

I hope everyone is having a great summer and that you’re ready to make a difference in someone’s life. Recently, our affiliate conducted a “Big for a Day” event with the help of the Sherman County Rural Fire Department. Ken Griffith and his crew did an excellent job of informing both the youths and the adults in an entertaining fashion, and he gave great examples of fire danger and various usage of their equipment. Most of the kids and a few adults got soaked, but that is what summer is for! We appreciate their time and effort. The event was a success with the strong possibility of a couple of matches being formed. That made the event even better. Starting with this month’s column, I would like to pursue the im-



dennis daise

- big brothers big sisters

portance of the two-parent family. I will base the next few columns on the thoughts on an article entitled “Parents or Prison” by Jennifer Roback Morse drawn from Policyreview.org. Morse does not mess around concerning her thoughts about the importance of a married couple working as a team to direct their child: “Without parents, prison becomes a greater probability in the child’s life. . . . Incarceration provides ex-

without a conscience, a child without self-control, is a life-long problem for the rest of society. “A free society needs people with consciences. The basic self-control and reciprocity that a free society takes for granted do not develop automatically. “Conscience development takes place in childhood. In particular, children of single parents. . . are more likely to commit crimes. . . the child has more difficulty learning

the combination of empathy, reciprocity, fairness and self-command. . . If the child does not learn this at home, society will have to manage his behavior some other way.” This is not for the lack of effort by the single parent, but because of time, job pressure and economic problems; life happens. Morse continues to state that the “choice to become a single parent is not strictly a private choice. The decision to become an unmarried mother or the decision to disrupt an existing family does not meet the economist’s definition of ‘private.’ “These choices regarding family structure have significant spillover effects on other people. We can no longer deny that such admittedly very personal decisions have an impact on people other than the in-

dividuals who choose.” Morse continues to explain that the responsibility to care for juvenile offenders will hit the state in the pocketbook. “The increase in serious crimes by younger and younger offenders is absorbing a greater percentage of state resources,” she said, “necessarily crowding out other services.” One strong example of fatherless families that Morse uses is the case of the Beltway Sniper Case. John Lee Malvo, the younger sniper, and John Allen Mohammed, the older one of the duo, were both from fatherless families. I don’t think I can think of such a cruel event of shooting innocent people, which defies logic that can only be compared with acts of terrorism.

Morse also mentions that a 1993 analysis by M. Anne Hill and June O’Neill “found that the likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity increases substantially if he is raised without a father. Finally, a 1987 survey published by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, “found that 70 percent of youths in state reform institutions across the U.S. had grown up in single-or-no-parent situations.” The previous notes are just statistics, but a reality that the numbers can hit home in a single-parent situation. Next month, I will continue with Morse’s article and encourage parents who need a hand with their child to give us a try. We want the percentages of success in your favor and not the other way around.

With kids at home and parents at work, gun safety advice needed

As kids spend more time at home alone during the summer, and parents have to work, I thought this article by the Nemours Foundation on gun safety may be useful to parents: “Whether you are a collector, a hunter or a gun control advocate, you need to ensure your family’s safety by talking with your child about the potential dangers of guns and what to do if one is found. “When a child is old enough to interact with others, even if he doesn’t speak yet, he probably has a general concept of what guns are. “This comes as no surprise given that the average child sees 200,000 violent acts on television (including 40,000 murders) by high school graduation, according to the National Institute on Media and the Family. These numbers don’t include what children see on the big screen or on the Internet. “Television, movies and comput-



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- prevention center

ers are not the only sources through which kids are exposed to guns. Children’s shows and school programs dedicated to gun safety may actually be a child’s introduction to firearms. “Some children learn about guns firsthand “on the street.” Even if you don’t have a gun in your own home, one could be on display or stored away at a neighbor or friend’s home. “Experts don’t agree on how much young children actually understand about guns when they pretend-play or fantasize about them. Toddlers are likely to point fingers

and make s h o o t i n g noises to convey anger or gain a sense of power, but it’s likely that they don’t understand that this behavior, when carried out with a real gun, may result in the death or injury of another child or themselves. “The question on the minds of many parents is, do toy guns dangerously blur the line between fantasy and reality? There’s no clear answer, and parents on both sides of the gun control issue vary in their opinions. “Whereas some gun control advocates believe that allowing kids to play with toy guns as an isolated event isn’t a problem, some gun owners believe that guns are not toys, and that it’s foolish to blur the

line for children. Parents should be guided by their own viewpoints when deciding whether to allow toy guns and shooting actions as part of play. “Toy guns for older kids can be dangerous. Even if used in a game, such as laser tag, or as a joke, they can be difficult to distinguish from the real thing. As a result, older kids playing with toy guns or paintball guns may have an increased risk of being shot by someone with a real gun firing in self-defense. “At some point, children learn that guns can kill, and as they get older, the chances increase that they’ll come in direct contact with a gun. The average high school student says that guns are available to teenagers. “To complicate matters, today’s kids deal with social issues and cultural influences that teens a generation ago didn’t face. More parents are working outside the home and

aren’t always available for guidance and supervision when kids are home. “And characters in movies and television shows sometimes use guns to gain power or control and often suffer no consequences for their actions. These factors may increase the likelihood that some kids are interested in or intrigued by guns. “Kids also typically know where guns are in the home. Parents who have guns at home may think their children don’t know where they’ve hidden guns, but kids find them. Even guns in locked cabinets can be pried open. “About 30 percent of families with children keep loaded guns in the home, and many families have loaded weapons in the home and don’t even know about them. “A mother might have purchased a gun to “protect the family” and not told anyone else about it, or a

grandfather’s souvenir from the war may unknowingly be stored in the attic. “Despite all that kids know about guns, most don’t know how to safely handle a gun when and if they find one. That’s why it’s so important for parents to talk to their children about gun safety. “But there are challenges. Today, there is no industry standard for gun safety. For example, one handgun might have a pin (like the kind that pops out of a turkey when it’s cooked) to show if a bullet’s in the chamber. The child might see the pin but not know what it means. “Likewise, many kids know how to release a gun magazine (the holder from which the bullets are fed into the gun chamber) but may not be aware that there’s often one bullet left in the chamber. If they believe a gun is empty but one bullet remains, an accident could happen.”

matters of record

Real Estate
The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:
Wilma E. Pfau to Steve Bobst, Lots 1 and 2, Block 64, subdivision of the blocks to the Original Town of Goodland.


Derry A. Larson, trustee of the Margaret J. Shreve revocable trust A, to Kenneth E. and Lila M. Engelhardt the N/2, Sec. 11, T8S, R37W.
Jo Ann James, formerly known as Jo Ann Aaron, and Howard W. James to Stan and Becky Purvis the

NE/4, Sec. 11, T10S, R41W.
Grace E. Zwegardt to Edward and Rebecca Schulte the SE/2, Sec. 7, T6S, R42W.
Grace E. Zwegardt to Allen and Mary Schulte the NE/4, Sec. 7, T6S, R42W.
Roger R. and Melissa L. Zwey-

gardt to Raymond R. and Henrietta H. Schulte the NW/4, Sec. 29, T6S, R42W.
Eugene P. Zuspann II, of Denver County, Colo., to Ann Louise Zuspann, of Wasatch County, Utah, a

tract of land in the SE/4, Lot 1, Block 72, Original Town of Goodland.
Charles R. and Susan D. Hall to Jim and Deanne Weeter at tract of land in the NW/4, Sec. 29, T8S,

R39W.
Sid A. and Colleen N. Unruh to Frank and Misty Tabor all of Lots 13 and 14, the west 10 feet of Lot 15, Block 6, First Addition to the City of Goodland.



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Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease.

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Complete this form and send it along with your donation to:
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\$10.00 per luminaria please!

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Make checks payable to: The American Cancer Society

Crossword Puzzle

Cheese It!

ACROSS

1. Find the total of

6. Flow suddenly

10. Height: Prefix

14. First section

15. Folklore fiend

16. Stage accessory

17. Feature of many work clothes

19. Trapper's prize

20. Marines' motto, familiarly

21. Author Norman Vincent ____

22. Middling grade

23. Boiling mad

25. Penne or ziti

29. Bumstead's boss

31. Toward the center

33. Coal-rich German region

34. Co. called "Big Blue"

37. Similar in nature

38. ____garde

40. Picket line crosser

41. Notes following mi

42. Song for a diva

43. "____ by Starlight"

45. "____ is golden"

48. List components

49. Catch in a trap

51. Canyon edge

53. Grow dark

54. Air on the tube

59. Currier's partner

60. Wall builder, maybe

62. Afternoon socials

63. Talk wildly

64. Prize fight milieu

65. Sommer of film

66. Leaves speechless

67. Full of fizz

DOWN

1. NYPD alerts

2. Chip's chipmunk pal

3. Bongo or conga

4. Lone Star State sch.

5. Tempo setter at Indy

6. Played 18, perhaps

7. Wrinkled citrus

8. Mrs., in Madrid

9. The Beatles' "And I Love ____"

10. Come into view

11. Two-tone treat on a stick

12. Esther of "Good Times"

13. Made a choice

18. Mine yield

21. Use a spyglass

23. Ollie's partner in comedy

24. "____ all, folks!"

25. Singer Edith, "the Little Sparrow"

26. "Diana" singer Paul

27. Beef entree

28. Beachgoer's goal

30. Hayes or Newton

32. Risk taker

35. Soothing stuff

36. Degr. for execs

39. Trellis climber

40. Get firm

42. Astronaut Shepard

44. Interval between cause and effect, say

46. Actually existing

47. Puts up

49. Upper crust

50. Innie or outie

52. Type

54. Fork prong

55. Irene of "Fame" fame

56. Pro votes

57. D.C. 100: Abbr.

58. Carhop's load

60. Bikini part

61. Like sashimi

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