

Recommended

Houston ISD honors
Vanessa Guillen on
her 21st birthday



Why does Bellaire
hate sidewalks so
much?



Coral snake spotted
along popular trail
in Memorial...



NEWS // U.S. & WORLD

Around The Nation

Copyright 2004 Houston Chronicle News Services

Updated: July 20, 2011 11:40 p.m.



Next Up: Houston ISD honors Vanessa Guillen on her 21st birthday

wage to \$7.75 an hour, made Wal-Mart -like megastores more difficult to build and limited schools' ability to give students random drug tests. The Republican governor contended the minimum wage and megastore legislation would have

hurt the state's economy, and he said drug testing policies should be left up to school officials.

Police seize 388 guns from man

Los Angeles police last week seized 388 guns from one man, more than were recovered in the city all last year, a police spokeswoman said Saturday. Police seized 11 guns Thursday from the car of

ADVERTISEMENT

Article continues below this ad

Rep. Buck on Big Tech Investigations and Conservative Bias





Wayne Wright , 56, along with another he had illegally sold to an undercover officer. After his arrest, police searched his home.

San Diego faces financial crisis

San Diego is caught in a financial bind, facing the possibility of a bankruptcy filing, largely because of a \$1.2 billion shortfall in its pension fund for municipal workers. For years the city has spent money from illusory pension fund earnings, according to the authors of a new report released Thursday. Yet the practice, which the authors called dangerous, is sanctioned by law in California and other places and is commonplace among cities that offer pensions to their workers. The findings raise the possibility that other communities will face similar financial disasters.

Los Angeles losing opera director

Kent Nagano , the music director of the Los Angeles Opera , notified the opera's board of directors that he will step down at the end of his contract in 2006. When Nagano, known for unusual repertory and a busy travel schedule, took the Los Angeles job in 2003, he also accepted the position as music director of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich starting in 2006. The Munich contract forbids him from being music director of another opera company.

DELAWARE

Hostage raped by inmate blasts state

WILMINGTON - A counselor who was taken hostage and raped by an inmate in July harshly criticized Delaware's Department of Correction , saying it is plagued by mismanagement and inadequate, often incompetent, staffing. Cassandra Arnold barely survived the harrowing ordeal at the Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna, which lasted almost seven hours and ended with the shooting death of her attacker, social

Center in Smyrna, which lasted almost seven hours and ended with the shooting death of her attacker, serial rapist Scott Miller, 45. Arnold said at least three guards were on the scene when Miller grabbed her, but none attempted to overpower him before he barricaded himself in her office. She also said she was raped after DCC warden Thomas Carroll refused repeated requests to talk to Miller, who wanted to be moved to another prison. Enraged by Carroll's response, Miller bound and raped Arnold, saying he had "nothing to lose." The final insult, she said, was Gov. Ruth Ann Minner's comment after the incident that "in prisons, you almost expect this to happen."

COLORADO

Two soldiers face courts-martial

FORT CARSON - Two soldiers face courts-martial over the alleged drowning of an Iraqi civilian forced to jump off a bridge. 1st Lt. Jack Saville and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins will be tried in a military court on charges of manslaughter, assault, conspiracy, making false official statements and obstruction of justice. Saville and Perkins, both based at Fort Carson, face 5 1/2 years to 26 1/2 years in prison if convicted. No dates have been set for the courts-martial, ordered Friday by Major Gen. James Thurman .

MOST POPULAR

1. **Memes mock another Sunday of Texans, Cowboys losses**
2. **Trump-Biden 'cage fight' stokes global perception of a country in decline, mired in chaos**
3. **Astros' Carlos Correa: 'I know a lot of people are mad'**
4. **H-E-B accidentally offended some Texans for maybe the first time ever with its cola packaging**
5. **Silicon Valley surveillance company Palantir to go public on New York Stock Exchange**
6. **Mnuchin, Pelosi Try to Forge Stimulus Deal With Time Running Out**
7. **Airbnb has removed 80 listings in Texas, including Houston, following crackdown on party houses**

MINNESOTA

Store pulls plug on yule bell ringers

The Target Corp. said it would no longer allow Salvation Army holiday bell-ringers to solicit donations outside its 1,272 stores in 47 states. The retailer, based in Minneapolis, has a no-solicitation policy, but has allowed Salvation Army volunteers to raise money outside its stores during the holiday season. A spokeswoman said Target reassessed its policy because a growing number of groups were seeking exceptions.

KENTUCKY

Two found guilty of vote conspiracy

A federal jury in London, Ky., found two men guilty of fraud in a conspiracy to buy votes in a 2002 judicial election. Prosecutors said Ross Harris , a Pikeville businessman and political fund-raiser, headed a scheme to buy votes under the guise of paying voters \$50 each to transport people to the polls. Following the conviction of Harris and his employee, Loren Glenn Turner , eight others are scheduled for trial next month, including John Doug Hays , the judicial candidate who was said to have received the donations.

WASHINGTON

Seat-belt use at record 80 percent

SEATTLE - Seat-belt use among American motorists continues to rise, with a record 80 percent of people buckling up in 2004, federal officials said Thursday. The rate increased by one percentage point from 2003, according to the survey conducted in June. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta credited the 21 states that have laws allowing police to stop motorists for failing to buckle up. The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also have such laws. The 2004 survey found that belt use was highest in the West, at 84 percent, and the South, at 80 percent. Those regional rates were unchanged from the previous year. Although there was slight improvement from last year, usage remained lowest in the Northeast, at 76 percent, and in the Midwest, at 77 percent.

OREGON

Mistake halts sarin destruction

Destruction of a chemical weapons stockpile was halted at the Umatilla Chemical Depot near Hermiston, Ore., after two workers mistakenly entered a room containing liquid sarin, the toxic nerve agent, which had been drained from 11 rockets. A spokeswoman for the depot said the workers were fine, though they were not wearing the protective clothing required to enter the room. She said plant procedures would be re-evaluated before work resumed.

From wire reports

[VIEW COMMENTS](#)

More for You

Seniors On Medicare Are In For A Big Surprise This October

QuickMedigap | Sponsored

US Launches New Policy For Cars Used Less Than 50 Miles/Day

InsHunter | Sponsored

Before You Renew Amazon Prime, Read This

Wikibuy | Sponsored

Official Poll: Will You Vote for Joe Biden?

Democratic Governors Association | Sponsored

TOP

ABOUT

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Our Company](#)

[Your California Privacy Rights](#)

[Careers](#)

[Interest Based Ads](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

CONTACT

[Customer Service](#)

[Newsroom Contacts](#)

CONNECT

[Email Newsletter](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Coupons and Discounts](#)

HEARST *newspapers*

©2020 Hearst