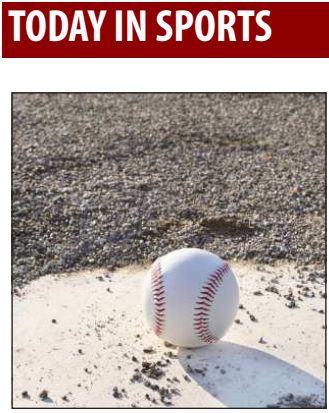


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The PAMPA NEWS



Friday, April 4, 2014 www.thepampanews.com Volume 109 • No. 255

75¢ Viewpoints: Bruno Baltodano
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription
 The spring of shrinking hopes | **p4**

Rangers win last two of Phillies series
 The joys of being a fan | **p8**

New PRMC COO hopes to take the hospital to the 'next level'

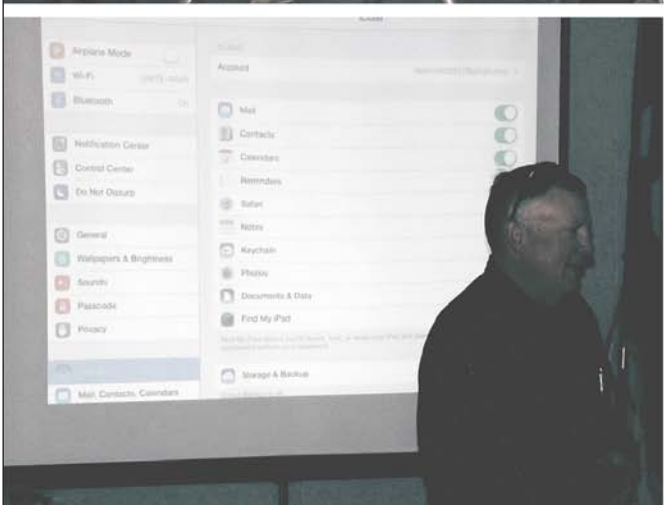


Photo by John Lee
 Ruben Garza comes to Pampa from the Rio Grande Valley.

By JOHN LEE
 jlee@thepampanews.com

When new chief operating officer for Pampa Regional Medical Center, Ruben Garza, first came to town, he said that he was immediately impressed with the facilities.
 "It has all the things the community of Pampa needs," Garza said. "A lot of rural hospitals in Texas lack technology. But this one has everything you would not find in most small-town hospitals. It has a good core group of primary-care physicians. Everyone I talk to wants to make it better."
 As chief operating officer for PRMC, Garza is in charge of the operations of the non-nursing departments. There is another corporation that is a part of Prime Medical Group that employs physicians,
COO cont. on page 2

AGRICULTURE? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT



Photos by John Lee

The agriculture community in Miami got the opportunity to get a crash-course lesson in smart phones, tablets, apps and all things mobile on Thursday. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service conducted a work shop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In the workshop, hosted by Jay Yates, risk management specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife, participants learned how to use mobile technology to make quicker decisions in the field, in the pasture, on the tractor, in the auction barn or in the pickup. Participants also demonstrated and discussed both Android and Apple phones and tablets, as well as learned the basics along with obtaining data and doing calculations. Above, the presenters and participants introduce themselves. Left, Yates shows users how to use the Apple settings menu for iCloud and HotSpot. Right, iPads were available for participants to use.

Good Friday, Easter services at Groom cross



Photo by Sherry Garmon

STAFF REPORT
 Good Friday and a sunrise Easter service will be held at the cross in Groom, exit 112 on Interstate 40.
 On Good Friday, April 18, everyone is invited to reflect on the Passion and Death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 At 1p.m. there will be a Scriptural Rosary led by Jim Lummus of Pampa. At 2 p.m., Stations of the Cross will be held by Father Raj of Groom with Mary Lane of Pampa assisting.
 At 3 p.m. there will be prayers of Divine Mercy.
 The sunrise Easter service begins at 7 a.m. and will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Jerry Lane of White Deer United Methodist Church. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.
 For more information, call Barbara Homer at 806-248-9006.

Fort Hood gunman sought mental health treatment

FORT HOOD (AP) — An Iraq War veteran being treated for mental illness was the gunman who opened fire at Fort Hood, killing three people and wounding 16 others before committing suicide, in an attack on the same Texas military base where more than a dozen people were slain in 2009, authorities said.



Ivan Lopez

Within hours of the Wednesday attack, investigators started looking into whether the man's combat experience had caused lingering psychological trauma. Fort Hood's senior officer, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, said the gunman had sought help for depression, anxiety and other problems.

Among the possibilities investigators planned to explore was whether a fight or argument on the base triggered the attack.
 "We have to find all those witnesses,

the witnesses to every one of those shootings, and find out what his actions were, and what was said to the victims," said a federal law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to discuss the case by name.
 The official said authorities would begin by speaking with the man's wife, and expected to search his home and any computers he owned.
 The shooter was identified as Ivan Lopez by Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. But the congressman offered no other details, and the military declined to identify the gunman until his family members had been notified.
 Lopez apparently walked into a building Wednesday afternoon and began firing a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol. He then got into a vehicle and continued firing before entering another building, but he was eventually confronted by military police in a parking lot, according to Milley, senior officer

on the base.
 As he came within 20 feet of an officer, the gunman put his hands up but then reached under his jacket and pulled out his gun. The officer drew her own weapon, and the suspect put his gun to his head and pulled the trigger a final time, Milley said.
 The gunman, who served in Iraq for four months in 2011, had been undergoing an assessment before the attack to determine if he had post-traumatic stress disorder, Milley said.
 He arrived at Fort Hood in February from another base in Texas. He was taking medication, and there were reports that he had complained after returning from Iraq about suffering a traumatic brain injury, Milley said. The commander did not elaborate.
 The gunman was never wounded in action, according to military records, and there was no indication the attack was related to terrorism, Milley said. His weapon had been recently purchased in the local area and was not
SHOOTING cont. on page 2

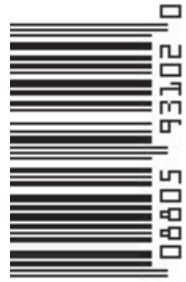
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Shooting

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registered to be on the base, Milley said.

Lopez was from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico and joined the island's National Guard in 1999. He went on a peace and security mission to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula in the mid-2000s, and left the National Guard in 2010 to join the U.S. Army, said Lt. Col. Ruth Diaz, spokeswoman for the Puerto Rico National Guard.

Those injured were taken to the base hospital and other local hospitals. At least three of the nine patients at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple were listed in critical condition.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with all families involved," Diaz said. "There is loss on both sides here."

Wednesday's attack im-

mediately revived memories of the 2009 shooting rampage on Fort Hood, the deadliest attack on a domestic military installation in U.S. history. Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 were wounded.

Until an all-clear siren sounded hours after Wednesday's shooting began, relatives of soldiers waited anxiously for news about their loved ones.

"The last two hours have been the most nerve-wracking I've ever felt," said Tayra DeHart, 33, who had earlier heard from her husband that he was safe but was waiting to hear from him again.

Brooke Conover, whose husband was on base at the time of the shooting, said she found out about it while checking Facebook. She immediately called her husband, Staff Sgt. Sean Conover.

"I just want him to come home," she said.

President Barack Obama vowed a complete investigation. In a hastily arranged statement while in Chicago, Obama reflected on the sacrifices Fort Hood troops have made — including enduring multiple tours to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"They serve with valor. They serve with distinction, and when they're at their home base, they need to feel safe," Obama said Wednesday. "We don't yet know what happened tonight, but obviously that sense of safety has been broken once again."

Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan was convicted last year for the November 2009 mass shooting at Fort Hood. According to trial testimony, he walked into a crowded building, shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — Arabic for "God is great!" — and opened fire. The rampage ended when Hasan was shot in the back by base police officers.

Hasan, now paralyzed from the waist down, is on death row at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. He has said he acted to protect Islamic insurgents abroad from American aggression.

After that shooting, the military tightened base security nationwide. That included issuing security personnel long-barreled weapons, adding an insider-attack scenario to their training, and strengthening ties to local law enforcement. The military also joined an FBI intelligence-sharing program aimed at identifying terror threats.

In September, a former Navy man opened fire at the Washington Navy Yard, leaving 13 people dead, including the gunman. After that shooting, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered the Pentagon to review security at all U.S. defense installations worldwide and examine the granting of security clearances that allow access to them.

Correction

In Thursday's paper, the caption for the Community Christian School fundraiser photo had the school's name printed as Christian Community School. The Pampa News staff apologizes for this misprint.

COO

Continued From Page 1

which Garza will also be responsible for. Although he is now in administration, he actually got his start in radiology.

"33 years ago, I went into the health care field as a registered X-ray tech," Garza said. "My first day of work I wanted to expand my education. I applied at University of Kentucky for the physician assistants program. They had just received funding from the American College of Radiology to help the shortage of radiologists around the country in the late 70s and early 80s. I applied for the program at the University of Kentucky, out of 500 applicants there were only 20 selected for an interview. Out of the 20 interviewed only four were selected for the program. I was lucky enough to be one of them."

As he was going through the program he specialized in radiology, but he practiced for 12 years as a physician assistant. He went

back to South Texas, when he arrived they offered him an administrative position. As years went on, his position grew further until he went completely into administration.

He then did a lot of consulting work until he was offered a position to come work for PRMC in February of this year.

"What drew my attention to this place was I never heard anyone say anything about 'me' or 'I'. It was always 'we,'" Garza said. "There is a great deal of growth and potential here that needs to happen. I love the challenge, it's really enticing. The people here are really what drew me to the community and the facility."

He calls the Rio Grande Valley in Weslaco, Texas home. He is going to visit his wife, seven-year-old athletically active son, two daughters and four grandkids in a few weeks. He said that he had to take a test to be his son's caddy in a PGA Little Linkster tour. He also said his wife loves to cook.

But the part Garza and his family are looking forward to once he moves the fam-

ily up to Pampa is the fact it is still a small town but will have opportunities to do plenty of activities nearby.

"What we like about small communities is you get to know everybody," Garza said. "I've enjoyed visiting with so many people here. Not just in the hospital but in the grocery store, so many people are so enthused about what they are doing or things they like about Pampa. There is a lot of history, a lot of real neat things."

Garza said that the age-old complaint about not having enough to do in Pampa, well he could say the same thing about his hometown. Garza also said there is plenty going on when you have a seven-year-old.

Garza plans to try and bring more physicians into PRMC and draw people into PRMC rather than driving to another place for treatment.

"We want to take PRMC to the next level," Garza said. "My job is to make sure we have all the mechanisms in place to make it happen."

United Supermarkets partners with CASA to support foster kids in West Texas

SUBMITTED

LUBBOCK — As part of their commitment to the communities they serve, United Supermarkets, Market Street and Amigos locations are generating awareness and financial support for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in West Texas. Until April 16, guests can add a cash donation to their grocery purchase during checkout.

"Our guests place an emphasis on the community, and by partnering with worthy causes such

as CASA, we have an opportunity to help protect at-risk children," said Shelby Crews, community relations manager for The United Family. "The money raised will provide advocates for children in our own community who deserve a voice."

CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to speak on behalf of abused and neglected children in foster care. Each donation from The United Family will help recruit, train and support community advocates for more than 1,000 children in the foster care system each year.

Each dollar raised will go directly to CASA in the store's community. Local CASA organizations benefiting from The United Family™ scan tag promotion include:

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 64 Low 39	High 57 Low 38	High 60 Low 38

Today: Sunny with a high of 64. Winds west-northwest at 10 mph. Sunrise at 7:26 p.m.

Tonight: Mostly clear with a low of 39. Winds south-southeast at 17 mph. Sunset at 8:08 p.m.

Saturday: Showers and wind with a high of 57. Chance of rain: 30 percent. Winds south-southeast at 21 mph. Sunrise at 7:25 a.m.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 38. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds south-southeast at 16 mph. Sunset at 8:09 p.m.

Sunday: Showers with a high of 60. Chance of rain: 30 percent. Winds south-southeast at 11 mph. Sunrise at 7:24 a.m.

Sunday night: Mostly cloudy with a low of 38. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds north-northwest at 10 mph. Sunset at 8:09 p.m.

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Obituaries

Janice Thomas Villines Armbruster

Janice Thomas Villines Armbruster, 88, of Oklahoma City, died Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in Oklahoma City.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 5, 2014, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Pampa with Zeb Sailors, Church of Christ minister, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Armbruster was born Feb. 25, 1926 in Darwin, Okla. to Fred and Edna Thomas. She was a former resident of Skellytown and Carson County for over 55 years. She married Calvin Armbruster in 2002 in Norman, Okla.

She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors are her husband, Calvin Armbruster of Norman, Okla.; a daughter, Glenda Buchert, of Crowley; a stepdaughter, Patricia Snow and husband Harold of Orange; a stepson, Gary Armbruster and wife Julie of Norman, Okla.; a sister, Sherlene Riddle of Jonesboro, Ark.; two grandchildren, Barbara Manuel of Crowley and John Reid and wife Ursula of Fort Worth; six great grandchildren, several step grandchildren and step great grandchildren; 11 nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, by two husbands, John Villines and Henry Daniel, Jr., a brother, Ray Thomas, and a sister, Charlene Blakeney.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 415 W. 8th Ave., Suite 300, Amarillo, TX 79101.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Janice Armbruster

husband Trey of Rowlett, and Brenda Noles and husband Jerry of Pampa; a granddaughter, Julie Canuel, her husband Neil, and great grandson, Henry Canuel of Dickinson; two grandsons, Jay Nicolaus Stopke, his wife and three children of Baldwin, Mo., and Seth Duncan Stopke, his wife and three children of St. Charles, Mo. Jean was preceded in death by three sisters, Laura Webster, Ruby Corley, and Una Taylor.

The family would like to express special thanks to Interim Hospice and Jean's caregivers, Paula Burnes, Pam Dalton, Caprice Mayhew, Donna Palmer, and Doris Stevens.

The family will receive friends from 5-6:30 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, Book of Remembrance, 525 N. Gray, Pampa, TX or a favorite charity.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Orval Edmond Watts

Orval Edmond Watts, 82, of Pampa, died Thursday, April 3, 2014, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 2014, at Memory Gardens Cemetery with George Lundberg, Church of Christ minister, officiating. Military honors will be provided by the U. S. Navy. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Watts was born Sept. 5, 1931 in Selmon, Okla. Orval was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He married Neva Jo Wilkinson in August of 1953. She preceded him in death in June of 1993. Orval later married Rhonda Winborne on July 6, 1996 in Roberts County. He was a farmer and rancher in the Panhandle area for many years. He was a Mason. Orval enjoyed

woodworking and welding.

Survivors include his wife, Rhonda Watts, of the home; a son, Frankie Watts and wife Janet of Pampa; two daughters, Vera Barker and husband Wayne of McLean and Pam Norwood and husband Steve of Pampa; a sister, Shirley Stinson of Kan.; a stepdaughter, Marlene Royce of Pampa; two stepsons, J.J. Winborne and wife Anita of Blanchard, Okla. and Freddy Winborne of Pampa; 11 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Orval was also preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Edna Watts, a sister, Virginia Watts, and a brother, Don Watts.

The family will receive friends at 2631 Cherokee.

Memorials may be made to a favorite charity.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

OBITUARIES cont. on page 8



Orval Watts

Jean Gibson Duncan

Jean Gibson Duncan, 92, of Pampa, died Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Duncan was born July 18, 1921 in Chelsea, Okla. She graduated from Pampa High School and attended the University of Arkansas. Jean married J. Kirk Duncan on Aug. 27, 1948 in Pampa. He preceded her in death in 1996. She was a member, treasurer, and elder of First Presbyterian Church. She was a former board member of the White Deer Land

Museum. Jean enjoyed playing bridge, golf, and doing needlepoint.

Survivors include two daughters, Celeste Wynn and



Jean Duncan

Pampa Fire Department call log — March 31-April 3

The Pampa Fire Department responded to these calls for the following dates. One unit with three personnel responded to each call, unless otherwise indicated.

March 31

- At 4:08 p.m., to a medical call in the 1600 block of West Somerville.
- At 6:48 p.m., to a medi-

cal assist in the 1100 block of Charles.

- At 7:29 p.m., to a medical call in the 1000 block of Reid.
- At 9:54 p.m., to a medical call in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

April 1

- At 12:11 p.m., to a medical call in the 1100 block of Charles.

- At 3:02 p.m., to an unauthorized burn in the 1000 block of Deer Place.
- At 6:45 p.m., one unit and two personnel to a dumpster fire in the 2900 block of Perryton Parkway.

April 2

- At 10:27 p.m. to a medical call in the 400 block of North Dwight.

April 3

- At 5:24 a.m., one unit and five personnel to a medical call in the 200 block of North Sumner.
- At 8:08 a.m., one unit and five personnel to a medical assist in the 1000 block of North Sumner.
- At 9:00 a.m., one unit and two personnel to a gas leak in the area of Reid and Campbell.

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Viewpoints

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This Land is Our Land The 9/11 attacks, opportunity and the rise of the Imperial Presidency

In recent weeks, the White House has stressed that "Obama will use a mixture of executive action and the bully pulpit to rally the nation around his year of action agenda."



BRUNO BALTODANO

(R-Texas) has argued since way back in January when he wrote an article titled "The Imperial Presidency of Barack Obama," for The Wall Street Journal.

The question, for the intelligent American voter looking to 2016, then becomes: Is this an Obama-problem or is this a U.S.-president-problem?

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 were a major shock to America, at every level of our lives.

At the domestic level, the attacks tipped the scale between maximizing national security and protecting civil liberties. We all know which way that scale was tipped.

One of the consequences of the decision to maximize national security was the rise of the "Imperial Presidency," — a term made famous

not by Ted Cruz but in a book of the same title by Arthur M. Schlesinger in 1973.

The main concern is of an Executive branch grown out of control and going beyond powers allowed by the Constitution. The Constitution established three separate branches of government not for efficiency but to avoid the arbitrary use of power.

Schlesinger saw the president's accumulation of foreign powers during wartimes linked to unfettered power at the domestic level, and that is exactly what we were left as a legacy of 9/11.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks, legislation was crafted with a focus on giving the president all the necessary tools to protect the national security. Under the Patriot Act, the U.S. President was authorized to use "all necessary and appropriate force" in order to protect the homeland from further attacks.

The administration of President George W. Bush, faced with the prospect of war against a non-state actor (namely, al-Qaeda), took the opportunity to increase power to the President in relation to Congress.

According to Jane Mayer, in her excellent book "The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How The War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals," Vice President Cheney and David Addington, his chief of

staff, set out to implement the "New Paradigm," based on the theory that "the President, as Commander-in-Chief, has the authority to disregard virtually all previous known legal boundaries, if national security demands it."

It was this decision that set the foundation for the sort of excesses that Ted Cruz bemoans.

The political maelstrom into which President George W. Bush had to venture following 9/11 was unlike many seen by his predecessors and, as a direct byproduct, the President demanded and was given seemingly unencumbered power above all other branches of government.

As Executive powers grew unchecked under the War on Terror, the voters of America were either silent or compliant. We wanted a strong president, and by golly, that is what we got.

This system remains in place for the administration of Barack Obama and is part and parcel of the situation that, apparently, keeps Ted Cruz awake at night.

Prior to the 9/11 attacks the sole legal instruments available to the president to conduct war were controlled by Congress. The hasty approval of the USA Patriot Act provided President Bush a better arsenal. The new law expanded and

9/11 cont. on page 5

The spring of shrinking hopes

Joseph Napolitan, who essentially created the profession of campaign consultant and who departed these earthly precincts this past December, was a wise man. He used to tell Democratic candidates



MARK SHIELDS

and officeholders whom he counseled "to never underestimate the intelligence of the voters, nor overestimate the amount of knowledge at their disposal." His point was that it was the candidate's and the campaign's responsibility to inform and educate voters and that if by election day, "the voters still do not understand what the candidate is trying to tell them, then it is the candidate's fault — not the voters'." That is as true today as it was when Napolitan wrote it more than 50 years ago.

Another timeless rule of Napolitan's is particularly sobering for Democratic candidates in the spring of 2014: "Do not underestimate the impact of an unpopular national administration." Here's how he put it: "Assuming the merits of the candidates are about equal, if you represent the party of an unpopular administration, you probably will lose."

Some seven months before Election Day, the political indicators are not encouraging for Democrats. First, the answer to one question — "Do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are off on the wrong track?" — essentially provides an EKG of the American body politic. The past dozen years of failing U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan along with the widespread pain and sense of betrayal inflicted by the financial crisis depleted Americans' historic optimism.

Five years ago, in April of 2009, American voters were evenly split, with 43 percent seeing their nation "generally headed in the right direction," and 43 percent feeling "things are off on the wrong track," according to the respected Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll. In the most recent survey, just 26 per-

cent of Americans answer "right direction," while 65 percent say "wrong track." In that same poll, only 41 percent of voters approved of the job President Barack Obama was doing, while 54 percent disapproved.

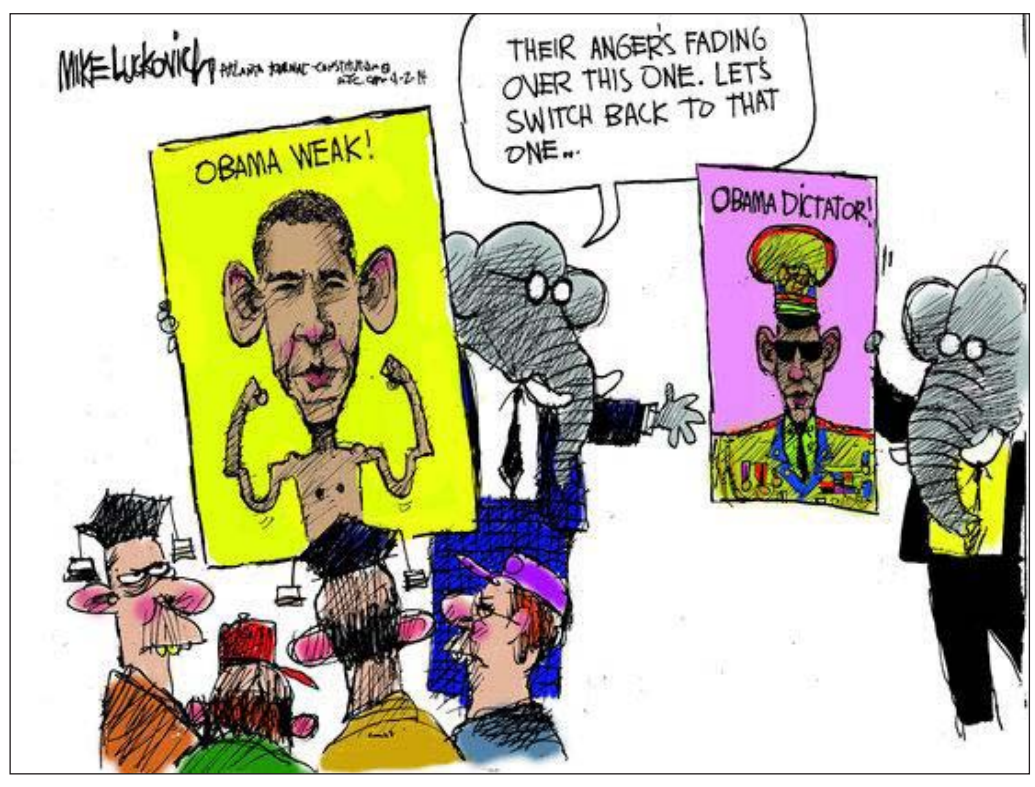
Here's the dirty little secret that keeps Democrats up at night: Any president's job rating generally cannot rise more than 15 percent above the nation's right-direction-wrong-track number. Thus, as long as voters remain so disappointed and discouraged about the direction of the U.S., then Obama's job rating will remain stuck in negative territory, and Democratic candidates in November will understandably fear "the impact of an unpopular administration."

Pessimism follows bad numbers. This week's CBS News poll reflected just that by measuring the enthusiasm of voters in the two parties and finding 70 percent of Republican voters enthusiastic about voting next November, while just 58 percent of Democratic voters described themselves as enthusiastic about the 2014 election. You only count in American elections if you actually do vote. If real estate is all about location, location, location, then elections are all about turnout, turnout, turnout.

One consistent result that lifts the spirits of beleaguered Democrats is the continuing unpopularity of the Republican Party. Not that the Democrats are widely revered; they're not. Still, Democrats' positive rating of 35 percent contrasted to their unfavorable rating of 38 percent looks awfully good when compared to the GOP's 27 percent positive rating to 45 percent negative (which on the lists of 10 institutions and individuals, including labor unions, puts the Republican Party ahead of only Vladimir Putin.)

It's true that a week can be a lifetime in politics, and six months can be an eternity. But for Democrats, with seven months to go, the 2014 road, as of now, is straight uphill.

To find out more about Mark Shields and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.



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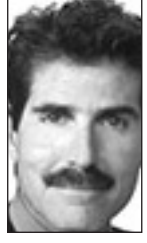
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Gambling and government

Did you fill out a March Madness bracket this year? In many states, if you put money in a pool, that's illegal!



JOHN STOSSEL

The NCAA website warns, "Fans should enjoy ... filling out a bracket just for the fun of it, not ... the amount of money they could possibly win."

Give me a break. Americans bet more money on March Madness this year than on the Super Bowl. Politicians can't quite make up their minds about gambling: They approve certain casinos and promote state lotteries but crack down on sports bets and some charity poker games. It seems that government dislikes gambling, unless government gets to be the house.

Increasingly, government is. After locking up bookies for "dangerous and criminal" activities, like running "numbers rackets," most states now offer much worse odds in state lotteries. Then they take money from taxpayers to advertise their scams.

Some states even run commercials that mock hard work, pushing the benefits of a long-shot jackpot.

Poor people become poorer, because they buy most of the lottery tickets. Then politicians brag how money from the lottery helps the poor. It's disgusting hypocrisy.

Politicians award casino permits to politically connected businessmen who make most of their money from slot machines that offer miserable odds. But when "unapproved" websites offered Internet poker, at far better odds, the federal government charged the operators with "money laundering" and shut the sites down.

Recently, three states noticed that people like Internet gambling so much that millions of dollars leave America and go to overseas websites. So New Jersey, Delaware and Nevada begged federal officials for permission to legalize some Internet betting and got it. Now other states may do it, too.

A group called the Coalition to Stop Internet Gambling wants to prevent legalization. It warns: "gambling will be available in every home, every bedroom, every dorm room, on every phone, tablet and computer!"

It's revealing that its ads are funded by casino magnate Sheldon Adelson. He doesn't mind you gambling, obviously. He just wants

you to go to casinos, like those he happens to own.

Government, just as hypocritical, invites people to buy lottery tickets while simultaneously stamping out rival forms of gambling and warning us of the damage gambling can do.

And, yes, gambling hurts some people. Some wreck their lives and gamble away their life savings. How many gamblers? That's not clear. Maybe 2 percent, say critics of gambling.

But Patrick Basham of the Cato Institute argues that gambling is often a symptom rather than a cause.

"It's very hard to disentangle all the things that are going wrong in that person's life," perhaps depression and other psychological problems. "The people who get into these problems tend to have difficulties."

I love gambling. But on my TV show, I gave Basham a hard time for arguing that gambling is "healthy." Fun, maybe, but I told him I don't think it's healthy.

"You're wrong," he answered. "It's good for our emotional health ... physical health ... It provides social interaction, which has all kinds of physiological benefits. Older people who gamble have less alcoholism, less depression than older people who do not

gamble."

I can't vouch for the statistics. You can read his book, "Gambling: A Healthy Bet," and judge for yourself.

What I do know, and hate, is that with gambling, as with so many other activities, government tells us it knows best, and then makes matters worse by banning things. The bans drive betting into the hands of criminals. Politicians turn small problems into big ones.

I wish politicians would notice that their clumsy one-size-fits-all laws can never take into account how 300 million different Americans react to a complex experience like gambling.

The way people gamble will vary, just as the way they drink or play sports varies. Most people are careful; some are reckless. But we don't respond by forbidding drinking or sports.

Individuals' brains, habits and tolerance for risk vary. It makes little sense for government to barge in and tell people how much money they can risk, or where they can do it.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on the Fox Business Network. He's the author of "No They Can't: Why Government Fails, but Individuals Succeed."

9/11

Continued From Page 4

broadened the scope of actions available to the president (from roving wire taps to extra judicial deportations and even torture).

The implication here is that Obama, and any future U.S. President elected after him, is provided with a wider leeway in protecting national security — and if there is one thing I can say about U.S. Presidents since Ulysses Grant, is that they all have a fairly broad

definition of “national security.”

There is no question that, given the charged political environment of 9/11, President Bush was faced with a difficult choice: How to balance concerns between guaranteeing civil liberties while maximizing national security.

There is also no question that his calculus, under newly increased presidential powers, led to increased institutional powers in the office of the Executive Branch.

To paraphrase A. Schlesinger, a domestic balance of power that fa-

vors the Executive Branch, far from strengthening American security, weakens it by promoting hubris in the president.

I didn't like the notion of an unchecked executive branch under George W. Bush and I surely do not like in under Barack H. Obama. Do you?

Bruno Baltodano, a resident of Pampa, is a faculty adjunct at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho and at Clarendon College in Pampa and the host of "Revolutionary Hour," a radio show about political songs on High Plains Public Radio. He teaches college courses on Global Politics, Government and Terrorism.

New law requires farmers, ranchers to show proof of eligibility for plates, excess weight permits

SUBMITTED

A new state law requires farmers and ranchers to show their state comptroller-issued Texas Agricultural or Timber Exemption Registration number before obtaining farm license plates and/or temporary excess weight permits at the Gray County

Tax Office.

This law applies to Farm Truck/Farm Truck Tractor and Farm Trailers/Semitrailers. When visiting the Tax Office for renewal be prepared to show your Exemption Number. If you have not yet applied for your exempt number you can go online to the Texas Comptroller of

Public Accounts, Agricultural Registration Exemption number or call 1-800-252-5555.

If you have questions about the classification of your vehicles, or the Exemption Number you can go to www.TxDMV.gov, or feel free to contact the Gray County Tax Office at 806-669-8018.

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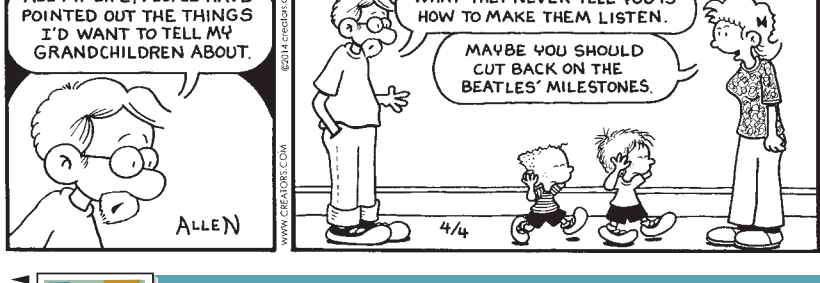
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Nest Heads



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daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, April 5, 2014:
This year you often feel uneasy discussing vital life matters, especially those involving sex and money. You instinctively hold back; make it a point to find out why. If you are single, you will attract someone who will notice when you withdraw. It might serve you to become more trusting and open with someone you are starting to date. If you are attached, your sweetie will become more dominant. That behavior could feel off to you, but know that you can't change him or her. Accept each other's differences. **CANCER** can irritate you easily. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You are likely to say more than what someone wants to hear. It might not look like this person is wearing headphones, but he or she certainly is acting like it. Pull back, and refuse to waste your energy. Wait until this person becomes more receptive. Tonight: Speak your mind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You could be handling a financial matter for most of the day. You might find it difficult to get past this issue, but you will find a way. Make plans with a loved one for later in the day. You could be taken back by everything that goes on. Tonight: Catch up with friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Beam in more of what you want. A purchase that involves improving your image could be more significant than you realize. Meanwhile, a get-together will prove to be a lot of fun. Do not be surprised if you overindulge. Tonight: Buy a token of affection for a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Finish up your taxes today, or get some extra rest. Even you need to get some R and R. Listen to what someone has to offer. You might want to take him or her up on this one. By late afternoon, you could feel unencumbered. Tonight: Right in the middle of everything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to visit with friends and perhaps check out a new gym or whatever else would make you happy. Know that there are no rules and no need for structure right now. A loved one or admirer will let you know his or

her feelings. Tonight: Where the gang is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Check in on a parent or older relative. You also might want to do some work or handle your taxes. Use the day well, and concentrate. By late afternoon, go to a game or head out to see a movie with a friend. Tonight: A spontaneous happening occurs wherever you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You would be able to be far more connected to a person if he or she were closer. Why not bridge the distance and visit more often? You might find this to be a very rewarding experience that could give you both depth and perspective. Tonight: In the middle of whatever is going on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might find it difficult to get past a partner and handle a personal matter. The two of you seem to have very different styles, yet you manage to intrigue each other. A new friend could surprise you by revealing other facets of his or her personality. Tonight: Where the fun is.

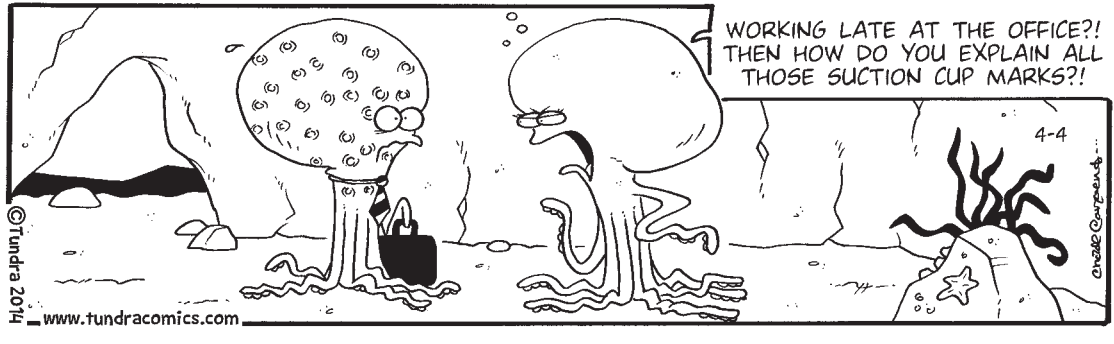
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others seem to take the initiative; you won't even need to pick up the phone. You will find that you are most comfortable at home anyway. A loved one might share more than usual. Be spontaneous together. Tonight: Don't worry -- others will seek you out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could be focused on a dramatic change. A discussion with a friend regarding this matter could feel a little strange. Honor what you feel and what you want. Trust that the other party will respond appropriately. Tonight: Go along with plans.

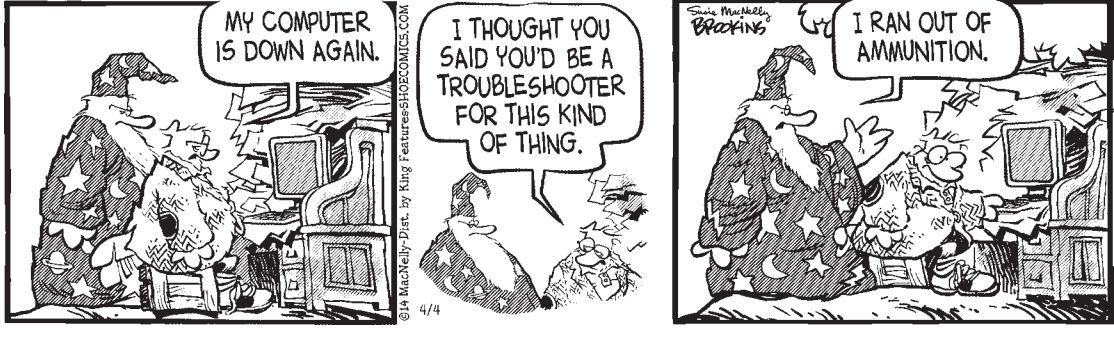
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your playfulness draws several people to you. You could find yourself purchasing a new item and spending a little too much. Know when to deploy your self-discipline. Do not allow a friend to talk you into a more extravagant purchase than you can afford. Tonight: Calm down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to see what is going on with a family member before formalizing any plans. You could be delighted by your choice to stay close to home and indulge in some laziness. You will see that those you live with will respond in kind. Tonight: Out and about.

Tundra



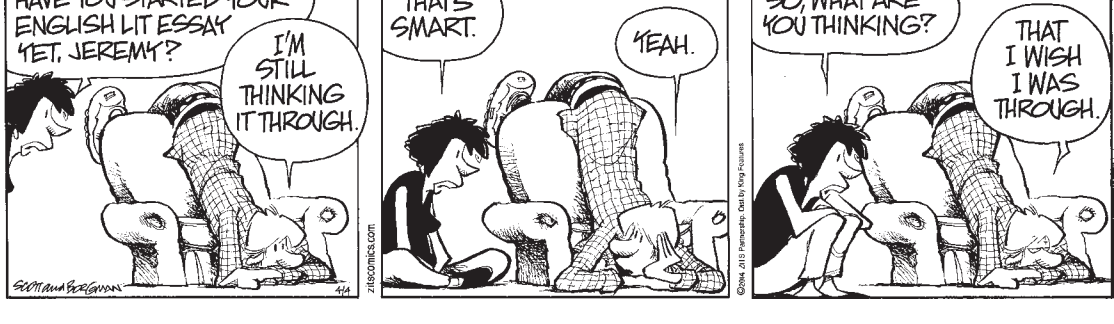
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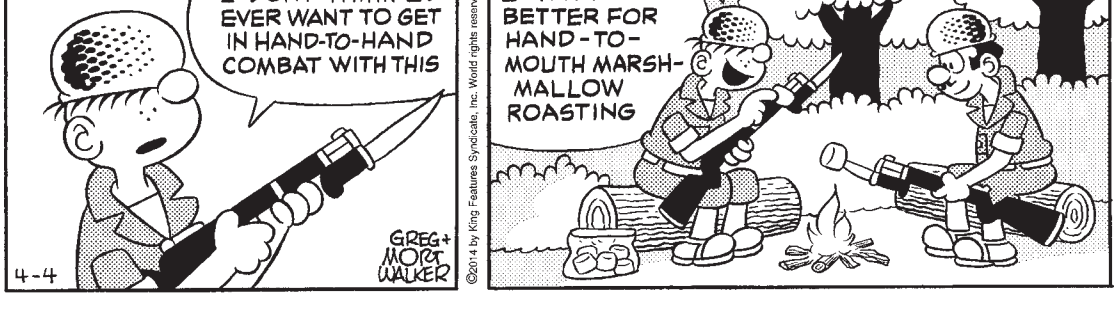
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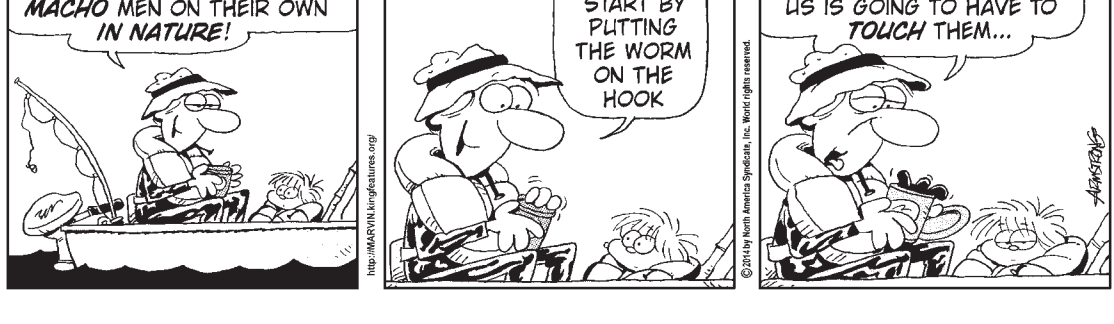
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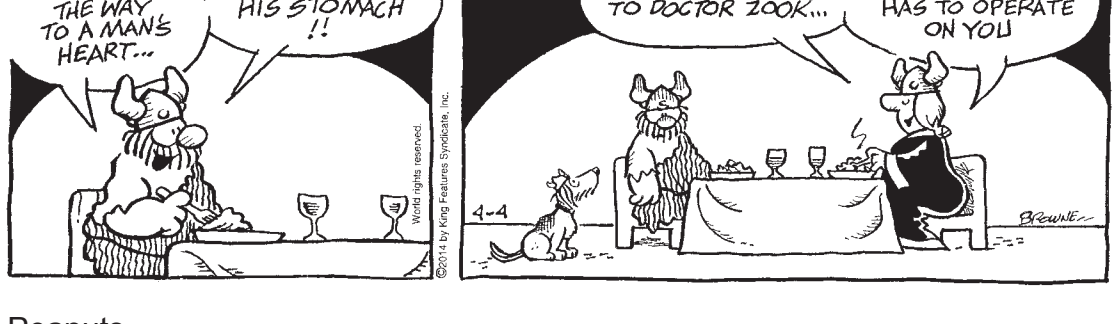
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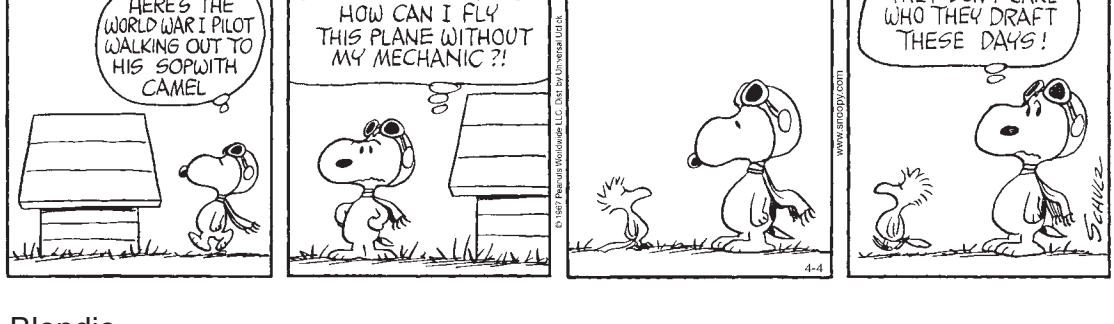
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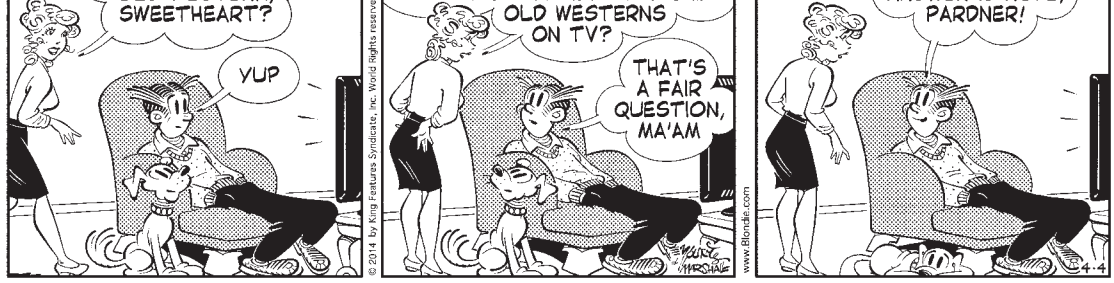
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Foundation: Texas has 4th lowest state-local tax burden in the U.S.

SUBMITTED

Texas residents shoulder the 4th lowest state-local tax burden in the country, according to the Annual State-Local Tax Burdens report released today by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation. Using the most up-to-date data available, the report shows that taxpayers in Texas paid 7.5% of their collective incomes in state and local taxes in 2011. The national average was 9.8 percent.

The study's key findings include:

During the 2011 fiscal year, state-local tax burdens as a share of state incomes decreased on average. This trend was largely driven by the growth of income in all states.

In 2011, the residents of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut had the highest state-local tax burdens as a share of income in the nation. In these states, residents have forgone over 11.9 percent of income due to state and local taxes.

Residents of Wyoming paid the lowest percentage of income in 2011 at just

6.9 percent. They replaced Alaska, which had previously been the least-taxed for multiple decades, as the lowest-burdened state in the nation. After Wyoming and Alaska, the next lowest-taxed states were South Dakota, Texas, and Louisiana.

State-local tax burdens are very close to one another and slight changes in taxes or income can translate to seemingly dramatic shifts in rank. For example, the twenty mid-ranked states, ranging from Oregon (16th) to Georgia

(35th), only differ in burden by just over one percentage point.

On average, taxpayers pay more to their own state and local governments (73 percent of total burden). Taxes paid within states of residence decreased on average in 2011, while taxes paid to other states increased, leading to a slight decrease in total burden. Some states deviated from these national trends, however.


The report examines burden trends over time and takes into account what tax-

payers pay to other states in addition to their own, offering a more accurate picture of the true tax burden borne by residents.

"States have different tax burdens, just as they have different levels of services. For Americans to make informed judgments about benefits and costs of state-local government, the costs need to be known," said Tax Foundation economist Liz Malm. "This annual estimate of how much residents pay in state-local taxes helps inform that discussion."

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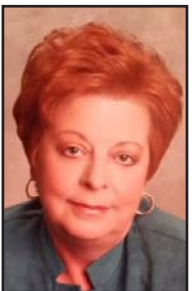
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Obituaries

Continued From Page 3

Linda Diane Hastings Black

Linda Diane Hastings Black, 61, of The Woodlands, joined her Heavenly Father's arms on April 2, 2014 in The Woodlands.



Linda Black

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, April 4, 2014, at the First Baptist Church in White Deer with Rev. Alan Wilson, pastor, Rev. Dr. Jerry R. Lane, pastor of the United Methodist Church of White Deer, and Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor of the Briarwood Church in Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in White Deer Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Linda was born Oct. 28, 1952 in Spring Valley, Ill. She was an accountant her whole adult life and was always amazing with numbers, and she took great pride in her work. She was self-employed with AO Resources since October of 2009.

Linda was a leader and would take charge of any situation. She was crafty with a vivid imagination, and she was a perfectionist. She was a loving mother who believed you could be anything you wanted to be and was always encouraging others to work hard and do their best. Linda was honest with her opinions and beliefs. Her most precious possessions were her two grandsons, Tyler and Ryan. She loved spending time with them and would travel near and far to see them participate in their sport-

ing events. She cherished their vacations and time spent together.

Linda enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She liked playing cards and games during family gatherings, and she was very competitive. She loved music, especially listening to her brothers (and most recently her grandson, Tyler) play their guitars and sing. Linda enjoyed the outdoors, yellow roses, reading a good book, fishing, or just rocking in her chair listening to nature. Her favorite color was green.

She was strong-willed and was a fighter who refused to give up or give in.


Linda believed in God's grace, and she fought the good fight, finished the race and kept her faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10). She will be missed and always cherished by all who knew and loved her.

Survivors include a daughter, Kristy Diane Powell and husband David of Pampa; her mother, Joyce L. Robertson of the home; her two much loved grandsons, Tyler and Ryan Powell of Pampa; seven sisters, Melissa Jo Morris and husband Jay of Alvin, Lois Ricks and husband Rusty and Linda Jean Robertson, all of White Deer, Carolyn Marcum of Amarillo, Kim Robertson of Odessa, Bilia Robertson of Houston, and Carolyn Dinse of Spring; three brothers, Eddie Hastings and wife Tammie of San Antonio, Randy Hastings of the home, and Tim Hastings and wife Tanya of Snohomish, Wash.; and by numerous beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Linda was preceded in death by her father William "Bill" Hastings, stepfather Arthur H. Robertson, and two brothers, RD Robertson and A.H. Robertson.

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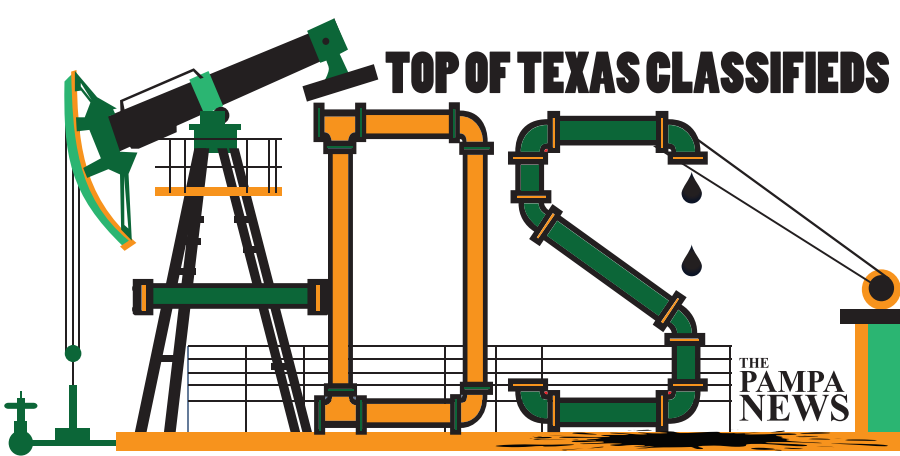
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FOUND white adult male Poodle, Mar. 26th on Price Rd. / Borger Hwy. No collar. 806-676-9884

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INDUSTRIAL Oils Unlimited, LLC has an immediate opening for a Supervisor in Pampa. We offer health/dental/vision/life ins., 401K and a generous personal time off program. The successful candidate must be able to provide hands on supervision of operations which includes warehouse and distribution. Customer service, quality control and inventory control are top priorities for this position. Strong interpersonal skills, effective oral and written communication skills, and previous supervisor preferred. Apply by sending resume to HR@ioulc.com

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Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

PAMPA ISD is now accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Sub drivers. Please apply online at www.pampaisd.net or come by 1233 N. Hobart to pick up an application. Pampa ISD is an EOE.

Parkview Home Health in Wheeler Tx., is seeking FT or Part Time RN, Day Shift. Applications available at front desk, 901 S. Sweetwater, or send resume to kimw@parkviewhosp.org or call Kim or Kelly at 806-826-1370

SEEKING a committed, honest and reliable individual to do general housekeeping for traveling businessmen. Pay is negotiable. Contact Ray at 432.661.3556

Seeking Experienced Rig Operator. Send Resume to P.O. Box 1422, Pampa, TX. 79066.

TEXAS Rose Steakhouse is hiring Hostesses, Servers & Cooks. No phone calls. Apply at 2841 Perryton Pkwy.

Miscellaneous

FOR SALE: Double Lawn Crypt in Memory Gardens. Call 806-898-2451

HOT TUB (6 person) \$900 obo. PIANO \$400 obo
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Garage Sale

630 POWELL, Sat. 8am-? 14' Polarcraft John boat, 3-1/2 HP new motor, fishfinder, furniture, grill, pool w/sand filter, weight bench, crafts, kid clothes & much more!

912 S. SUMNER THURSDAY SUNDAY!!

Garage Sale

630 POWELL, Sat. 8am-? 14' Polarcraft John boat, 3-1/2 HP new motor, fishfinder, furniture, grill, pool w/sand filter, weight bench, crafts, kid clothes & much more!

912 S. SUMNER THURSDAY SUNDAY!!

COUCH, loveseat, patio furniture, household items, men's & women's clothes. Sat 7am-? 2213 N. Zimmers

ESTATE Sale: 2210 Hamilton, Sat. 9-3pm. Furni., golf clubs, baby stuff, lots of misc. No checks.

Garage Sale, 2309 Alcock, Inside, Fri. & Sat. 8am-6pm, some tools, fishing stuff.

MOVING SALE
1314 Mary Ellen Sat Only 8am-2pm.

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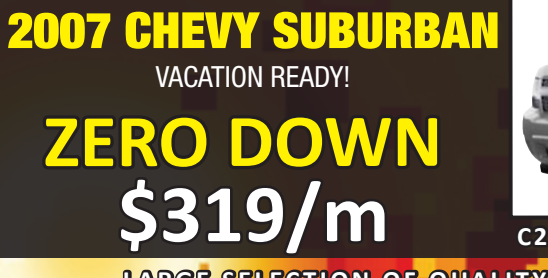
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MOVING SALE
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We are seeking an experienced **Internal Control Specialist**

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- Up to date knowledge of GAAP and IRFS
- CPA a plus but not required
- Bachelors degree in Accounting or Finance preferred

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4-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

DRWQ LZICQCSX CF IWFRK
ZL FUZDL, UZNDWPR WLK
HDZAZNLK CLKCAARDRLUR.

— W Q I R D S U W V N F

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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Advanced

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 42 Noted reviewer
- 1 T-shirt choice
- 43 Deal maker
- 6 Floats on the breeze
- 44 Is bold
- 11 Football's Long
- 45 Civil wrongs
- 12 Knuckle-head
- 13 Skilled
- 14 "M" star
- 15 Scottish river
- 16 Blue
- 18 Shoebox letters
- 19 Caribou's cousin
- 20 Flamenco cry
- 21 Stole stuff
- 22 Roil
- 24 Chamois' home
- 25 In particular
- 27 Lowly chessman
- 29 Senate victim
- 32 French friend
- 33 Spoil
- 34 One, for Juan
- 35 Horror star Chaney
- 36 Be inquisitive
- 37 Cattle call
- 38 Rock genre
- 40 Truck stop sights

DOWN

- 1 Some eyewear
- 2 Early Ford
- 3 Maeve Binchy book
- 4 Gloss spot
- 5 Releases
- 6 Dorian Gray's creator
- 7 Hoopla
- 8 Maeve Binchy book

A	C	H	E	D		V	O	I	C	E
S	P	A	R	E		E	X	C	O	N
P	A	N	I	C		N	E	E	D	S
			D	E	A	C	O	N		
P	I	P		G	U	M		H	E	R
E	D	I	T	O	R		F	A	D	E
S	E	C	O	N	D	H	A	N	D	S
T	A	K	E		L	A	D	D	I	E
O	S	S		Y	E	N		B	E	T
				C	A	S	S	I	O	
D	O	Z	E	N		O	R	O	N	O
I	N	I	N	K		L	A	K	E	R
D	E	P	T	S		O	N	S	E	T

Yesterday's answer

- 9 Reduced to shreds
- 10 Takes the helm
- 17 Llamas' cousins
- 23 Director Howard
- 24 Saloon supply
- 26 Speaks to brusquely
- 27 Picked up stealthily
- 28 One-celled creature
- 30 Sprinkle with oil
- 31 Perches
- 33 Fountain orders
- 39 Verb for you
- 41 Conceit

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
						12				
11						14				
13										
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				



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for two years. We recently spent a romantic night at a hotel, complete with dinner, drinks — the whole shebang — that he organized.

I know he was a little stressed about money because he mentioned it. He asked if I could shell out some money, which I did, and when the bill came, he asked me if I could shell out some more.

I was a little upset because I wasn't planning on spending that much. He says he is going to pay me back some of it, and now I just feel bad. I told him I didn't enjoy being put in that situation and things got awkward quickly.

Now I am the one apologizing, and I feel like I ruined our night. Am I being a brat? — NEW YORK READER

DEAR N.Y. READER: I don't think so. If your boyfriend couldn't afford to pay for the romantic evening, he should have discussed it with you beforehand so you wouldn't be put on the spot.

DEAR ABBY: I work at an elementary school, and I help out during lunch, keeping order and making sure the kids are not too loud. Two of their moms work here. The kids are bullies and have no respect for adults whatsoever.

When I try to discipline them or give them a time out, they go to their moms and accuse me of targeting them because they are black. Then the moms

come to me and complain and ask me why I'm "targeting" them.

This is causing me a lot of stress. I can't allow them to bully other kids, but at the same time I don't want trouble with the parents. How can I approach this situation without it getting more complicated? — SCHOOLYARD MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR SCHOOLYARD MOM: Because these women are preventing you from effectively supervising the children, which is your job, you should address this problem with the principal of the school.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law watches my four kids so I can work outside the home. On the off chance that she can't, she tells me my brother-in-law will watch them. While I appreciate her

gesture of trying to "cover her shift," my brother-in-law is irresponsible, suffers from severe depression and smokes pot.

I don't want to be rude, but I don't like her leaving my kids with him. Is there an OK way to tell her that, or do I need to stop being "overprotective" and suck it up? — MOMMY OF FOUR

DEAR MOMMY: It would not be rude to tell your mother-in-law that while you appreciate her watching your children, if for any reason she cannot do it, you would prefer to make your own arrangements for who will supervise them. If she asks you why, then be frank with her about your concerns — all of which are valid. That is not being overprotective; it is being conscientious.

BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

LEVEL

C D E F H L N
O O O P U V Y N

BANANA BITE: Lost & ?

BANANA BITE: One word means "longed for."

Yesterday's Answer (possible): PLEBE, REBEL, ELDER, LURED, UNDER, ROUND; OXIDE, OLDIE, IDEAL, TIDAL, ADULT, FAULT

PampaSports

Stanton rallies Marlins past Rockies 8-5

MIAMI (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton singled home the go-ahead run with two outs in the eighth inning, capping a comeback to help the Miami Marlins beat the Colorado Rockies 8-5 Thursday. Casey McGehee had two hits and three RBIs for the Marlins, who scored 27 runs while winning three of four games in the season-opening series. Miami finished last in the majors in runs and batting last year and lost 100 games. The Marlins were 1 for 15 with runners in scoring position for the afternoon before Christian Yelich made the score 5-all in the eighth with a two-out RBI single off Matt Belisle (0-1). Yelich stole second — with the call confirmed by a replay review

— and Jeff Baker walked. Yelich scored easily when Stanton singled after falling behind 0-2, and McGehee followed with a two-run single. McGehee has eight RBIs and Stanton seven in the season's first week. A.J. Ramos (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth. Steve Cishek followed with a scoreless ninth for his 31st consecutive converted save opportunity, and his second this year. Michael Cuddyer homered and drove in three runs for the Rockies, who head to Denver for their home opener Friday against Arizona. Cuddyer had an RBI groundout in the first inning and two-run homer in the third. Last year's NL batting champion is hitting .412.

NASCAR puts pressure of preserving tires on teams

FORT WORTH (AP) — NASCAR will not regulate tire pressures at Texas Motor Speedway, and if drivers have tire failures during Sunday's race, officials believe they won't be able to blame Goodyear. There were multiple tire issues at California two weeks ago, and many drivers tried to blame the product Goodyear brought to the track.

NASCAR insisted the issues were self-inflicted and a product of teams going far beyond the air pressure limits recommended by the manufacturer. Now, as a handful of drivers have predicted similar problems this weekend at Texas, NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton says each team controls its own fate.

Thursday: Papelbon blows lead in Phillies 4-3 loss at Texas

ARLINGTON (AP) — Jonathan Papelbon thought he had induced a double-play grounder to clinch a victory for the Philadelphia Phillies. Papelbon instead watched Leonys Martin's single roll through the drawn-in infield to drive home the tying run. The right-hander then walked consecutive batters, including a game-ending pass to Shin-Soo Choo, as the Texas Rangers rallied in the ninth inning for the second night in a row, winning 4-3 Wednesday night.

"The whole inning was kind of just one of those innings," Papelbon said. "You get a cue ball down the third base line. Then you get a double play ball, which you think is the game-ending double play. It's not."

Texas scored three runs as Papelbon (0-1) allowed four hits and two walks while getting only one out.

Adrian Beltre, whose ninth-inning single Tuesday night drove home Choo with the winning run, started this rally with a leadoff single.

After Mitch Moreland's double, pinch-hitter Jim Adduci had an RBI infield single that rolled down the line before Martin's hit. Donnie Murphy walked on four pitches before Choo got to a full count before walking.

"Tough way to lose," manager Ryne Sandberg said.

Ryan Howard hit a two-run homer and Kyle Kendrick allowed only

one run over seven innings, but Philly still hasn't won a road series since Sandberg took over as manager last August — first on an interim bases before getting the full-time gig.

The Phillies lost 24 of 32 games over their final 10 road series last season. They split four games against the New York Mets last August in Sandberg's first series on the road — but had dropped the previous five series away from home, and then lost the last four. They won this year's season opener 14-10 before consecutive ninth-inning losses.

"The guys competed for the three games and could have come out differently this time around," Sandberg said. "A lot of good stuff on the offensive side, and that was something that was missing in the spring."

Seth Rosin (1-0) worked two scoreless innings for his first major league victory.

Moreland had a triple in the seventh and scored on Martin's two-out single.

"It's a nice way to start the season," Moreland said. "We really came together these last couple of games."

Kendrick struck out four and allowed one run, but is still winless his last eight starts. The right-hander went 0-5 over his final seven starts last season, when the Phillies scored a combined two run behind him in those losses.

From the Press Box

■ The joys of being a fan of something.

Being a fan of something is a liberty that many people don't think about or consider. You like something and keep tabs on it; to a degree you become a hardcore fan.

My wife loves "Pretty Little Liars." I teased her about it Thursday while we were talking to friends because she will literally



JOHN LEE

watch the show and be shocked by certain events in the show. My best friend's wife told me that I do the same for sports.

Without question I accepted the charges presented to me. Now there was a time for a few years when I didn't follow sports. I was in junior high and high school. I didn't play sports so it was easy for me to lose interest.

I bring all this up because there are degrees of fanaticism. When I watched the Denver Broncos in the 1990s as a kid, I loved watching John Elway.

I still remember my exact location when his legendary helicopter dive for a first down in the Super Bowl against the Green Bay Packers happened. After Elway retired, I did lose interest in football.

I became a less-than-casual fan of football. I watched the Super Bowls but that was about it. I regained interest in 2008 and stuck to my old team, the Denver Broncos. But I was no longer a less-than-casual football fan, I rediscovered my love

for football. But I wasn't bandwagon fan. I watched the Broncos through three 8-8 seasons, a 4-12 season, Tim Tebow zealots calling for Kyle Orton's head, and those same zealots saying that the Broncos lost the Super Bowl because of their wrongdoing of Tim Tebow.

I will say this about Tebow, however. That year he won a playoff game was the most magical year of football to be a Broncos fan ever. Even with how great Peyton is and I wouldn't trade him for anybody (except maybe Aaron Rodgers or Tom Brady), the magical numbers he put up do not match the number of heart attacks I was on the fringe of having that year.

Personally, what makes me a hardcore fan is I watch every game, to the last second, and will sit through the good seasons and the rough seasons.

Everything else I am more of a casual fan. I like the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA but will watch a good basketball game. Same goes for the Colorado Rockies, if they were broadcast here more I would follow them closer, but unfortunately we only get Rangers games (I jest, of course).

If the Rockies were better they would get more national TV games.

So what are you a hardcore fan of. It doesn't matter what it is. It doesn't matter if you love a certain team, player, coach, TV show or video game, let me know.

John Lee is the sports editor of The Pampa News. He can be reached at jlee@thepampanews.com.

Watch the Pros

- Baseball**
Philadelphia Phillies at Chicago Cubs.....WGName 1:15 p.m.
- High School Basketball**
Dick's Sporting Goods National Tournament.....ESPNU 11:30 a.m.
Dick's Sporting Goods National Tournament.....ESPN2 1:30 p.m.
- College Lacrosse**
Albany at Johns Hopkins.....ESPNU 6 p.m.
- College Softball**
Arkansas at Alabama.....ESPNU 8 p.m.
- Fighting**
Boxing: Cunningham-Mansour.....NBCSN 9 p.m.
Bellator MMA from Reno.....SPIKE 8 p.m.
- Hockey**
Washington Capitals at New Jersey Devils.....NBCSN 6 p.m.
- Auto Racing**
NASCAR Nationwide Series from Texas...ESPN2 7:30 p.m.
- Golf**
LPGA Tour: Kraft Nabisco Championship.....Golf 11 a.m.
PGA Tour: Houston Open.....Golf 2 p.m.
LPGA Tour: Kraft Nabisco Championship.....Golf 5 p.m.
- Tennis**
Family Circle Cup.....ESPN2 noon
- Basketball**
Denver Nuggets at Memphis Grizzlies.....ESPN 6 p.m.
Oklahoma City Thunder at Houston Rockets.....ESPN 8:30 p.m.

Check your local listings for channel number
Times may vary and blackouts may apply

COVERING THE BASES

	John	Zac	ReDonn
SF Giants at L.A. Dodgers	Giants	Giants	Giants
Atlanta Braves at Washington Nationals	Nats	Braves	Braves
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City Royals	Royals	Royals	White Sox
St. Louis Cardinals at Pittsburgh Pirates	Cardinals	Cardinals	Pirates
Minnesota Twins at Cleveland Indians	Indians	Indians	Indians
Texas Rangers at Tampa Bay Rays	Rangers	Rays	Rangers

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TALES from the TOP OF TEXAS

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

Freely roaming bison now the main attraction at Caprock Canyons State Park.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Before the Great Plains were settled by people of European descent, hundreds of thousands of bison, called buffalo by some, roamed freely on millions of acres across the Great American West.

The bison shared the land with Native Americans, who killed them for food and their hides. But the Indians were frugal in the midst of bounty, and only killed what they needed to survive.

Not so with the European settlers. In the 1500s the Spaniards brought horses to the region. It wasn't long before even the Indians learned how to use the speedy steeds to chase and hunt bison, which can run as fast as 35 mph.

But it was that arrival of vast waves of white settlers in the 1800s that spelled the near demise of the herds. Among the earliest waves of settlers were trappers and traders who made their living selling meat and hides. By the 1870s, they were shipping hundreds of thousands of

bison hides eastward each year. More than 1.5 million were packed aboard trains and wagons in the winter of 1872-73 alone, according to "Nature," a program produced by the Public Broadcasting System.

The commercial killers, however, weren't the only ones shooting bison. Train companies offered tourists the chance to shoot buffalo from the windows of their coaches. There were even buffalo-killing contests. In one, a Kansas man set a record by killing 120 bison in just 40 minutes. "Buffalo" Bill Cody killed more than 4,000 buffalo in just two years, according to "Nature."

By the late 1800s very few bison remained.

If not for the first cattle rancher to settle in the Panhandle, Charles Goodnight, the southern herd of the Great Plains bison may have been completely obliterated.

Goodnight saw the economic viability of keeping bison alive rather than slaughtering them and bred them with his cattle. He called the hybrid animals "cattalo."

It is said that his wife Mary enjoyed listening to the bison calves bleating at night.

The descendants of Goodnight's herd now roam freely at Caprock Canyons

State Park, which is a two-hour drive south from Pampa.

In September 2011, 80 descendants of the great southern plains bison herd were released to roam 700 acres of grasslands in the park. From a safe distance, visitors can view these indigenous animals in their native habitat. The animals were once confined in a pen.

Visitors are strongly warned to keep a distance of at least 30 yards from the animals. Though most bison will simply walk away if a human gets too close, animal behavior can be unpredictable and a bison could charge.

Now is a good time to visit the park if you like to see babies.

Park superintendent Donald Beard said there are currently 87 bison, and the park is expecting about 25 calves this year.

"They are being born right now. There are three right now," he said Tuesday.

Calves weigh a mere 50 pounds when they are born and beef up — or shall we say, bison up — to 400 pounds within a year.

Cows weigh from 900 to 1,000 pounds and the bulls can weight up to a ton, Beard said.

Though there have been a few close calls with people getting too close to bison, Beard said so far no one has been hurt.

Bison calves are not the only baby critters being born in the park right now.

Beard said the first litter of prairie dog pups arrived last Thursday. In the park, motorists must yield to the prairie dogs where ever there is a sign that says "Prairie Dog Crossing."

Beard said since the bison were released to roam freely in the park, attendance has skyrocketed.

"In 2012 we had about 38,000 visitors, in 2013 we had 68,000 and for 2014 we are well above our projections for the year," he said.

With the Goodnight homestead in Claude and other points within short drives of Caprock Canyons, Beard said the park has joined a partnered with the Charles Goodnight Historical Center, the Buffalo Gold retail store next to the Goodnight center, the Armstrong County Museum and the Palo Duro Canyon State Park to connect all these points of interest. A small portion of the southern plains herd is kept in a pen next to the Goodnight center.

Caprock Canyons is located just outside the park in the quaint little town of Quitaque. For more information or directions to the park, call 806-455-1492 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/caprock-canyons.



Above and below, bison roam freely at Caprock Canyons. Above right, Lake Theo has a boat ramp and fishing pier. Below right, there are miles of trails for hikers and mountain bikers. Bottom left, bison have roamed freely in the park since 2011. Bottom center, ouch! Mind your P's and Q's and don't get a bison bull horn rammed where the sun don't shine. Bottom right, main street in Quitaque.

