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The PAMPA NEWS

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Aquatic facility location still not settled

BY BETSY PHILLIPS
 editor@thepampanews.com

"It's a fine line between making a facility pay for itself and being able to include everyone."

Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes presented an update to the city commission Tuesday afternoon and has evidently spent a lot of time trying to include the Pampa Economic Development Corporation board's views on the location of a proposed aquatic park.

About six weeks ago, Stokes took the city's plan for the site to the PEDC board members, who did not approve. In essence, the board said it could not support the project if it was to be located at the site of the current facility near M.K. Brown. That means the PEDC is not willing to contribute toward the construction of the facility, even though the city granted them a half million dollars to be able to do so.

After further study and consulta-

tion, Stokes said recommendation of staff remains with the M.K. Brown site. But, Stokes said, "The PEDC has indicated they won't be involved if it stays at the old pool site."

Commissioner Bill Allison said he thought it would be good if the PEDC could participate in the project. "Shane spent a lot of time on this, and I believe it (the M.K. Brown site) was the builder's recommendation as well."

The city's research, according to

Stokes, will produce "more bang for the buck," but the PEDC board doesn't seem to believe that the location would provide the best results for the community. "The PEDC didn't like the site, they felt we're not being good stewards of the city's money," Stokes said.

The sites included in the report were one on 23rd Street and another at Inez Carter Park. Both those sites score lower on points needed

POOL cont. on page 3

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staff photo by **Betsy Phillips**
 The final two inches of rock was being added to Harvester Stadium today and officials say that barring any further delays, the field will be ready for the first home game.

One person hospitalized, home damaged in explosion

BY BETSY PHILLIPS
 editor@thepampanews.com

An attempt to light the burner on a gas range went wrong Tuesday night, resulting in second degree burns to his wife and severe damage to their mobile home.

According to Pampa Fire Marshall Michael Ryan, the man left the burner on while turning to get a small propane torch to light it. When he turned back and ignited the torch, the collected gas exploded.

He had only singed eyebrows, but his wife was taken

to Lubbock and treated for burns to her head arms and upper torso. She was standing directly in front of the stove when the explosion occurred.

As of this morning, Ryan said, she had been diagnosed with second degree burns, but was awake an alert. Names are in not being released at this time because the family members have not been able to be notified.

The mobile home is located in the 600 block of N. Banks.

The injured woman was taken to the hospital by pri-

vate vehicle, hospital officials then notified emergency services personnel at about 6:30 p.m.

Ryan said the blast separated the wall from floor in places, blew out windows—sending glass 30 feet from the dwelling. Interior beams across the ceiling were blown down.

The structure is currently not habitable, according to Ryan there is a four-inch gap between walls and floor in some places. There was no actual fire damage, all damage was from the blast.

Secretary Andrade draws for Nov. 3 ballot order

AUSTIN—The ballot order for 11 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution was determined today through a random drawing by Secretary of State Hope Andrade.

"This November, voters will make important decisions regarding possible amendments to our state's governing document," said Andrade. "I look forward to again working with election officials across our great state to ensure that our elections process remains fair, secure, and accessible."

Enacted in 1876, the Texas State Constitution has been amended

more than 400 times. Proposed constitutional amendments must pass by a two-thirds vote in both houses of the state legislature to be considered on the ballot. These eleven amendments were approved for consideration by the 81st Legislature and require a majority vote to be amended to the constitution.

"During these summer months, I encourage Texans to register to vote or update their registration if their address has recently changed to ensure they are eligible to cast their ballots in November. I hope

BALLOT cont. on page 3

With a little luck—PHS turf will be ready to start season

BY BETSY PHILLIPS
 editor@thepampanews.com

It's fourth down and inches to go on the turf project at the high school.

PISD officials said this morning that the "Perfect Storm" of problems with the project seems to have been weathered and with any luck at all, Harvesters will be playing on their home field for the season home opener August 28.

The major hold-up, according to officials has been the final two inches of surface. It's a very important two inches that is made up of 500 tons of crushed rock.

The originals vendor's rock product did not meet the expected quality standard for the field. After several attempts, it was determined the quarry being used would not be able to produce the right type of crushed rock critical to stability of the field.

Determining that—and finding another vendor who could produce the right product, has taken up the majority of the time lapsed. Superintendent Barry Haenisch said

Wednesday morning that they are "now 4 -5 months into a 60-day project."

Frustrations the public has felt with delays in the field have been deeply shared by all involved. "It has been frustrating, but the end product will benefit our community and our kids," said Derrell DeLoach, president of the PISD board of trustees.

"It's going to look good, DeLoach said, "but nobody was interested in a field that does not perform."

The new surface is also expected to reduce player injuries.

Athletic Director Stuart Smith added, "in three months all the disgruntled feelings will be behind us." Smith said Harvester Stadium is usually home to 40 - 42 events throughout the year. He expects that to expand eventually to about 80.

School board official Lee Porter said Wednesday morning, "We wanted to be sure we were being good stewards of the taxpayers money." And, he added of those who

TURF cont. on page 3

CAT ON DUTY



staff photo by **David Bowser**
 Fuzz, the Red Cross guard cat, was on duty this week while Ellie Mae, the Great Dane who is usually on duty at the Eastern Texas Panhandle Red Cross offices at 108 N. Russell took an afternoon nap.

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For the record

Obituaries

Ira Wayne Potter, 64

Pampa—Ira Wayne Potter, 64, died July 28, 2009, in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, July 30, 2009, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum, with Rev. Darrell Burton, chaplain for Hospice of the Southwest, officiating.

ENTOMBMENT: Memory Gardens Mausoleum with arrangements by direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Potter was born March 9, 1945 in Pampa. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army where he served with the 1st Air Cavalry Unit (the Gary Owen division) during the Vietnam War. During his service time, he received the air medal, expert combat infantryman badge, Vietnam service medal with the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. Mr. Potter worked as a heavy equipment operator for W. O. Operating Company, retiring in 2007. In his spare time, he liked to shoot his guns, work on cars and ride his motorcycle.

Survivors his wife of 34 years: Joyce Potter of Pampa; a son: Wayne Potter and wife Andrea of Amarillo; a daughter: Josette Wine and husband Carl of Pampa; a brother: Lael Potter and wife Mary of Kilgore; and a sister: Annetta Bradley and husband Dean of Roston, Arkansas.

MEMORIALS: Hospice of the Southwest, 1301 S. Coulter, Suite 404, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Oscar Albert "Al" Butts, Jr., 87

Howardwick—Oscar Albert "Al" Butts, Jr., 87, died Saturday, July 25, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 2009 in Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon with Rev. Dave Stout, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Howardwick, officiating.

Interment with US Army Honors will be in Citizens Cemetery in Clarendon.

Arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Al was born August 7, 1921 in Erick, Oklahoma and was a graduate of Shamrock High School.

He was one of nine children. He was a disabled veteran of World War II. Mr. Butts served with the 866th Air Engineering Squadron, 440th Air Service Group, and the 8th Air Force in European Theater from March 1945 to February 1946. He was in charge of central radio and radar shop. He handled all installation and maintenance of very high frequency equipment in fighter air craft. During this time he earned 5 bronze stars for campaigns in European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, Rhineland, "Ardennes" and Central Europe and

Germany. Other military awards include American Theater Campaign Ribbon, EAME Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, Service Stripe and 3 overseas service bars. Mr. Butts worked 31 years for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company before retiring. Al and his wife, Penny, enjoyed the time they spent fishing with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Penny on March 26, 2009.

Survivors include a son, Dave Butts of Howardwick, a daughter, Trisha Beach and husband

Ronnie of Olathe, Kansas; a brother, Jim Butts and wife Carrie Jo of Burnet; a sister, Ruby Jean Peterson of Modesto, California; three grandchildren, Jessie Beach of Los Angeles, CA, Sarah Kershner and husband Ben of New Britain, Connecticut, and Alissa Atkinson and husband Grant of Amarillo and three great grandchildren, Audrey, Ethan, and Emma.

MEMORIALS - The family requests memorials be to the Howardwick Volunteer Fire Department, 247 Rick Husband Blvd., Howardwick, Texas 79226
Sign our online guest book at www.

Kathy Crawford, 59

Pampa—Kathy Crawford, 59, died July 25, 2009, in Albuquerque, NM.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2009, at First Baptist Church, with Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Crawford was born May 18, 1950 in Vernon. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1955. She married Tommy Crawford on November 25, 1968 in Juarez, Mexico. Kathy

had been the business manager for Family Medicine Center of Pampa since 1998, and she was the business manager for Medical & Surgical Clinic in Pampa for 30 years. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church where she loved teaching the children.

Survivor include her husband Tommy Crawford of the home, two daughters; Jennifer Hinchliffe and husband Jason of Amarillo, and Lori Crutchfield and husband Brian of Pampa, one brother; Danny Boyd of Pampa, two sisters; Lynda Whitmarsh of Howardwick and Phyllis

LaRue of Mobeetie, seven grandchildren; Alex Clark, Megan Clark, and Zachary Clark, all of Amarillo, Zoe Crutchfield and Tucker Crutchfield, both of Pampa, Cassidy Crutchfield and Claire Crutchfield, both of White Deer; many dear friends and a wonderful church family. She was preceded in death by her parents: Ray and Freda Boyd; and brother: Kevin Boyd.

MEMORIALS: Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, Texas 79065, or the Kathy Crawford Memorial Scholarship in Medical Management,



Crawford

c/o The Amarillo College Foundation, P.O. Box 447, Amarillo, Texas 79178.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 75 Low 61	High 87 Low 66	High 92 Low 68

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. North northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. South southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

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Dozens arrested in Medicare fraud busts across US

MIAMI (AP)—Federal authorities arrested 32 people, including doctors, in a major Medicare fraud bust Wednesday in New York, Louisiana, Boston and Houston, targeting scams such as "arthritis kits" — expensive braces that many patients never used.

It's the third major sweep since Attorney General Eric Holder, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced in May they were adding millions of dollars and dozens of agents to combat a problem that costs the U.S. billions each year.

Using about a dozen agents in targeted cities, including Miami, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, has recovered \$371 million in false Medicare claims and charged 145 people across the country in just two months.

More than 200 agents worked on Wednesday's \$16 million bust that included 12 search warrants at health care businesses and homes across the Houston area.

Federal authorities say those businesses were giving patients "arthritis kits," which were nothing more than expensive orthotics that included knee and shoulder braces. Patients told authorities they were unnecessary and many never used them.

But health care clinic owners billed between \$3,000 to \$4,000 for each kit.

Houston's other scam involved billing Medicare for thousands of

dollars worth of liquid food like Ensure for patients who can't eat solid food. Authorities said clinic owners never distributed the food to patients. In some cases, clinic owners billed patients who were dead when they allegedly received the items.

The suspects arrested Wednesday in Houston will make court appearances Thursday morning. Suspects in Boston, New York and Louisiana will have first appearances later today.

The first task force started in 2007 in Miami, a city authorities say alone is responsible for more than \$3 billion a year in Medicare fraud. Clinic owners there would bill Medicare dozens of times for the same wheelchair, while never giving the medical equipment to patients.

The problems have become more complex since then.

Suspects have moved into more sophisticated scams including home health care, physical therapy and infusion drugs. They've even started tapping into Medicaid Advantage, which allows the elderly and disabled to get benefits through private health insurers. The plans receive a government subsidy and generally offer more benefits than traditional Medicare.

Federal authorities say Miami residents are also moving on to other cities, bringing their scams with them.

Strike force teams, each led by a federal prosecutor and a handful of agents, were then started in Los Angeles, Detroit, Houston in the past year. With newfound support and financial aid under the Obama administration, the teams are moving more quickly to make arrests and recover money than ever before in the history of Medicare fraud.

Agencies participating in the busts included the FBI, the HHS Office of the Inspector General, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Along with issuing indictments, authorities freeze bank accounts and seize everything from Rolls Royce's to million dollar homes purchased with funds stolen from Medicare.

Since the HEAT strike, suspects are being charged not just with health care fraud, but all relevant conduct. That means HEAT's average prison sentence is 20 percent more than the overall national average sentence in federal health care fraud cases in 2008.

While authorities are gratified by the arrests, the program's purpose is more than punitive. It's also about deterrence.

In some Miami neighborhoods, the fraud is so rampant that it's become a cultural norm, with some patients raking in more than \$1,000 a month, Kirk Ogrosky, deputy chief of the U.S. Justice Department's criminal fraud section.

Turf

cont. from page 1

contributed privately to the project.

The board chose Hellas Construction because of its reputation for excellence. Among other projects, Hellas was involved with the new Dallas Cowboys stadium.

Because of that reputation, they did not feel a completion clause was necessary in the original contract. That contract has been amended to include such a clause.

So, as of this morning, fingers are crossed and Hellas' employees are

going to work extended hours to finish the field.

The final two inches of crushed rock is being delivered and spread now.

A final test, to make sure of proper drainage is scheduled for this Saturday. If the engineer, who has to be brought in from Albuquerque, approves. Turf can at last be laid.

Proper installation of the turf, Haenisch said, will take 20 - 21 days. After final cosmetics are applied, the Fighting Harvesters and their new coach may take the field as scheduled.

Pool

cont. from page 1

to obtain a state grant to help pay for the project, have higher infrastructure and/or land costs and leave the current pool unused—and users with no lap lanes.

One argument against the current site is visibility. But Commissioner Allison pointed out that over 10,000 people, a record, have found their way to the pool during the first month of operation this summer.

Mayor Lonny Robbins said he has encountered strong sentiment from the public to keep the existing pool open.

That, according to Stokes, would not be possible if an alternative site were chosen. The city does not have the resources needed to have two separate facilities.

He reported that the fee structure could be more affordable to more residents if the M.K. Brown site is used.

Commissioner Robert Dixon said another possibility could be, "If the PEDC wants another location—they should come up with an additional \$1 million."

But the entire commission is not of one mind on the issue. Commissioner Neil Fulton is concerned with parking issues at the current site as well as visibility. "The place to really out it," Fulton said is really Recreation Park."

Stokes is going back to the PEDC board to continue negotiations on the project.

Ballot

Texans will recognize the role they can play in our state's future and head to the polls this fall."

The last day to register to vote in November's election is October 5.

Official Ballot Language and Order for the Nov. 3, 2009

Constitutional Amendment Election

Proposition 1
HJR 132

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation."

Proposition 2
HJR 36-1

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead."

Proposition 3
HRJ 36-3

"The constitutional amendment providing for uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes."

Proposition 4
HJR 14-2

"The constitutional amendment establishing the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund."

Proposition 5
HJR 36-2

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations."

Proposition 6
HJR 116

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized."

Proposition 7
HJR 127

"The constitutional amendment to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices."

Proposition 8
HJR 7

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of veterans hospitals in this state."

Proposition 9
HJR 102

"The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico."

Proposition 10
HJR 85

"The constitutional amendment to provide that elected members of the governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years."

Proposition 11
HJR 14-1

"The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity."

cont. from page 1

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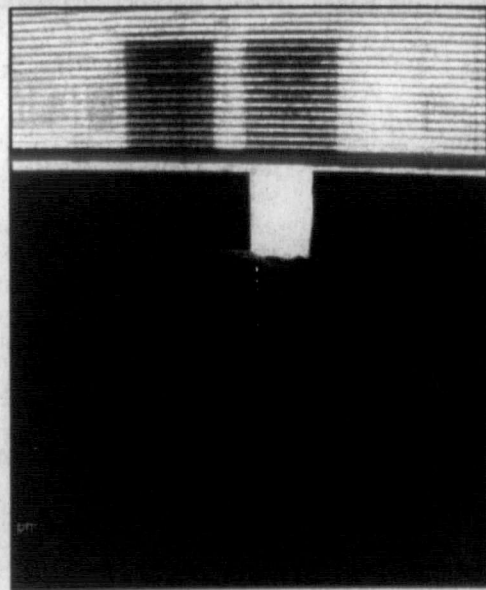
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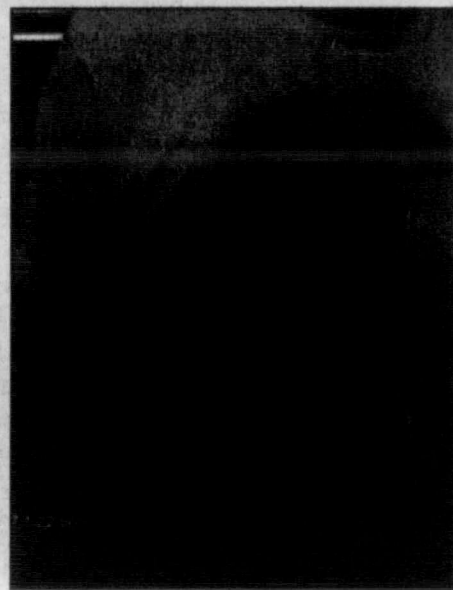
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 29, the 210th day of 2009. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

On this date:

In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

In 1588, the English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1900, Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was succeeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service began with the first test phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

In 1948, Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.

In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established. Jack Paar made his debut

'An idea is not responsible for the people who believe in it.'

— Don Marquis, American journalist

as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1967, an accidental rocket launch aboard the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland as he paid tribute to the victims.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

Ten years ago: A day trader, apparently upset over stock losses, opened fire in two Atlanta brokerage offices, killing nine people and wounding 13 before shooting himself to death; authorities say Mark O. Barton also killed his wife and two children. California Gov. Gray Davis abandoned the state's effort to preserve Proposition 187, a divisive voter-approved ban on schooling and other public benefits for illegal immigrants.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian "Professor" Irwin Corey is 95. Actor Robert Horton is 85. Actor Robert Fuller is 75. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole, R-N.C., is 73. Actor David Warner is 68. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 63. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 56. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 56. Actress Alexandra Paul is 46. Country singer Martina McBride is 43. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 42. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 41. Actor Tim Omdundson is 40. Actor Wil Wheaton is 37. R&B singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 36. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 36. Actor Stephen Dorff is 36. Actor Josh Radnor is 35. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 32. Actress Rachel Miner is 29. Actress Allison Mack is 27. Actor Matt Prokop is 19.



Analysis: What they saw during the Gates arrest

JESSE WASHINGTON
AP National Writer

Henry Louis Gates Jr. felt the hairs on the back of his neck stand up as he looked across the threshold of his home at Sgt. James Crowley. Looking back at Gates, Crowley worried about making it home safely to his wife and three children.

Fear was the only thing the white police officer and black scholar had in common. Soon their many differences would collide, exploding into a colossal misunderstanding.

How could things go so wrong? How could two by all accounts decent men start a fire that drew comparisons to the O.J. Simpson case and knocked President Barack Obama off his racial tightrope?

Part of the answer lies in the truth seen through each man's eyes during the episode, which ended with one of the most influential men in America charged with disorderly conduct.

If this really is to become a "teachable moment," as Obama hopes, then we have to examine what they saw, according to their public statements — and why they saw it that way.

It's early afternoon on Ware Street in Cambridge, Mass., a few blocks from the campus of Harvard University. Gates and his car service driver, a large black man, are trying to

force open Gates' jammed front door. Lucia Whalen, a 40-year-old white woman who works up the street at the Harvard alumni magazine, is passing by and calls 911.

According to Crowley's police report, he arrived to find Whalen standing on the sidewalk in front of the home. She told Crowley that "she observed what appeared to be two black men with backpacks on the porch ... her suspicions were aroused when she observed one of the men wedging his shoulder into the door," the report says.

No one is blaming Whalen, who has not spoken publicly since the story broke.

"It wasn't her fault," Gates said.

We don't know how she sees the world, what types of experiences color her vision.

But had she shared just one or two different details with Crowley — or if the sergeant had gleaned something else from their conversation — things might have happened differently.

Gates, 58 and gray-haired, says he was dressed in a blazer and walking with a cane. He says his driver was wearing a black suit jacket and matching pants. After they forced open the door, Gates says, the driver carried Gates' luggage into the house, then drove off in the vehicle.

None of that was on

Crowley's mind when he walked up the steps to Gates home.

"Witnesses are inherently reliable," he said later. "She told me what she saw."

Crowley is on the porch, alone; Gates is inside his home. They apparently notice each other through the front door window at about the same time.

Crowley sees the unknown: "I really wasn't sure exactly what I was dealing with," he said later.

The sergeant is 42, a decorated 11-year police veteran who grew up attending diverse public schools in Cambridge. All three of his brothers work in law enforcement. He's an instructor in a police academy class on how to avoid racial profiling.

He asks Gates to step outside.

"I was the only police officer standing there and I got a report that there was people breaking into a house. (The request) was for my safety, because first and foremost I have to go home at night, I have three beautiful children and a wife who depend on me," he said later.

"So I had no other motive other than to ensure my safety, because this gentleman either could have been one of the people breaking in, or he could have been the homeowner who was unaware that there were people in his house

unauthorized. I just didn't know."

Gates, meanwhile, is a renowned scholar of black history who has spent most of his life literally cataloging the sins of the past in volumes like "Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience."

"I know every incident in the history of racism from slavery to Jim Crow segregation," he said recently.

He knows some of it firsthand. About 1989, hired by Stanley Fish to teach at Duke University in Durham, N.C., "one of the first things Gates did was buy the grandest house in town," Fish wrote in a recent blog on The New York Times' Web site.

"During the renovation workers would often take Gates for a servant and ask to be pointed to the house's owner. The drivers of delivery trucks made the same mistake."

"The message was unmistakable: What was a black man doing living in a place like this?" Fish wrote.

So when Gates hears Crowley ask him to step outside, he sees history. How could he not?

"All the hairs stood up on the back of my neck, and I realized that I was in danger," Gates said later. "And I said to him no, out of instinct. I said, 'No, I will not.'"

ANALYSIS cont. on page 5

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,
With all the news about the proposed health care plan I came up with a few questions.

1) With the funding of the health care plan amounting to 1/6th to 1/3rd of our GNP (Gross National Product), why are we rushing head long into the project trying to get the plan passed immediately?

2) Why do we not have true bipartisan drafting of the proposed plan?

3) Why did our House of Representatives hurriedly pass their 1045 page bill even when not all sections of the bill had even been drafted?

4) Why did our House of Representatives pass their version of the bill without defining where the funding was coming from?

5) Where did the openness and transparency go to that our President promised us over and over while running for office?

6) Why are seniors being

singled out for cuts in Medicare and rationing of services in this new bill?

7) Why are seniors being required to take "end of life" courses? Perhaps we become expendable after the age of 60 or 65?

8) Do we want to trust our health care to the federal government, who have never run any program efficiently, economically, and within estimated budget costs?

9) Are we, the public, ready to give 50% to 64% of our income to pay for what many are calling ineffective rationing of health care?

10) It is like Ronald Reagan was quoted as saying one time in a speech, "The most feared words in the English language, I am from the government and I am here to help you."

11) If we have one of the best health care systems in the world, then why is the government trying to trash what we have and completely rebuild it on model's from other socialist countries who come to the United States for treatment when their "system"

fails them? Let us not throw out the baby with the wash water.

12) An observation from my own life. If someone is trying to rush me into a purchase, then I always wonder what they are afraid I will find out if I take the time to study the purchase????

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Bill Brady
Pampa

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

• Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

• All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

• Defamatory comments will not be published.

• E-mail submissions are welcome.

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Army center offers help before deployment

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — In a converted chapel, a television plays footage of soldiers talking about successes in Iraq and Afghanistan, classrooms offer battlefield ethics or marriage enrichment courses and a chaplain is available 24 hours a day.

It isn't a church any longer but the Spiritual Fitness Center, one part of Fort Hood's new Resiliency Campus. It is the Army's first such facility designed to help soldiers and their families prepare better for the stress and uncertainty of being deployed — often for the second or third time.

"We want to do more going into deployments and build inner strength in soldiers and their families rather than just fix them when they return," said Col.

Bill Rabena, who oversees the Resiliency Campus.

The facility was not created specifically to combat the Army's rise in suicides, but officials think the various programs will give soldiers and their families many tools to prevent problems that have led to suicides, Rabena said.

"We hope so. That's the idea," Rabena said.

Last year, the Army's 140 suspected suicides among active-duty troops was an all-time high. From 2007 to 2008, each military branch saw an increase in the number of suicides among its ranks.

Fort Hood's Spiritual Fitness Center is not religious in nature but can accommodate church services, Rabena said.

Analysis

Crowley asks Gates to prove he lives there.

Looking out his front door, Gates sees someone who should be asking, "Is everything all right, sir?" He sees someone who would not doubt that a 58-year-old, gray-haired Harvard professor lived in this home — if he were white.

Gates sees a racist.

Gates leaves the front door to get his identification. Crowley follows him inside. Gates says he provided a driver's license with the address of the home they were standing in; Crowley's police report only mentions a Harvard ID.

"Now it's clear that he had a narrative in his head," Gates said. "A black man was inside someone's house, probably a white person's house, and this black man had broken and entered, and this black man was me."

Gates demands that the sergeant provide HIS identification.

Crowley sees someone who should be grateful, but instead is yelling and falsely accusing him of being a racist. He sees a problem — "something you wouldn't expect from anybody that should be grateful that you're there investigating a report of a crime in progress," he said.

Neither man understood what the other one saw.

Gates continues to demand that Crowley pro-

vide his name and badge number.

Crowley said in his report that he had already told Gates his name, twice, but Gates was yelling too much to hear him. Gates said Crowley ignored his demands.

Gates doesn't let up. Crowley says he'll talk to Gates outside. Then he says something Crowley understands perfectly, boiling down his 2,095 pages of "Africana" down into

one cry of resistance: "I'll speak with your mama outside," he said, according to the police report.

Gates denies making the remark.

Should Gates have realized that you can't antagonize the police? Should Crowley have understood what it means to suspect a black man of breaking into his own home? Arguments will persist for years.

cont. from page 4

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: Two years ago my younger sister, "Cilla," generously set up college funds for my three children. Each of the accounts has more than \$25,000. My husband and I were stunned, but Cilla insisted she is making good money in the film industry and wanted to do this for my family.

Three months ago, she came to visit, and through a bizarre turn of events, I discovered that she makes her living starring in adult films. Now that I know how Cilla earns her living, I am no longer comfortable accepting her gifts — especially the college funds for the children.

This has caused problems between my husband and me. He thinks we should keep the money because we may not be able to afford three college tuitions on our own. Abby, I don't want my sister's sexual exploits paying for our kids' education.

Should we return the money? And if we do, is it possible to do it without causing a rift between my sister and me? — **G-RATED SISTER IN SAN DIEGO**

DEAR SISTER: I doubt it. If you refuse her generosity, it will appear that you are rejecting her. Nor do I think your children should be penalized because you don't approve of Cilla's lifestyle. Your

husband is being pragmatic; you are being emotional. That money has already been earned. You're not going to change your sister. You may not approve, but love her for the generous and caring aunt she is trying to be and let the money be used for something positive.

DEAR ABBY: My letter to you is the first time I have shared my problem with anyone. When I met and married my husband of 30 years, we each had been divorced for more than 10 years. He had adult children with families of their own; I had none.

For several years I acknowledged their special occasions with cards and small gifts, never receiving any notice or thank you unless I had my husband ask if they had been received. I finally stopped.

Although they always celebrate their father's special days, I have yet to be remembered on mine. They send any special news or pictures addressed only to my husband.

I recognize I cannot change the situation, but my question is how do I manage my growing resentment toward not only his family but my husband as well? As you can guess, we are elderly. I don't want to spend my last years feeling this bitterness. — **WANTS PEACE**

OF MIND
DEAR WANTS: Obviously your husband's children never really accepted you as part of their father's life — and he didn't rock the boat. It's a shame that you waited 30 years to say what's on your mind. If you hadn't, your husband might have stood up and insisted that "the kids" show you some respect and courtesy.

Bitterness is a waste of time. If your marriage has been a happy one, dwell on that instead of nursing resentment.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have tried four times to have a baby. Because fertility medications cost around \$5,000 here in Canada, we have depleted all of our savings and down payment for a home.

We are contemplating holding a fundraiser to offset the costs for a fifth try. Your thoughts, please. — **CONTEMPLATING IN CANADA**

DEAR CONTEMPLATING: My heart goes out to you, but my gut reaction is negative. If you needed donations for treatment for a life-threatening condition, I might feel differently. I encourage you to explore other options available to you — including adoption.

Altrusa club news

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC. OF PAMPA, TEXAS met July 28, 2009 at Pampa Senior Center.

Bernardo Cassanova was recognized as recipient of the Billie Dixon Memorial ASTRA Scholarship. Cassanova, a member of the ASTRA club for the past four years, plans to attend Clarendon College — Pampa Center.

The Accent was given by Kadda Schale on the purpose and meaning of ASTRA. The Pampa

Altrusa club is one of 110 Altrusa clubs in the world affiliated with ASTRA.

Mary McDaniel presented the program on protocol for club meetings using parliamentary procedure. She also reviewed the proper Altrusa terminology.

Barb Hahn reported that the club had received a Distinguished Club Award for the year 2008-2009 for outstanding achievements.

Four boxes of school supplies for the Afghanistan children have been mailed.

Guest night will be held August 25. Members were asked to submit names for invitations.

Style Show Committee meeting will be held at the home of Eileen Kludt July 30, 6:30 p.m.

The family outing to be held at the ranch home of Julia Sparkman has been moved to September 26 at 5 p.m.

The next meeting will be held August 11 at noon at the First United Methodist Church.

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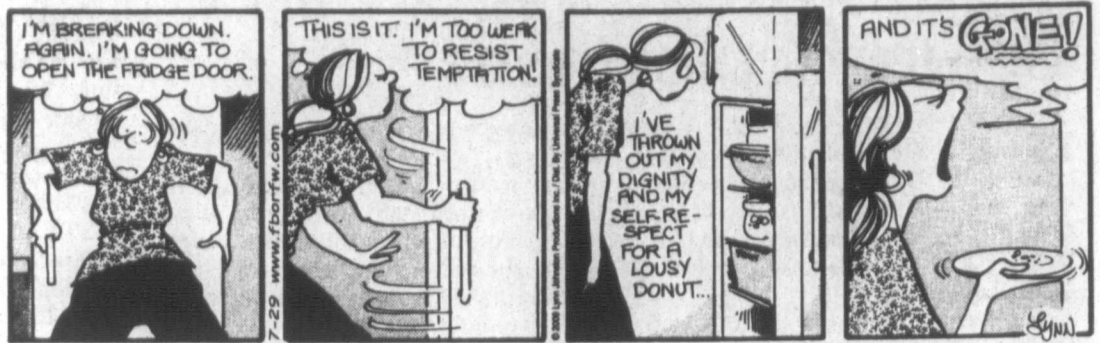
Comics

Marmaduke



"Our fancy, new retractable leash isn't being given a chance to retract."

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



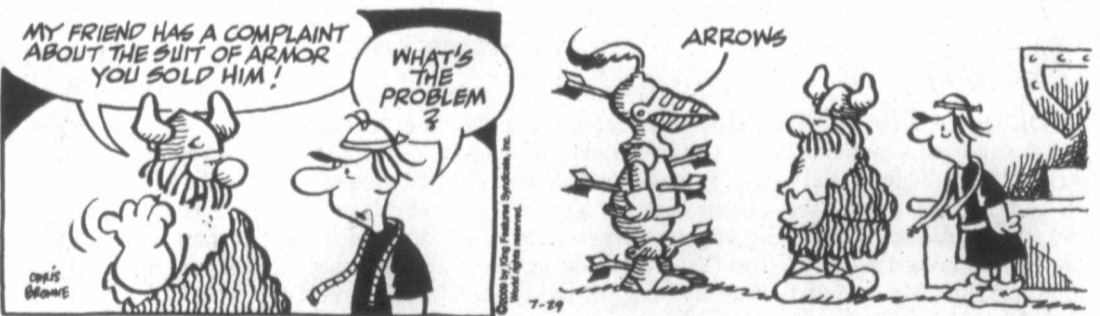
Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"I'll take that. It's our first-aid equipment!"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Make speeches
 - 41 Scads
 - 42 Vegas action
- DOWN**
- 1 Justice symbol
 - 2 Piper's place
 - 3 John Lennon song
 - 4 Minus
 - 5 — Alamos
 - 6 Agile
 - 7 Company symbols
 - 8 Peace goddess
 - 9 Sorceress of myth
 - 11 Red, in a way
 - 15 Blood system letters
 - 17 Rough guess
 - 20 Empty talk
 - 21 Frank McCourt book
 - 24 Oats holder
 - 25 Library book stamp
 - 27 Ring item
 - 28 Lab worker
 - 29 Fall sign
 - 30 Ryan of film
 - 31 Racer
 - 35 Witty remark
 - 36 Vamp Theda
 - 38 Quarrel

A	L	E	R	T	S	P	E	C	S
L	O	V	E	R	P	E	D	R	O
P	R	E	M	O	N	I	T	I	O
H	E	N	W	A	N	T	O	N	
A	N	T	H	E	M	S	I	K	E
			A	L	E	P	O	E	T
C	H	A	T	S	H	A	N	D	S
R	A	G	E	C	O	G			
E	R	R	C	A	T	E	R	E	R
A	D	E	U	P	S	O	N	O	
T	H	E	P	R	O	P	O	S	A
E	A	T	E	R	O	N	I	C	E
S	T	O	R	Y		T	E	N	T

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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12							13	
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16							17	
18							18	
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7-29

Data measurements undermine efforts to report U.S. poverty

NEW YORK (AP) — Serious shortcomings in national data, including an outdated federal measure of household poverty, are undermining the task of identifying and assisting America's most vulnerable children, according to a report issued Tuesday.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, in its annual Kids Count report on children's health and well-being, says national efforts to track and analyze such trends "fall far short of what is possible, what is needed, and what is demanded."

The report urges the government to overhaul its formula for measuring poverty, strengthen efforts in the 2010 Census to fully count children and minorities, and improve the national vital statistics system to better track data on disadvantaged families.

Patrick McCarthy, the Casey Foundation's senior vice president, said government officials should resist the temptation to cut back on spending for data collection and analysis because of the recession.

"Ensuring that policy makers and managers have the information they need to make critically important decisions can deliver an immense payoff in reduced waste and improved results for children," he said.

The special report on the "data deficit" accompanied the regular section of Kids Count measuring how the 50 states fared in 10 categories of children's health and well-being.

The report documented improvements since 2000 in the infant mortality rate, child death rate, teen death rate, high school dropout rate, and teens not in school and not working. Four areas have worsened: low-birthweight babies, children living with jobless or underemployed parents, children in poverty, and children in single-parent families.

The report noted with concern that the teen birth rate — after declining steadily for many years — rose from 2005 to 2006.

The data, gathered no

later than 2007, did not reflect the impact of the economic meltdown. Casey officials said they expected the economy-related indicators to worsen in their next report.

In composite rankings for all 10 indicators, New Hampshire, Minnesota and Utah ranked highest, while Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama ranked lowest. Texas ranked 34th, up from 37th in 2008 and 36th in 2002.

States with the biggest improvement between 1999 and 2007 were New York, Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina and Illinois; states with the biggest drop in that span were Montana, Maine, Alaska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Vermont.

In its special report on national data, the Casey Foundation said "perhaps the single most glaring shortfall comes in our efforts to measure poverty, the key performance indicator that rises above all others in its impact on children's futures."

The poverty formula still used by the federal government, which Casey called "thoroughly outdated," was developed in the 1960s. It calculates the cost of a basic grocery budget for a given family size and multiplies the total by three because food, in the '60s, represented one-third of a typical family budget.

The formula has not been recalculated since then even though, according to Casey, food now accounts for only about one-seventh of a typical family's budget.

The formula takes no account of child care, transportation, health insurance, and certain government benefits such as food stamps and housing vouchers. Also — except for Alaska and Hawaii — it does not reflect regional differences in the cost of living.

McCarthy said the National Academy of Sciences has developed some recommendations for a new formula that would take many of these additional factors into consid-

eration, and a bill reflecting the proposals has been introduced in Congress.

The poverty measure — used to determine eligibility for various benefits — has been a source of concern to many advocacy groups over the years.

Kinsey Dinan, a senior policy associate with the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University, said the current system potentially disadvantages families that don't receive substantial government assistance and those living in areas with high living costs.

Under the current guidelines, the poverty level in 2009 is \$22,050 a year for a family of four.

In general, McCarthy said, state and county social service agencies are using outdated data collection and analysis methods, and in many cases have fallen far behind the private sector in this realm.

ON VACATION WITH THE PAMPA NEWS! - ANTONITO, COLORADO



LeeAnn and Marcus Hall of Pampa recently traveled on the the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad out of Antonito, Colorado. This photo was taken on July 24. The railroad, built in 1880, uses steam engines on narrow gauge track through some very scenic areas. The Halls said they were impressed with the "majestic opulence" of the line.



Remember to take a copy of The Pampa News with you on your getaway. Take a photo of family and friends holding the newspaper. We'll print your picture in the newspaper. So, whether you are going to Paris, France or Paris, Texas (or Clarendon for that matter) ... take us along for the ride! Remember to: Identify every person in the photograph from left to right, front row first; Give us some information about the trip and the landmark in the photo; Give us a the name of a contact person and a telephone number/email address. To see your photo in the paper faster, email the photo and information to: rpribble@thepampanews.com.



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submitted photos



Pacer Elms-Quisenberry (far left (son of Jeff and Tanya Quisenberry and Cheyenne Williams - daughter of Jimmy Williams and Carrie Martinez, explore the LifeBeat 2 helicopter during the Pampa Chamber's recent "Summer Celebration."

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