

ESL News

2016/02/22

Story 1

The American presidential primary elections are well underway. The American political system is known as a 2 party system. One party is called The Democrats and the other is called the Republicans. The year before a presidential election is held the people who wish to run for president are nominated or chosen by the registered members of their party. The Democrats started with 6 nominees and are now down to 2: Hilary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

The Republicans started with 17 nominees and are now down to 5. The 3 leading Republicans are Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio. Running for the President is expensive and the candidates this year raised over 1.3 billion dollars for their campaigns. The current president of the United States, Barack Obama, is a Democrat. Democrat hopeful Hilary Clinton is the wife of former US President Bill Clinton.

On the Republican side, American billionaire Donald Trump is surprising most people by leading the popularity polls of his party with 38% support. He has never run for a political position before and is disliked by many people for his racist comments. Just last week he was called unchristian by Pope Francis.

Story 2

A group of interior design students have created the ultimate outerwear for refugees— a poncho that converts into a tent or sleeping bag, while safely storing important documents.

The wearable shelter has large, waterproof pockets for carrying important papers and supplies, and it can be folded to create a warm sleeping bag or, by adding a few kite rods, a personal tent.

Students at London's Royal College of Art worked long and hard to create what some are calling wearable homes.

Story 3

Good news for Thailand's endangered tiger population. In an 8 year period from 2005 – 2012 the number of wild tigers in Thailand nearly tripled. This is because the Thai government has new strict laws against poaching. Poaching is when people kill animals without a permit. The total number of tigers has gone from 35 to 90. The type of tiger in Thailand is called an Indochinese tiger. There are less than 350 of these tigers left in the wild.

Story 4

Have you ever been to Whistler BC? Whistler is a world famous ski resort town located 120 kilometres north of Vancouver. Over 2 million people head to Whistler each year.

This past week an 11 year old boy had to jump from a chairlift when he slipped off of his chair reaching for a falling ski pole. The chairlift is designed to carry skiers safely up the mountain and has a safety bar to keep people from falling. Before the bar could be lowered for the boy, he reached for his ski pole and began to fall. His uncle grabbed hold of the 80 pound boy but he started to slip through his loose fitting clothes. A ski lift operator saw what was happening and quickly stopped the chairlift. He grabbed a firefighter's safety net and with the help of some skiers nearby made a safe place for the boy to fall into. The story ended happily as the boy was ok and he was able to continue skiing. He will go back home to Seattle with an exciting story for his friends.

Story 5

Have you heard of TED? TED is not a person. TED is a conference that was held last week in Vancouver. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design. People paid a minimum of \$8,500 US for a full week - 5 day - pass to see over 70 presenters give 18 minute talks. The ticket prices are very high but the organizers say it pays for free access to the TED website where all the Vancouver TED talks and many others can be watched.