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The PAMPA NEWS

State housing agency invests \$1.1 million to expand rental housing in Pampa

(AUSTIN) — Striving to increase the state's stock of affordable rental housing, strengthening families and communities in uncertain economic times, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has announced a funding award to a rental property in Pampa that will bring stability to young families and retired individuals while providing a boost to the local economy.

TDHCA will provide \$1.1 million in housing tax credits to private developers constructing the 76-unit Hampton Villages Apartments, a rental property that will feature rents affordable to households earning up to 60 percent of the area median family income.

"Many working Texans and retired individuals are finding that their housing choices are limited, and there is a real need for decent housing these people can afford," said TDHCA Executive Director Michael Gerber. "This award will provide this needed housing while offering tenants the long-term benefits of a stable, secure home life. These awards are an excellent example of how the public and private sectors can partner to improve the quality of life for the entire Pampa community."

In addition to increasing the stock of affordable rental housing, these awards are an excellent example of how the public and private sectors can partner to improve the quality of life for the entire Pampa community.

CREDITS cont. on page 3

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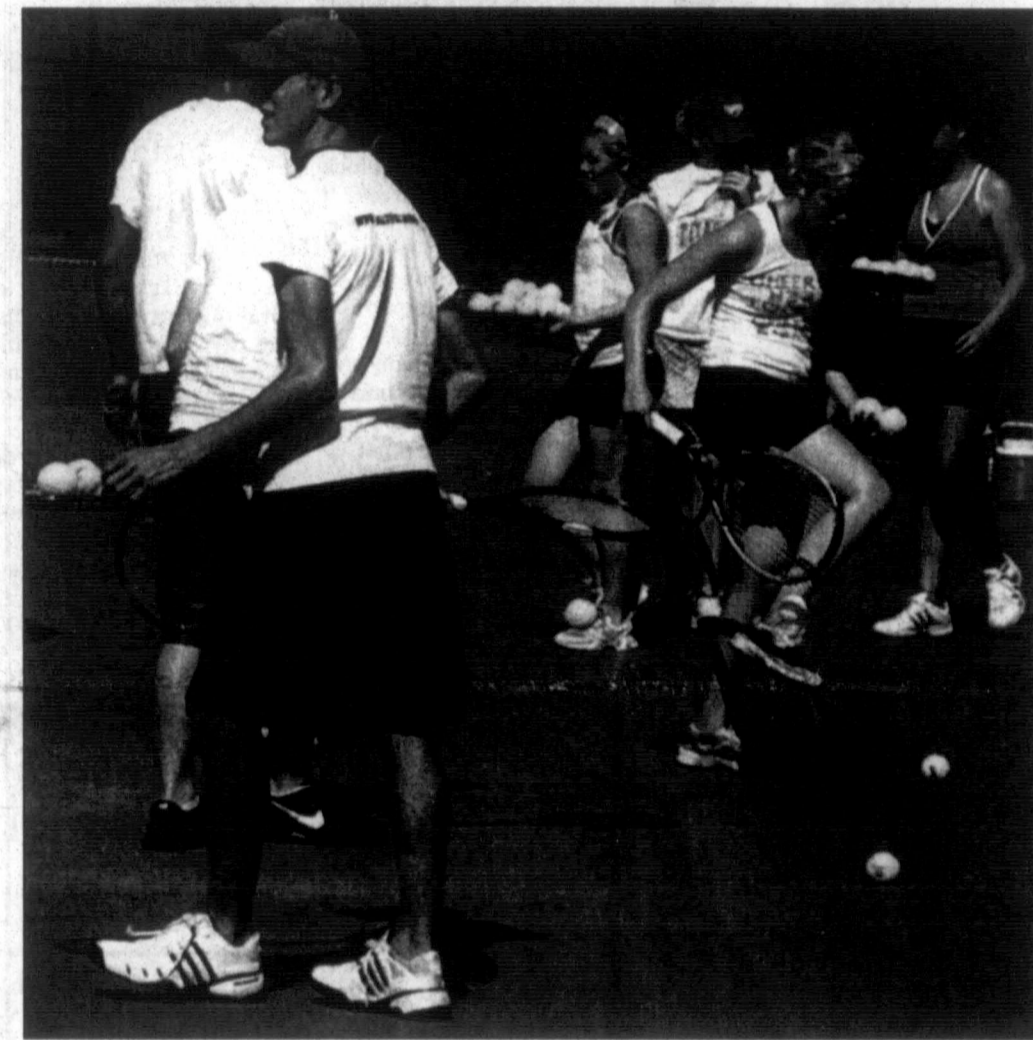
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COURT APPEARANCE



Members of the Pampa Harvester Tennis Team gather balls during their first practice for the 2009 season. The Harvesters' first match is August 21-22 in the Amarillo Tournament. *staff photo by Andrew Glover*

Tennis team looks forward to first match

BY ANDREW GLOVER
 aglover@thepampevents.com

The Pampa High School Tennis Team had their first day of practice, Tuesday at the high school tennis courts. The team finished fifth in district last fall and sent two people to regionals last spring. Jack Ware and Rachel Lee qualified for regionals in mixed doubles. Team Tennis is in the fall and the spring is individual tennis. Head Coach Sarah Corse said everyone is excited to be back.

"We're ready to get going," Corse said. The Harvesters have a lot of seniors on this season's roster, something that Corse finds as a positive. "We are loaded with seniors and have a lot of experience," Corse said. "We are hoping for good things."

The tennis head coach said their goal during the first week of practice, is to get back into a routine. "We want to establish the ladder in the next few weeks and decide who are number one player is and on down," Corse said. "We want to get our hitting stroke back."

Corse said the team has a clear goal for the 2009 season. "We want to make regionals," Corse said. "That is the goal." The top two teams in district qualify for regionals. The Harvesters have their first match August 21-22 in the Amarillo Tournament. Pampa's first home and district match is September 10 against Caprock.

Fiesta Foods not part of bankruptcy

BY RANDY PRIBBLE
 rpribble@thepampevents.com

For the past few days, people have been coming up to Isaac Silva, the manager of Pampa's Fiesta Foods grocery store, to ask him if the store is closing. "It is a small town," Silva said with a smile. "People read the paper or they heard it from somebody else."

What sparked the rumor was a story in Friday's issue of The Pampa News concerning the bankruptcy proceedings of Little Rock based Affiliated Foods Southwest, Inc., a wholesale food cooperative. While Fiesta Foods (and the local Allsup's Stores) are associated with Affiliated Foods of Amarillo, it is a separate entity from the one seeking bankruptcy in Arkansas.

"There are Affiliated Food warehouses-

FIESTA cont. on page 3

Resident stabbed during burglary

PAMPA— During the early morning hours of Thursday, August 6, Pampa police officers responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of S. Christy. Officers found Eddie Scott Graham bleeding from his right hand. Graham reported that he was involved in an altercation with two unidentified Asian men. Graham reported that he had been stabbed in the hand by one of the men. He was transported to the emergency room at Pampa Regional Medical Center by a private vehicle, where he was treated and released. The incident remains under investigation.

Rep. Chisum receives patient advocacy award

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — State Rep. Garnet Coleman of Houston, Texas and State Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa were awarded the Patient Advocacy Award by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians at the organization's 60th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Arlington on July 25. The award honors individuals who demonstrate a commitment to protecting and advancing the welfare of patients in Texas.

Rep. Chisum represents 19 counties throughout the sprawling West Texas Panhandle House district. As the former chair of the **CHISUM cont. on page 3**

Woman arrested for assaulting two officers after fight in yard

PAMPA,— During the early morning hours on Thursday, August 6, Pampa Police officers responded to a domestic dispute in the 1300 block of E. Kingsmill. When Officers arrived they found four people fighting in the front yard of a residence. They were identified as Victor Manuel Contreras Jr., 20, Kristol Nichole Rodriguez 20, Mary Salinas Contreras 57, and a male juvenile. Victor Contreras and Kristol Rodriguez were arrested in connection with the incident. During her arrest, Kristol Rodriguez assaulted two Pampa police officers. No one was seriously injured in the incident. Both Victor Contreras and Kristol Rodriguez were booked into the Gray County Jail for the offense of assault causing bodily injury/family violence, a Class A Misdemeanor.

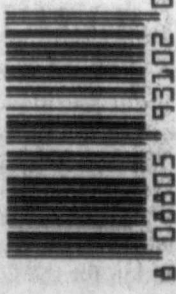
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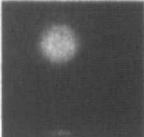
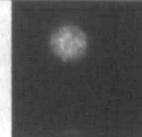

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 100 Low 68	High 98 Low 72	High 91 Low 71

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 73. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. Windy, with a south southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 98. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. **Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 72. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 71. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Obituaries

William Arthur "Bill" Brady, 61

Pampa — William Arthur "Bill" Brady, 61, died August 6, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas.

Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Saturday, August 8, 2009, at Memory Gardens Cemetery, with Rev. Walker Kyle, son-in-law, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Brady was born February 13, 1948 in Pampa. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1978. Bill was a technician for Southwestern Bell Telephone for 27 years, retiring in 2006. He was a member of Bible Church of Pampa.

Survivors include two daughters, Carla Kyle and husband Walker, and Sarah Brady, all of Pampa; two brothers, David Brady of Dallas and Ray Brady of Atlanta, Georgia and six grandchildren. Bill was preceded in death by his parents: Ray and Edith Brady.

MEMORIALS: Pampa Dialysis Center, 2545 Perryton Pkwy., Pampa, Texas 79065.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 PM Friday, August 7, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home.

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Wednesday, August 5 to 7 a.m. Thursday, August 6.

Monday
Animal Control Officers responded to 8 calls or stops.

Pampa Police Officers made 17 traffic stops, had 9 ongoing investigations, and responded to 2 requests for information.

An alarm was reported in the 1900 block of N. Sumner Street.

A missing person was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of E. Kingsmill Avenue. A city vehicle was spray painted costing an estimated \$150 in damage.

A traffic stop resulted in the arrest of Deana Vargus for traffic violations and possession of dangerous drugs.

A runaway was reported in the 400 block of N. Sumner Street.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block

of E. Francis Avenue.

A burglary was reported in the 200 block of N. Nadia Street. A door at the soccer fields was damaged. Nothing was taken and estimated value of damage is \$100.00.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of W. Buckler Avenue.

A warrant was serviced in the 100 block of S. Starkweather Street.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

An accident was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Found property was reported in the 1800 block of N. Zimmers Street. It was unknown what was found.

An accident was reported in the 2800 block of N. Charles Street.

A traffic complaint was taken in the intersection of 17th and Russell.

A threat was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of S. Hobart Street.

AMBULANCE

Guardian EMS responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Tuesday, August 4 to 7 a.m. Wednesday, August 5.

Tuesday
4:43 p.m.—An MICU unit responded to the 2800 block of Rosewood, no transport

9:35 p.m.—An MICU unit responded to the 700 block of Magnolia, transported one patient to the Pampa Regional Medical Center.

SHERIFF

According to Gray County Sheriff's Office Officials, the following people were booked into Gray County Jail during the period between 7 a.m. Wednesday, August 5 and 7 a.m. Thursday, August 6.

Mark Jeffries, 17, of McLean, Texas, was booked Wednesday morning on a charge of burglary of a habitation. Jeffries remained in jail as of Thursday on a \$5,000 bond.

Michelle Dawn Page, 44, of Pampa, was booked Wednesday afternoon on a charge of Capias Pro Fine.

Raymond Louis Hiser, 49, of McLean, Texas, was booked Wednesday on charge in Hutchinson County. Bond is set at \$1,000.

Delnita Ann Ray, 43, of McLean, Texas, was booked Wednesday on other county charge. Bond was set at \$3,000.

Cassandra Dacre Booker, 36, of Farmington Hills, MI, was booked Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana over 50 pounds and under 2000 pounds. Bond was set at \$20,000.

Kristol Nichole Rodriguez, 20, of Pampa, was booked Thursday on a charge of assault of public servant times two and resisting arrest. Bond was set at \$12,500.

Joseph Phillip Roel, 59, of Amarillo, Texas, was booked Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

Victor Contreras Jr., 20, of Pampa was booked Thursday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury family violence.

STATE IN BRIEF

Winning Lotto Texas numbers

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 17-18-22-24-30-41. Number matching six of six: \$32 Million. Prize: 0. Number matching five of six: 27. Prize: \$1,886. Number matching four of six: 1,551. Prize: \$48. Number matching three of six: 30,972. Prize: \$30. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$34 million.

Family of dead jail inmate filing suit

HOUSTON (AP) — The family of an inmate who died in a Harris County jail has filed suit against the county, alleging wrongful death.

In the lawsuit filed Thursday, the family of Margarita Saavedra accuses the county of providing inadequate medical care. The lawsuit says that led to Saavedra's January 2008 death.

Family attorney Randall Sorrels says the 44-year-

old woman died after a staph infection in her left knee spread. Saavedra complained about severe leg pain and was taken to a jail clinic but never saw a doctor. The infection spread, and she died six days later.

The Justice Department investigated the jail in the summer of 2008 in response to requests for a review of its medical and sanitation conditions.

Texas liquor board report cites violations in raid

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Disciplinary actions are pending against three Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents who violated procedures during a raid on a Fort Worth gay bar.

That's according to the agency's internal report released Thursday. A separate report will be released later on the agents' use of force during the June 28 raid on the Rainbow Lounge.

The report says one agent and an agent trainee failed to report one man's injury or that force was used in his arrest. That man was hospitalized for a serious head injury.

They're also accused of participating in the raid

without approval, disrupting the business and wearing improper attire.

A sergeant is accused of failing to make sure the two agents submitted a report on using force during arrests.

Feds to begin immigration detention makeover

WASHINGTON (AP) — Immigration officials are immediately ending the housing of families at a former prison in central Texas as a first step in transforming immigration detentions from a criminal to a civil system.

The head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, John Morton, says some families will go to Berks Family Detention Center in

Pennsylvania. But he also says decisions about what to do with families will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Morton told reporters Thursday that redesigning immigration detention will take several years but the result will be more accountable and uniform. He says the agency will continue to detain people and do so on a large scale.

Arbitration panels being set for Katrina disputes

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — President Barack Obama's administration on Thursday announced the creation of three-judge panels to settle big-ticket infrastructure funding disputes between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state and local governments still rebuilding from the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes.

Congress this year authorized creation of an arbitration system for infrastructure projects related to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu,

D-La., was among those pushing for a way to end the drawn-out bickering that had bogged down projects — and led to bad feelings among officials at various levels — and to speed the flow of funds to get roads, buildings and other infrastructure rebuilt.

"It's about obtaining closure ... so that communities can begin to find their footing and rebuild," she told a news conference in Washington, D.C. on Thursday. It's also, she said, "about getting a fair shake."

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

DATE CORRECTION!
Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center Fall Registration. August 11th 4:30-7:30 1345 South Hobart. Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Pointe, Gymnastics, Cheer, Competitive Dance, Gymnastics Team, Cheer Team. Shoes will be fitted at registration.

GRAY CO. Latchkey, Inc. welcomes old and new families to our Early Enrollment on Aug. 13, 2:00-6:00, at Lovett Memorial Library.

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CERAMIC TILE. Keith Taylor, 874-1779 lv. msg.

SEW WHAT Embroidery has moved to 915 W. Wilks (Hwy 60)

CORRECTION

In yesterday's story about Friday's county commission meeting the final two items should have read:

The commissioners court will consider a grant application for the Gray County

Sheriff's Office (joint with the City of Pampa) though the Justice Assistance Grant program.

The court will also consider payment of expenses of defense witnesses in the Levi King trial.

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Perry, Hutchison oppose Cash for Clunkers

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — As Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison head toward an epic primary showdown in the race to be Texas governor, the two haven't been able to agree on much lately.

But the two GOP powerhouses were able to find common ground in at least one area Wednesday: their opposition to the popular "cash for clunkers" federal stimulus program.

Hutchison's Capitol office released a statement Wednesday, saying she planned to vote against a \$2 billion appropriation for the program, in which consumers get a federal subsidy for trading in their gas-guzzling autos for greener cars.

"Whatever short-term gain we might receive from this spending is more than outweighed by the

long-term debt and financial burden we are passing on to future generations," Hutchison said. "We don't even have a report on how much has been spent on this program, nor reliable estimates of future requirements. It would be irresponsible to pass on another \$2 billion with so little information."

Perry spokesman Mark Miner was quick to follow up with his own statement, saying, "Governor Rick Perry is opposed to the program."

But even in their agreement, the campaigns found a way to keep the debate heated.

"After years of deficits, earmarks and bailouts, this is yet another example of the federal government offering a program it can't pay for," Miner said, taking a jab at the federal gov-

ernment and, by proxy, Hutchison.

Hutchison's campaign criticized Perry for opposing a federal program that's almost identical to a state program he signed into law eight years ago.

"Apparently, what Rick Perry thought was good prior to his re-election bid — raising taxes to subsidize car purchases — is politically bad for him now," Hutchison campaign spokesman Jeff Sadosky said. "Just like changing position on property rights, business taxes, stimulus dollars and even debates, Rick Perry was for government subsidies for car purchases before he was against them."

The campaign pointed to legislation Perry signed in 2001 designed to increase registration fees for out-of-state vehicles from \$1 to

\$225, to pay for pollution-reduction incentive programs. One of the initiatives provided incentives for purchasing low-emission and alternative fuel vehicles.

A spokesman for Democratic candidate Tom Schieffer declined to comment.

Hutchison announced her opposition as negotiations to save the dwindling "cash-for-clunkers" fund dragged out in the Senate on Wednesday. The government said it had spent \$775.2 million of the \$1 billion fund through late Tuesday, accounting for nearly 185,000 new vehicles sold. President Barack Obama has said the program would go broke by Friday if not replenished by Congress.

The new funding would triple the cost of the \$1

billion rebate program and give as many as a half-million more Americans the chance to grab the new car incentives through September.

Car companies have credited the clunkers program with driving up sales in late July.

"This is difficult, because I am concerned about the

treatment auto dealers have had in the government takeover of the auto industry," Hutchison said. "And while I believe the nation's auto dealers have suffered greatly and often times unfairly, the worst thing we can do is make them forever dependent on government giveaways."

Chisum

cont. from page 1

House Committee on Appropriations, Rep. Chisum has a long and distinguished legislative record.

During the 81st Legislature, Rep. Chisum and Rep. Coleman led the fight for TAPP's physician loan repayment bill that will provide \$160,000 of medical school debt relief to young physicians who agree to practice for four years in underserved areas of Texas.

"Some people say that you couldn't find two more different people to serve in the Texas Legislature," Coleman told the audience at the awards ceremony. "But the place where we agree is changing the state of medicine, particularly primary care and medical homes, to keep them from being in decline. The most important thing we can do is make sure the health care system works, and that it works for patients."

Fiesta

cont. from page 1

es all over the country," said Fiesta Foods owner Ken Copheranham. "The Amarillo Affiliated Foods is not associated with any other in the country. It is extremely strong and extremely viable."

The bottom line, the owner added, is that "we

are here to stay." "We bought this store from the Morrison family in January and extensively remodeled it," Copheranham said. "We are very pleased with where we are at this time."

Senate poised to make history with Sotomayor vote today

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sonia Sotomayor stands on the verge of making history as the Supreme Court's first Hispanic justice, despite staunch opposition from Republicans who call her ill-suited for the bench.

The Democratic-led Senate is set to vote Thursday to confirm President Barack Obama's high court nominee, a 55-year-old appeals court judge of Puerto Rican descent who was raised in a New York City housing project, educated in the Ivy League and served 17 years on the federal bench. Sotomayor picked up more GOP support Wednesday even as nearly three-quarters of the Senate's 40 Republicans said they would vote "no" and contended she would bring liberal bias and personal sympathies to her decisions. With all Democrats expected to back her, she has more than enough votes to be confirmed, barring a surprise turn of events, in one of the Senate's last actions before it breaks for the summer.

Democrats, praising her as a well-qualified judge and a mainstream moderate, are warning Republicans that they risk a backlash from Hispanic voters — a growing part of the electorate — if they oppose her. But Republicans bristle at the suggestion, noting that Democrats used extraordinary measures several years ago to block the confirmation of GOP-nominated Miguel Estrada, a Honduran-born attorney, to a federal appeals court.

GOP senators say their opposition to Sotomayor is based on her speeches and record, pointing to a few rulings in which they argue she showed disregard for gun rights, property rights and job discrimination claims by white employees. They also cite comments she's made about the role that a judge's background and perspective can play, especially a 2001 speech in which she said she hoped a "wise Latina" would usually make better decisions than a white man.

Republicans have been particularly critical of Sotomayor's position on

the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. She was part of a panel that ruled this year that the amendment doesn't limit state actions — only federal ones — in keeping with previous Supreme Court precedent. But gun rights supporters said her court shouldn't have called the issue "settled law," and they criticized her for refusing during her confirmation hearings to go beyond what the high court has said and declare that the Second Amendment applies to the states.

The National Rifle Association is strongly opposing her and has threatened to downgrade any senator who votes to confirm Sotomayor in its closely watched candidate ratings. The warning has made little impact on Democrats, many of whom have rallied behind her despite their perfect or near-perfect ratings from the NRA, but it may have influenced some Republicans who were initially considered possible supporters but have since announced their opposition, citing gun rights as a key reason.

Just a handful of Republicans are backing Sotomayor, and most of them say that while they disagree with some of her views and rulings, they believe she's well-qualified. Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri said partisanship has no place in debates over judges.

"There's been no significant finding against her, there's been no public uprising against her," Bond said. "I will support her, I'll be proud for her, the

community she represents and the American dream she shows is possible."

Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., also said he'd vote for her, adding that politicizing the confirmation process — as he argued Democrats did when they blocked GOP nominees in the past — "undermines the public's views of our courts and

the integrity of our judicial system."

Obama named Sotomayor to replace retiring Justice David Souter, a liberal named by a Republican president, and she's not expected to alter the court's ideological balance.

Credits

cont. from page 1

able housing, the city is also expected to benefit from the economic stimulus of this award. Gerber cited a recent study by the National Association of Home Builders which shows that the one-year impact of a typical 100-unit property developed through housing tax credits includes 56 full-time construction jobs, \$5.4 million in total wages and salaries, and \$862,800 in taxes and other revenue to state and local governments.

This award was one of 74 TDHCA made through the 2009 Housing Tax Credit Program, the state's primary means of directing private capital toward the creation or retention of affordable rental housing. The tax credits provide private investors with a benefit used to offset a portion of their federal tax liability in exchange for the production of affordable rental housing.

Properties funded through the Housing Tax Credit Program must reserve specific numbers of units for income eligible tenants and cap rents at set levels to ensure affordability. TDHCA provides over-

sight authority for health, safety, and program compliance for up to 30 years to make certain developers maintain the program's high standards.

In addition to a reduced rent, most properties financed with tax credits also provide supportive services designed to foster self-sufficiency among young families or promote a healthy environment for older tenants. Examples typically include credit counseling, financial and computer literacy classes, and General Educational Development (GED) courses for younger adults; and transportation services, health screening, and nutrition programs for seniors.

TDHCA allocates federal tax credits each year through a highly competitive application process. The Department annually receives twice as many applications as it can finance, demonstrating the high demand for affordable rental housing. TDHCA estimates the 2009 credit allocation of \$78.7 million will create approximately 7,000 affordable rental units statewide.

Assault

cont. from page 1

If convicted, each one faces incarceration up to one year and a \$4,000 fine.

Kristol Rodriguez was also charged with two counts of assault on a public servant, a 3rd Degree Felony.

If convicted, Kristol Rodriguez faces incarceration up to 10 years and a \$10,000 fine for each offense.

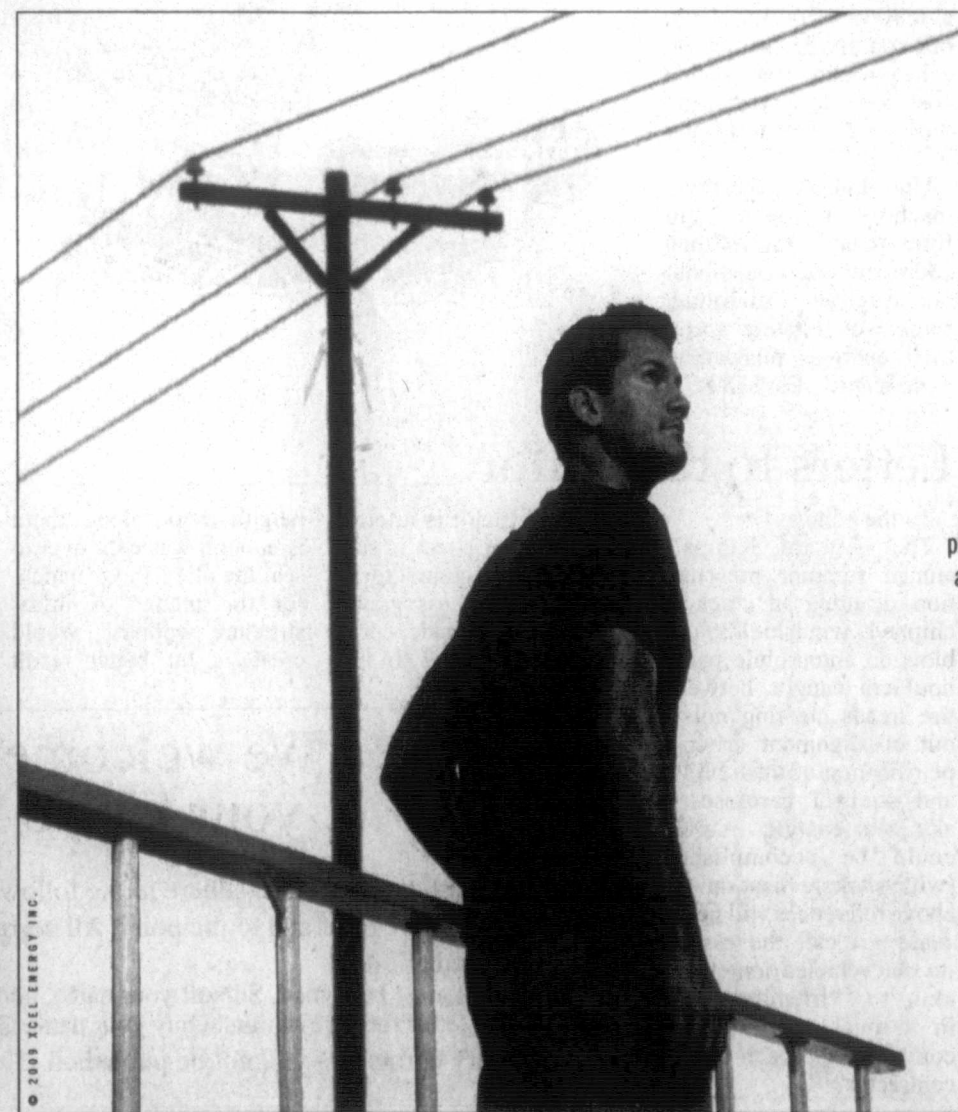


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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, August 6, the 218th day of 2009. There are 147 days left in the year.

- Highlights in history on this date:
- 1497 - Genoese navigator Giovanni Caboto returns from a voyage on which he claimed Nova Scotia for his sponsor, England.
 - 1661 - Portuguese and Dutch sign treaty whereby Portugal retains Brazil and the Dutch keep Ceylon — now Sri Lanka.
 - 1787 - The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia begins to debate the articles in a draft of the United States Constitution.
 - 1806 - Holy Roman Empire ends as Francis II formally resigns the Imperial Dignity and becomes Francis I, Emperor of Austria.
 - 1824 - Simon Bolivar defeats Spanish forces at Junin in Peru.
 - 1825 - Bolivia declares its independence from Peru.

There are philosophies which are unendurable not because men are cowards, but because they are men.

— Ludwig Lewisohn, German-born novelist

- 1828 - Mehmet Ali, ruler of Egypt, agrees to British demands to quit Greece.
- 1840 - Louis Napoleon attempts uprising at Bologne in France, but fails and is later sentenced to life imprisonment.
- 1890 - Convicted murderer William Kemmler is the first person executed by electric chair. He is put to death at Auburn State Prison in New York.

1896 - The French Parliament votes for the annexation of Madagascar, a protectorate since the year before.

1914 - Serbia and Montenegro declare war on Germany.

1926 - Warner Brothers Studios premieres the first movie with sound in New York; Gertrude Ederle of New York becomes the first American woman to swim the English Channel.

1942 - On behalf of Pope Pius XII, the Papal Nuncio protests the "inhuman arrests and deportations" of Jews from occupied France to Silesia and occupied Russian territory by German authorities.

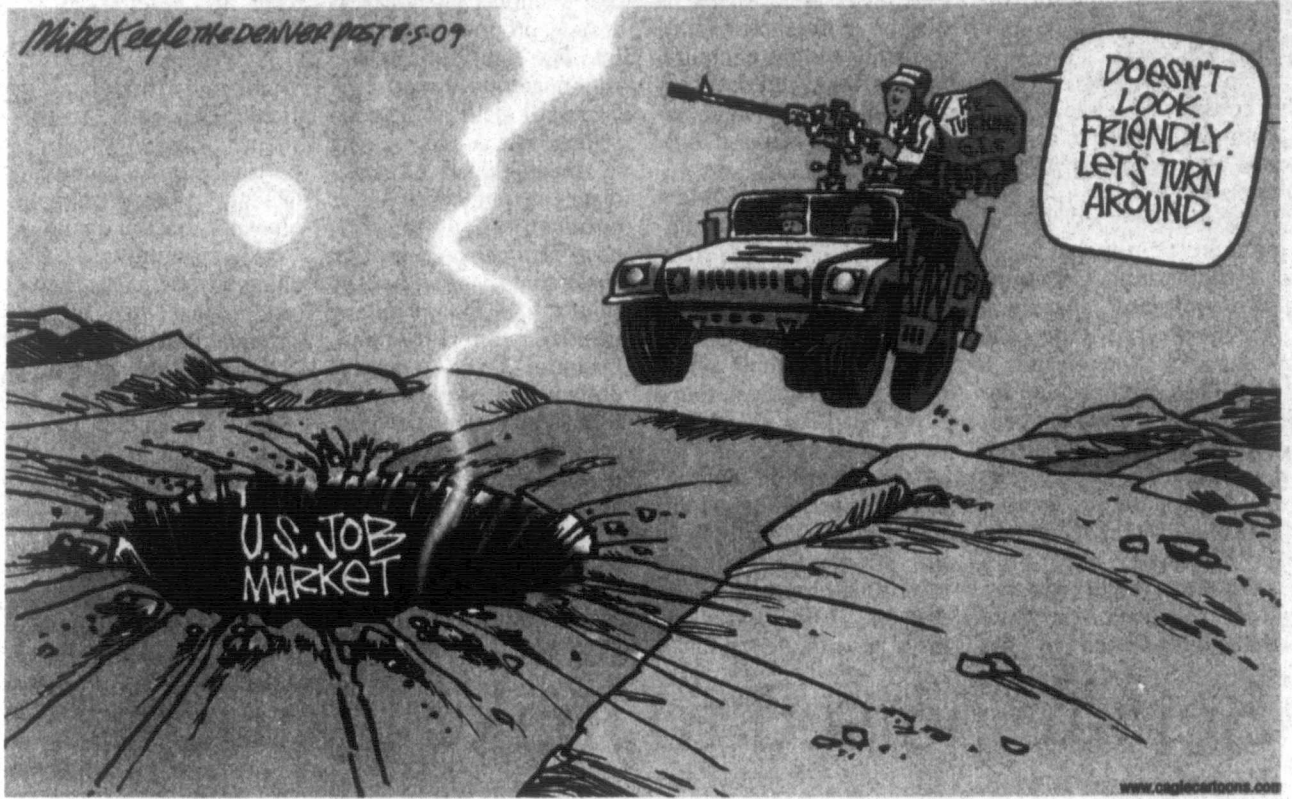
1945 - The first atomic bomb ever used in a war is dropped by U.S. plane, Enola Gay, on Hiroshima, Japan. The world learns of the horrifying effects of radiation for years to come.

1948 - The first round-the-world flight by B-29s is completed when two giant bombers land at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson, Arizona. The planes made the trip to the U.S. base in a leisurely 15 days with 8 stops.

1965 - U.S. President Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act.

1970 - Eyewitness reports by American journalists that U.S. planes flew bombing missions in direct support of Cambodian troops are denied by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird.

Today's Birthdays:
 Alfred Lord Tennyson, English poet (1809-1892); Alexander Fleming, British discoverer of penicillin (1881-1945); Lucille Ball, U.S. actress (1911-1989); Robert Mitchum, U.S. actor (1917-1997); Andy Warhol, U.S. artist (1928-1987); Peggy and Patsy Lynn, U.S. country singers (1964-); M. Night Shyamalan, U.S. film director (1970-);



Debunking the health insurance reform myths

by Mary Scott, AARP State President

So you don't want to see any changes to health care? Well, imagine your health insurance premiums doubling over the next 10 years, the Medicare trust fund going bankrupt and the number of uninsured Texans continuing its meteoric rise. That's what you will have without meaningful health insurance reform.

Special interests defending the status quo are employing an array of scare tactics, half-truths and outright deception in trying to convince us that the system is not in critical condition.

The reality is that — with health care costs eating up 16% of our gross domestic product (GDP) and the rising cost of medical care taking a toll on millions already struggling in this economic crisis — we cannot truly fix our economy until we fix health care.

As a dynamic organization of 40 million members with a long history of fighting for quality health care for all Americans — including protecting and strengthening Medicare — AARP has been targeted by those intent on slamming the brakes on any attempts to reform the system. We have not yet endorsed any of the bills moving through Congress but our organization is committed to making health care reform a reality. For too long, our country has settled on a health care system that costs too much, wastes too much and leaves too many without care.

Unfortunately, the myth machine is out in full force today. Rather than addressing the issues with constructive dialogue, some would rather spend their energies misleading Americans. Let's take a

few of their distortions head on.

Rest assured, AARP does not now, and never will, support a proposal that jeopardizes Medicare. Rather, we're fighting for reform that preserves access to our doctors and assures they will be paid fairly by Medicare, while reducing waste and fraud. And we're working with members of both parties to close the Part D coverage gap, or "doughnut hole," for prescription drugs. Reform will help curb skyrocketing prices throughout our health care system, including Medicare.

Make no mistake, there is no provision anywhere to allow Medicare to pull the plug or make you sign a piece of paper forcing you to determine how you want to die. Saying otherwise is inexcusable and cruel. Rather, the provision would allow physicians to be paid for time spent counseling and answering questions

about things like "advance directives," "living wills," "durable powers of attorney," hospice care. It's entirely voluntary and completely up to each patient.

Let's be clear, despite what those trying to scare off seniors would have you believe, nothing in any of the proposals would lead to rationing of care for older Americans or anyone based on age. And should it ever come up, AARP would lead the fight to kill it.

Contrary to the rhetoric of some fringe groups, health insurance reform is no backdoor attempt at creating "socialized medicine," where government directly owns hospitals and employs doctors. Rather, the aim is to implement a system much like members of Congress have today. People can choose from a range of quality, affordable private health plans, either offered by their employer,

or by the state or federally supervised insurance "exchange." Plans will have to accept everyone regardless of health or age, and have strict limits on cost-sharing so coverage is affordable for all.

AARP was founded by a retired school teacher who was outraged at seeing a former colleague destitute and living in a chicken coop. For the last 50 years, we've been successful by organizing older Americans to make sure that elected officials from the U.S. Congress to City Hall hear the voices of people who have been forgotten in the past.

We have the chance right now to take the steps that will make us healthier, both collectively and individually. It's an historic opportunity, and AARP will continue to work with any person, any organization, and any political party to see this through.

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Letters to the editor

To the editor,
 The City of Pampa's annual summer presentation resulting in cracked/chipped windshields, tar blots on automobile paint, boulders caught between tire treads creating noisy/out of alignment driving, petrification of trash blight and squirrel carcasses — aka, seal coating — surely could be accomplished (with stark realization the above references will never cease — I call the assault on our vehicles something akin to, "friendly fire") in a much more quality conscious approach by the contractor?

How difficult is it, once the particular street is seal coated, for the contractor to remove the excess gravel left piled alongside curbs and in the gutters? In my

neighborhood alone, there is enough wasted gravel to seal the alley way — which, for the matter of infrastructure wellness, would create a far better result

than cracked/chipped windows and ruined auto paint jobs....

Dennis Palmitier
 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.



Georges celebrate 60th anniversary

Callens and Wanda George celebrated their 60th anniversary August 1 with a reception hosted by their children at Briarwood Family Life Center. Callens George and Wanda Gruben were married July 31, 1949 in Rhotan. Callens retired in 1996, but still works part time at Frank's Hardware.

The Georges have six children: sons Randy George and wife Bobby, Phil George and wife Donna and Kevin George and wife Jo; daughters Janis Harrison and husband Weldon, Trecia Mitchell and husband Chuck and Christy Wyant and husband Raymond; 12 grandchildren, one step-grandson and six great grandchildren.

AFL suspends operations indefinitely

DAN GELSTON
AP SPORTS WRITER

The Arena Football League has shut down, this time indefinitely.

The league, which previously called off play for the 2009 season but had said it planned to return in 2010, sent a terse, one-paragraph statement to its teams late Tuesday announcing it had suspended operations.

The statement said the AFL's board had been "unable to reach any consensus on restructuring the league over the past eight months."

The 22-year-old indoor league had lost its commissioner and two teams since the end of last season. It reached a new agreement with its players this year, but that wasn't sufficient to persuade enough AFL owners that the league could return to profitability.

The AFL's board said "there are no other viable options available to the league right now."

The league is likely to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

"I've always thought the game was an attractive game, but we all know when you get the kind of pressure we're in, in these economic times, and then you have an economic model that really doesn't work, then it's not surprising to see it stop play," said Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, who also owned the AFL's Dallas Desperadoes.

Jones, Super Bowl winner John Elway and rock star Jon Bon Jovi were among the marquee names with a financial stake in AFL teams. Former NFL MVP Kurt Warner threw touchdown

passes on the AFL's 50-yard fields before throwing them in Super Bowls. And the high-scoring games helped the league find a niche in small markets like Grand Rapids, Mich., to major ones like Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Soul, co-owned by Bon Jovi, were the last ArenaBowl champions in 2008. Craig Spencer, another Soul co-owner, said on Wednesday the team stands by the league statement.

David Baker abruptly resigned as league commissioner two days before the 2008 ArenaBowl championship game. Owners did not look for a replacement.

ESPN, which owns a small equity share in the league, said it is not involved in management of the AFL. The network said Tuesday its broadcast agreement with the league had been terminated.

Some AFL owners remain optimistic that the league can return in some form in 2010, perhaps in conjunction with the nfl league, an AFL offshoot that remains in business.

"We're hopeful things will work out here in San Jose," SaberCats vice president Hank Stern said.

The league still faces numerous legal issues. The owners could file for bankruptcy, but most players and coaches who were not paid salaries or roster bonus money in 2009 are looking to recoup that cash, according to Richard Berthelsen of the NFL Players Association.

Berthelsen assisted the AFL players union the past season and said there are several unresolved issues.

"I don't want anybody to think that because the league has made the announcement that they

did, the players are just going to go away," he said by phone Wednesday.

AFL owners could not agree on long-term structural improvements that would keep the league profitable.

A disagreement among owners about whether to bring in a private equity firm to invest in the league became a major sticking point in December.

"As with any league that is underfinanced and is competing for television time, there are differing views on how to make that succeed," Berthelsen said. "The players did everything they needed to, and then some, so that the league could survive. They were saying if player costs is the difference between surviving and not surviving, let's see if we can do something that would allow the league to survive."

Soul coach Bret Munsey accepted a buyout from the organization and took a job with the upstart United Football League. Munsey said he met with Bon Jovi in January, and the rocker told him he was confident the league would find a way to improve financially and find stability for the long haul.

For whatever reasons, there were no easy solutions. Munsey wears his ArenaBowl championship ring as a reminder of just how fun the AFL was for him.

"I'm very proud of that," he said. "It's something that doesn't happen too often." And it doesn't look like the Soul will get a chance to defend that title.

New jobless claims drop more than expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of newly-laid off workers seeking unemployment insurance fell last week, the government said Thursday, fresh evidence that layoffs are easing.

The Labor Department said that initial claims for jobless benefits dropped to a seasonally adjusted 550,000 for the week ending Aug. 1, down from an upwardly revised figure of 588,000 in the previous week.

That's much lower than analysts' estimates of 580,000, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out fluctuations, dropped to 555,250, its lowest level since late January.

The tally of people continuing to claim benefits rose, however, by 69,000 to 6.3 million, the department said, after dropping for three straight weeks. The continuing claims data lags initial claims by a week.

Many economists expect initial claims to continue to decline this year.

"Claims should fall over the next few months, as

the economy appears more or less to have stabilized," Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a note to clients before the department's report.

When emergency extensions of unemployment are included, the total rolls climbed to a record 9.35 million for the week ending July 18, the most recent data available. Congress has added up to 53 extra weeks of benefits on top of the 26 typically provided by the states.

The increase in the number of people continuing to claim benefits is a sign that jobs remain scarce and the unemployed are having difficulty finding new work.

Despite the improvement, weekly jobless claims remain far above the 300,000 to 350,000 that analysts say is consistent with a healthy economy. New claims last fell below 300,000 in early 2007.

The recession, which began in December 2007 and is the longest since World War II, has eliminated a net total of 6.5 million jobs. The unemployment rate is expected

to rise to 9.6 percent when the July figure is reported Friday. The jobless rate of 9.5 percent in June marked a 26-year high.

More job cuts were announced this week. The publisher of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel said it would slash 92 jobs as the current advertising slump continues to ravage the newspaper business. Elsewhere, about 6,000 General Motors Co. blue-collar workers have taken the latest round of early retirement and buyout offers. But GM wants to cut about 13,500 workers, setting the stage for more layoffs.

Among the states, Ohio had the biggest increase in claims, with 891, followed by Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alaska. State data lags behind initial claims data by one week.

North Carolina had the largest drop in claims, with 9,809, which it said was due to fewer layoffs in the textile, furniture, rubber and plastics, and industrial machinery industries. Michigan, Florida, Georgia and Alabama had the next largest declines.

Dallas-area 'Twilight' buff gets truck from film

FLOWER MOUND, Texas (AP) — Sterling Biebert's first car is kind of a klunker. It has no air conditioning and no radio, and there's a large dent in the rear bumper.

But to the Flower Mound teen, a huge fan of the widely popular "Twilight" vampire books and movie series, the Chevrolet pickup is a Hollywood star. Driven by one of the main characters, Bella Swan, the truck appears prominently in several scenes of the "Twilight" movie.

"If you ask any 'Twilight' fan, it's probably one of the biggest characters throughout the series," said the 17-year-old, who will be a senior at Willow Bend Academy in Lewisville.

The truck came as a birthday present after Sterling saw it advertised on eBay by a Lubbock dealer who had purchased the vehicle from a Los Angeles company that customizes cars for movies.

Sterling's parents declined to say how much they paid for the truck but said they purchased it with the understanding that their daughter would use it to help others.

Sterling said she plans to rent out the truck for parties and donate the money earned to charities such as CASA of Denton County, which provides assistance to abused and neglected children.

"I feel this is my way I

can make a difference by using something I love and other people love to help other people," she said.

The truck in the



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I feel like my heart has been ripped out and stomped on. My 18-year-old daughter, "Emily," hooked up with a 27-year-old ex-convict ("Jerry") and had his baby three months ago. Although we disapproved of the relationship, we let him move into our home. A month later, I caught him with another girl and my daughter ended their relationship.

Last week, Emily announced that Jerry wants her back and has admitted all his wrongs. Abby, she wants us to let him move back in! My husband refuses to support them any longer. Emily has now chosen Jerry and says she is taking the baby, even though she has no place to go because he's still living with the other girl. Neither of them can afford an apartment.

I feel if I don't go along with it I am throwing my innocent grandchild out into the street, and it breaks my heart. Is tough love the right answer? -- CRYING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR CRYING: Yes, so call her bluff. Tough love would be better than allowing your daughter to blackmail you, which is what she's attempting to do. It's unlikely that Emily will wind up on the street.

I seriously doubt that Jerry will give up a sure thing and a roof over his head to build a life with your daughter. When she wakes up to that fact, I predict she'll be back on your doorstep -- so be prepared.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's grandson just graduated from the eighth grade. Because he lives in another part of the state we were unable to attend the graduation, but we sent him a graduation card with \$5 enclosed.

My husband's daughter called to acknowledge the card "for" her son. Then she asked if my husband was having financial difficulties because he sent only \$5 while some of her friends gave her son \$50. She said we should have sent more. My husband

was so shocked by her insensitivity that he hung up on her.

His daughter did not call or send a card on Father's Day. However, today we received a card from his grandson thanking us for the \$5 and saying if we had dug deeper and added \$1, he could have bought a slice of pizza.

Abby, how do we respond to these two? -- HURT GRANDPARENTS, ANAHEIM, CALIF.

DEAR HURT GRANDPARENTS: Unbelievable. Your husband was kind to send the boy anything in addition to the card. His daughter's response shows where her priorities are. I'll give her son this: He did acknowledge the gift -- but he should have stopped at thank you and omitted the snide remark.

How should the two of you respond? By keeping the lines of communication open and your wallet closed.

DEAR ABBY: I was raised to respect people's personal space, especially when standing in line. However, often when I stand in line patiently waiting my turn, I find the person behind me practically breathing down my neck. I keep telling myself to politely ask for space, but I can't muster the courage because I'm afraid they will think I'm rude. How can I ask for space without sounding rude? -- NEEDS MY SPACE IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR NEEDS YOUR SPACE: For heaven's sake, muster the courage. The last thing you need is a stranger standing behind you watching you enter a pin number on a debit card.

There is nothing nasty about turning around and saying that when someone stands too close it makes you uncomfortable and to please step back. Speaking up for yourself isn't rude. It's being assertive -- which is healthy when compared to feeling like a doormat.

Bus driver allegedly sexually assaulted

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio bus driver remains in Bexar (BAYR) County jail after he charged with sexually assaulting a developmentally disabled female passenger.

Robert Esparza is a driver for Star Shuttle, which helps San Antonio's VIA Metropolitan Transit provide special service for disabled passengers. The 49-year-old man is charged with aggravated sexual assault of a disabled person. Bond is set at \$75,000. The woman told police that Esparza waited for all

other passengers to leave the bus, then touched her inappropriately...

Police say Esparza admitted to the allegations, but argues the encounter was consensual.

A VIA spokeswoman says Esparza's been fired. A secretary for his attorney, Daphne Previti of San Antonio, says the lawyer is out of town and unavailable for comment.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Comics

Marmaduke



"Are you sure he isn't a Chow?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



8-6

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"It's only an owl. Now, get back in your own sleeping bag."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Basics | 1 Pronto, in memos |
| 5 Sheep sounds | 2 Crimson Tide school |
| 11 Mystery writer Woods | 3 Laughed out loud |
| 12 Concert worker | 4 Registered |
| 13 "Walk Like —" | 5 Sailor's lockup |
| 14 Chant | 6 Solitary sorts |
| 15 Couriers' deliveries | 7 Bothers |
| 17 Family fixtures | 8 Fuss |
| 18 Store | 9 Light metal |
| 22 Hollywood mover | 10 Glimpse |
| 24 Vegas area | 16 Crumb bearer |
| 25 Young fellow | 19 Intensified garment |
| 26 Imitating | |
| 27 Steer clear of | |
| 30 Suit piece | |
| 32 Crime outing | |
| 33 Squid's defense | |
| 34 Deep-fried items | |
| 38 Rome's — Way | |
| 41 Fan's favorite | |
| 42 Pal | |
| 43 Die, for one | |
| 44 Comfortably warm | |
| 45 Raced | |

B	A	W	L	S	P	I	G	O	T
A	L	O	E	T	I	R	A	D	E
B	A	R	E	E	R	A	S	E	D
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	I	N	E	P	T	R	I	P	
P	A	N	E	L	E	R	O	D	E
A	R	E	A		O	W	E	S	
P	A	S	T	E	M	A	D	A	T
A	B	S		M	I	A	M	I	
			M	A	N	X	N	B	A
D	E	R	A	I	L	V	E	A	L
O	R	A	C	L	E	I	S	I	S
T	A	M	E	S	T	A	S	T	O

Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 21 Relaxing resorts | 35 Annual race, for short |
| 22 Tina's TV co-star | 36 Lounging garb |
| 23 Charity affair | 37 Winter glider |
| 28 Stands up to | 38 Toward the stern |
| 29 Fallible | 39 Course employee |
| 30 Peach center | 40 Singer Zadora |
| 31 Escarpades | |

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
15			16						
	17			18	19	20	21		
22	23			24					
25						26			
27		28	29		30	31			
32					33				
		34	35				36	37	
38	39	40				41			
42						43			
44						45			

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

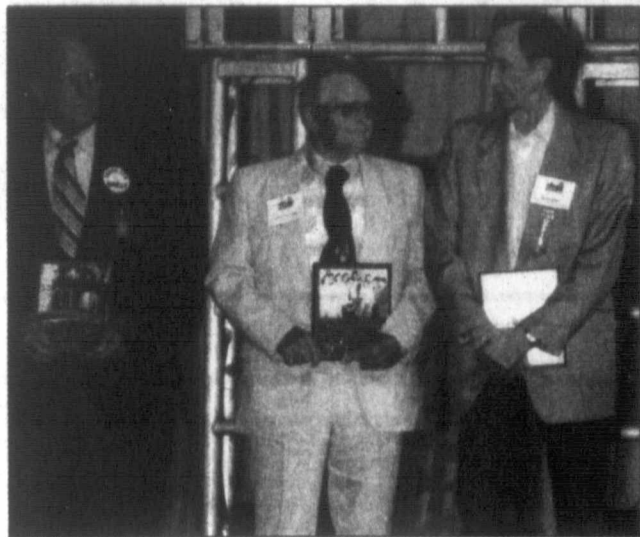


Flo & Friends



Thornburg honored at Texas FFA 81st annual convention

Pampan Leroy Thornburg, center, an FFA state officer in 1948-49, was honored with a 60th anniversary plaque recently at the 81st annual Texas FFA convention. Thornburg, 83, raises registered swine and sells show pigs. Below is Thornburg, second from left, during the 1948-49 school year.



Bradleys celebrate 60th anniversary

Sam and Delores Bradley celebrated their 60th anniversary Saturday, July 18 at the Meredith House in Pampa with family and friends. Sam married Delores Bradley July 18, 1949. The couple attends Faith Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church, Pampa. Mr. Bradley retired from Cabot after 33 years. The couple has lived in Pampa for 59 years.

Pampans named to honors lists at Southwestern Oklahoma

Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Weatherford has announced both the President's and Dean's Honor Rolls for the 2009 summer semester. An undergraduate student who earns all A's in 6 or more hours during the summer semester qualifies for the President's Honor Roll. There were 223 students who were named to the President's Honor Roll. Among those honored was Kellie L. Mullican of Pampa. There were 119 students on the Dean's Honor Roll after completing 6 semester hours of undergraduate work with a grade point average of 3.5 ("B") or higher, with no grade lower than a ("C"). Among those honored were Margaret Sue Hopkins and Kaely Rae Forbus of Pampa.

Petitions for US worker green cards down sharply

DALLAS (AP) — The number of petitions from employers trying to bring foreigners to work permanently in the U.S. has declined dramatically over the last two years, an Associated Press review of government data has found.

With the nation facing a deep recession and high unemployment, the government has received about half the number of employer-sponsored applications for work-based green cards in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 than it did in each of the previous years. There were almost 235,000 applications submitted in fiscal 2007, almost 104,000 the following year, and fewer than 36,000 through the first eight months of fiscal 2009, according to data obtained by the AP.

In addition to the weak job market, long application processing times, deep job cuts in sectors that have traditionally lured large numbers of applicants and more competition from American job seekers have led to the sharp decline, experts say.

"It mirrors the recession. Employers aren't hiring as much," said Kristi Barrows, deputy director of the Texas Service Center.

At the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Texas Service Center in Dallas, would-be immigrant workers once waited a year or longer for a decision. Now, with the drop in applications and addition of staff, the Texas center has trimmed the average wait for those petitions and the others it processes to about five months, a marked improvement that's still a month shy of the agency's target timeframe.

The Texas processing center and one in Lincoln, Neb., handle the nation's foreign worker applications for permanent residence,



Kristi Barrows, deputy director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Texas Service Center stands by a Carl Sandburg quote by an office in the service center in Dallas. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

known as green cards.

To bring in a foreign worker, employers must prove that they couldn't find a staffer in the U.S. who met the minimum requirements for the job, that they're financially healthy and that they will pay the prevailing wage. The potential worker must have specialized skills, be able to fill a job Americans aren't or have extraordinary abilities, such as those of musicians or pro athletes.

In fiscal year 2007, the latest year for which the statistics were available, most applicants came from India, Mexico, the Philippines, China and Korea, according to the Department of Labor.

"We want people to come to our country who are the best," Barrows said.

Many economic sectors hardest hit in the economic downturn are among those that attracted the largest numbers of foreign workers, including the hospitality and financial industries. And some businesses still hiring are getting more applications from Americans, making it less likely the Labor

Department will let them import foreign workers to fill positions, said Kathleen Campbell Walker, an El Paso attorney who specializes in immigration employment law and former president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Horacio Alday, 34, said the Houston firm where he works as an auditor recently told him and the rest of its temporary foreign workers it would not be sponsoring them for green cards because of the economy.

"Because of the situation and ... people out there looking for job, they're not willing to sponsor you," said Alday, who is Guatemalan. "They don't need to, I guess."

One unforeseen benefit of the drop in applications is that Citizenship and Immigration Services has been able to work through a large backlog that had led to wait times of 15 months or more in some cases.

With a lighter work load and a larger staff in place, the approval process now takes less than six months on average from start to finish, Barrows said.

Officers suspended for Obama E-mails

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (AP) — Three Dallas-area traffic officers and a dispatcher have been suspended for allegedly sending racially offensive E-mails about President Barack Obama.

Grand Prairie officers Tommy Hendrick, Mark Calvert and Michael Diaz were suspended Wednesday for 21 days without pay. Another employee, Debra

Willis, who works in the Public Safety Communications Center, was suspended for 28 days without pay.

Two weeks ago the police department said it was investigating allegations that some officers used city equipment to send offensive E-mails about Obama.

Children are at play— slow down for summer safety

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