

Low pay, red tape cited as complaints | **p2**

PHS Class of '72 grads back for reunion | p8

New hope, but also new problems for Skinner

Missing windbreaker jacket could be 'key to everything,' Death Row inmate said

ALLAN TURNER Associated Press

\$1.50 weekend

LIVINGSTON — Henry Skinner is a small man with a crooked nose, acid tongue and keen mind. Convicted of

fatally pummeling his lover with an ax handle and stabbing her adult sons in a 1993 New Year's Eve rampage in the Texas Panhandle, he has used his 17 years on death row to assail Texas' criminal justice system as "cunning and



deceptive."

In a case that has become an international anti-death penalty cause célébre, Skinner since 2001 has battled to obtain DNA testing of items he believes will clear him of the

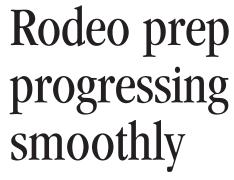
Pampa killings of Twila Busby and her sons, Randy and

Elwin.

Skinner's campaign for more testing has twice prompted courts to stay his scheduled executions. His quest has been complicated by his first lawyer's decision to abandon DNA testing after examination of clothing worn by Skinner the night of the killings revealed traces of the victims' blood.

Despite prosecutor-sanctioned testing of a few items in 2000 and a 2011 U.S. SKINNER cont. on page 2





THE PAMPA NEWS

Preparations are moving forward smoothly for the 2012 Top O' Texas Rodeo, scheduled for Aug. 9-11 at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Grounds.

Rodeo office manager Cindy Kemph said Sunday that this year's event is up to 38 official sponsors, including new additions Pampa Regional Medical Center and Pampa Fuels.

"We've got all of our major sponsors in place, so we're ready to go as far as that goes," said Kemph. "Any time you can pick up a bunch of new sponsors, it's a very good thing. Some of them, we've reached out to and some of them contacted us. Any time people call you and ask you to be part of what you're doing, that excites us."

photo courtesy of Della Moyer

Attendees of the Harvester Class of 1972 reunion get ready to take a tour of Pampa High School on Saturday morning. More **REUNION PHOTOS** are on page 8.

Pampans should be seeing promotional material around town for the rodeo soon, Kemph added.

"Rodeo posters should be being put up at stores in town before too long," she said. "They are at the printer. I did get the final proof on those. We've been calling on our business banners for the fronts of stores, so those will be going up around the first week in August. We're working with the Chamber and some of the retail merchants on some really neat stuff for the parade."

An unfortunate subtraction from the RODEO cont. on page 8

Hospice care common, but misconceptions abound

About 1.58 million patients received *hospice services nationwide in 2010*

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

In 2010, about 1.58 million patients received hospice services, according to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Despite its prevalence, since Accolade began providing hospice services a few months ago, Lindsey Been and Collin Rains of Accolade have noted a number of misconceptions surrounding the service, which assists patients during the last several months of life to maintain quality of life.

"Typically, they've been given a diagnosis or they know that they're no longer going to actively treat (the disease)," said Been. "At some point, they will decide that they want hospice care, and that can be either outpatient, in the home, or it can be at an inpatient facility."

"Hospice is a way of assisting and being there for them as their disease progresses and being able to change your



care plan as the disease changes, so that you're keeping the patient comfortable," she added.

Patients don't necessarily have to leave home for hospice services, and Accolade, for instance, sticks to outpatient care, which Rains describes as "patient-specific."

"Each patient, whether on home care or hospice, has their own individual care plan," she said. "It's not one size fits all for everyone. It's tailored to that specific

patient based on their needs, which will fluctuate and change."

A patient has the right to choose his or her hospice services, which are available in Pampa from Accolade, BSA Hospice and Interim HealthCare.

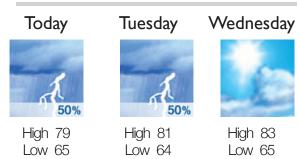
"We live in a rural part of the country, but hospice is able to go most everywhere in Panhandle, through one agency or another," said Been. "That's one of the big misconceptions."

Rains said that many people believe hospice only offers care for patients with cancer, but services can aid people with diseases from congestive heart failure to dementia. Also, hospice is not just for elderly patients.

HOSPICE cont. on page 3



PAMPA FORECAST



Today: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Cloudy, with a high near 79. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy, with a low around 65. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. East wind 5 to 15 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Night Mostly clear, with a low around 65. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



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Texas docs cut back on poor patients

care, the health care program for se-

"Every business has a breaking point and physicians' practices

are no different," said Dr. Michael

Speer, president of the Texas Medi-

The association, which has 46,000

members and is the largest state

medical association in the country,

surveys 1,000 doctors every two

years to assess patient loads. The

survey samples a cross section of

Texas' doctors in a variety of spe-

Doctors appeared to be losing

patience with government-funded

health care plans in general. The

number of doctors accepting new

patients who rely solely on Medicare

dropped from 66 percent in 2010 to

58 percent in 2012. More than 78

percent of doctors in 2000 said they

would accept new Medicare patients.

Medicare program pays better than

state-controlled Medicaid, doctors

found caring for those patients to be

onerous because of the paperwork

"All the bureaucratic red tape and

administrative burdens only serve to

increase the cost of running a prac-

tice while diverting a physician's

attention away from patient care,' Speer said. "What's lost in the health

care debate is the simple fact that

patients need a doctor when they get

sick. And physicians want to take

care of patients and not push endless

More than 54 percent of doctors

said they are not accepting patients

in the Children's Health Insurance

Program, a state-run program for

reams of paper around our desk."

While the federally managed

cialties and doctor ages.

nior citizens.

cal Association.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The number of Texas doctors willing to accept government-funded health insurance plans for the poor and the elderly is dropping dramatically amid complaints about low pay and red tape, showed a survey by the Texas Medical Association provided to The Associated Press Sunday before its Monday release.

Only 31 percent of Texas doctors said they were accepting new patients who rely on Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor and disabled. In 2010, the last time the survey was taken, 42 percent of doctors accepted new Medicaid patients. In 2000, that number was 67 percent.

Texas doesn't have enough primary-care doctors to serve the size of the state or its rapid population growth. The doctors' reluctance to take on new Medicaid patients comes at a bad time, since the new federal health care law proposes adding 6 million additional people to the Texas Medicaid rolls with the intent of ensuring every U.S. citizen has access to health insurance. The state ranks last in the nation in terms of percentage of people insured, with 27 percent of Texans without any kind of insurance, according to a March Gallup poll.

Doctors complain that the Texas Medicaid program pays only half of the actual cost of most services, leaving them to absorb the losses. The Republican-controlled Legislature cut Medicaid reimbursements to doctors by a total of 2 percent in 2010 and 2011 and dramatically reduced payments for patients who qualify for both Medicaid and Medi-

Skinner

Supreme Court ruling that opened a new avenue to such testing, rape kit specimens, knives, fingernail scrapings and an apparently bloodstained windbreaker found near Busby's body still have not been examined.

All that changed last month when the Texas attorney general's office dropped its opposition to testing and, in tandem with Skinner's lawyers, compiled a list of more than 40 items for hightech examination.

The items, collected by police at the crime scene, are to be turned over to Texas Department of Public Safety lab technia thorough search, they cannot find the windbreaker, which Skinner attorney Rob Owen called a key piece of evidence.

required.

Owen, a University of Texas law professor currently teaching at Northwestern University Law School, said that based on stain patterns, a forensic expert for Skinner believes the jacket probably was worn by the killer.

Although the jacket was not introduced as evidence at Skinner's trial, legal experts said the state should have preserved the garment pending the case's final resolution. "These issues come up all the time, sometimes 10 or 15 years

later," said South Texas

College of Law Professor

Ken Williams. "It's the

responsibility of the state

... to put it away in a safe

state has a lot of explain-

ing to do. ... That jacket is

Owen said the impor-

tance of the jacket might

grow if tests on other

items prove "less illumi-

"The jacket appeared to

have sweat stains, human hairs," Owen said. "It was

a rich source of DNA that

could have been tested."

Bean responded that —

like his attorney in 1994

DNA testing of the wind-

breaker when then-Gray

County District Attorney

Skinner did not seek

"The

general's

Lauren

Said Skinner:

key to everything.'

somewhere."

nating.

Attorney

spokeswoman

John Mann agreed to test some unexamined items in 2000.

In his recent interview, Skinner insisted the jacket probably belonged to Busby's uncle, Robert Donnell, a man who reportedly raped the woman and harassed her at a party the night of her death. "He was a vodka alcoholic and as mean as a snake," he said of Donnell, who died in a 1997 auto crash.

Skinner said the windbreaker was "eight sizes too big to fit me," but added, "Donnell was built like a fireplug. He was stout, wide, burly."

Bean reported Busby's

poor children. In Dallas County, more than 68 percent of doctors said they would not treat new children who use CHIP.

The association said the state needs to do more to bring in doctors, because many are expected to retire over the next 10 years. Almost half of Texas medical students must leave the state for residency training because there are not enough positions in the state, and studies show most doctors settle where they perform their residency. The association is calling on the Legislature, which funds most residency programs, to fund additional spots to keep students from leaving.

Republican leaders have passed major tort reform laws to bring down the price of malpractice insurance in Texas, but that hasn't done enough to solve the shortage of primary care physicians. Texas has 72 primary care physicians per 100,000 people in urban areas and only 52 per 100,000 in rural areas. The national average is 128 primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Catherine Frazier, spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry, said the state has made some progress, citing that the number of obstetricians in rural Texas has grown by 27 percent. She said the governor will do more.

"Gov. Perry understands the importance of fostering an environment that encourages doctors to get licensed and practice in our state, and tort reform has been the most powerful tool in achieving that goal," Frazier said. "Regarding Medicaid, Gov. Perry has long acknowledged the system is broken, unsustainable DOCTORS cont. on page 8

cont. from page 1

professor who supervised the students. Additionally, she told students. Donnell never wore the jacket after the murders.

Protess said Ellis also told students that Donnell had threatened his wife that "if she kept yakking her mouth, he would do the same thing to her that he had done to Twila and her sons."

"One of Twila's friends told them that Twila had complained Donnell had molested her, raped her at one point," Protess said. "Witnesses at the party told students Donnell had been making advances ... hitting on her, stalking her, harassing her. That led to her leaving the party early." In his recent interview, Skinner reiterated the claim that, as Busby attended the New Year's party, he lay unconscious at their shared home as a result of unwittingly consuming a vodka drink laced with codeine. He said he remained unconscious throughout the fatal attacks. After the crimes were discovered, police found Skinner at the home of a female friend about four blocks away. The woman testified that Skinner expressed concern that he had killed Busby and threatened to harm her if she notified police. The woman later recanted parts of her testimony, but an appeals court found that unconvincing.

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cians.

"This nightmare is almost over," Skinner said in a recent death row interview. "I'm looking forward to the day I can leave. I'll either leave with a few boxes under my arm or in a box. I've already spent 18 years in hell."

The state's seeming capitulation appeared a breakthrough for Skinner, who, with a selfprofessed IQ above 150, has orchestrated a free-Skinner campaign through frequent prison cell pronouncements and postings on his Web site, "Hell Hole News."

Even as Skinner's lawyers and supporters breathed a sigh of relief, though, it once again appeared the victory might be only partial. State lawyers admit that, after

Ibituaries

Don Thompson, 83

Don Thompson, 83, finished his journey and went home to be with his Lord, Sunday, July 8, 2012 in his home.

Services are 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at Briarwood Church with Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor, officiating.

Burial is at Fairview Cemetery with military honors courtesy of U.S Air Force Altus Air Base. Arrangements are under the

direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Don was born September 17, 1928 in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Don married Lois Guinn on March 9, 1951 in Waurika, Oklahoma. He has been a resident of Pampa since 1961. Don was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in Germany at the end of WWII and he later reenlisted into the U.S. Air Force serving at Sheppard Air Base in Wich-

mother told a Pampa police property custodian that her daughter frequently wore the windbreaker.

Suspicion against Donnell - never considered a suspect by police or prosecutors — arose through an investigation by Northwestern University journalism students. They interviewed former Pampa resident Debo-rah Ellis, who reported she had witnessed Donnell uncharacteristically scrubbing out his truck a week after the murders. He seemed nonchalant about the slaying of a close relative, she said.

Viewing a photograph of the now-missing windbreaker, Ellis identified the garment as having belonged to Donnell, said David Protess, a former Northwestern University

ita Falls. Don owned and operated Eagle Radiator Shop for 25 years retiring in 1993. He was a longtime member and deacon of the First Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Thompson of the home; a son, Kelly Thompson and wife Michelle of Allen; two daughters, Becky Hopper of Pampa and Karen Hannah and husband Adrian of Tucson, Ariz.; eight grandchildren, Corey Sublett of Houston, Ginny Elliff of Pampa, Jill Henkel of Tucson, Ariz., Crystal Mendoza of Sayre, Okla., Ashley Parker of Battle Ground, Wash., Ben Hannah of Dallas Port, Wash., and Jessica Thompson and Emily Thompson, both of Allen; nine great-grandchildren; four sisters, Jean Peterson of Viroqua, Wisc., Janice Skrede of Sandy, Utah, Bernie Campbell of Sauk City, Wisc. and Jerri Kellicut of La Crosse, Wisc.; two sisters-in-law, Pauline Phillips of Oklahoma City and Marion Thompson Hauthorn of Tacoma, Wash.; and a brother-in-law, Bob Cole of Waurika, Okla.

Don was preceded in death by a brother, Dwaine Thompson; a sister, Joyce Bolt; his mother, Edna Thompson Hulsether; and his father, Leonard Thompson.

Please sign the online register at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.



Thompson

MORNING*RUSH*

Guthrie festival kicks off in Okla.

TULSA, Okla. (AP) - The Woody Guthrie Folk Festival kicks off this week in the singer-songwriter's hometown in Oklahoma.

The Tulsa World reports the festival runs Wednesday through Sunday in Okemah. It features performances by Guthrie's son, Arlo Guthrie, and rising star and fellow Okemah native John Fullbright.

The festival is free, except for an Arlo Guthrie concert, which organizers say will help offset costs.

Woody Guthrie is known for the anthem, "This Land is Your Land" and his songs about the poor and downtrodden

He was born nearly 100 years ago in 1912.

Voter ID law on trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fate of Texas' controver-sial new voter ID law — which requires voters to show photo identification at the polls - is set to be decided this week in a federal court in Washington.

The state, which claims the law will prevent voter fraud, is seeking to persuade a three-judge panel to uphold the statute. The Justice Department and a slew of intervening groups say the law disproportionately affects minority voters, violating the federal Voting Rights Act. They want it thrown out.

The case will be a test of the Voting Rights Act, passed in 1965, which was designed to protect minorities' rights to vote

The Justice Department set up this week's court fight when it blocked implementation of the law in March. Texas quickly filed a lawsuit in federal court, bringing the two sides back to Washington for the second time in months.

Dead teen was robbing house

FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth police say a high school student who was found shot to death had been robbing a house with two men when she was fatally wounded in an exchange of gunfire. Two other suspects were arrested.

Police revealed Saturday that 17-year-old Claudia Hidic of Fort Worth had been a suspect in the robbery, along with Curtis Fortenberry and Terrance Crumley, who are 21.

Police said in a news release that the three went to the house June 28 planning to rob the occupants. During the robbery gunshots were exchanged and Hidic was shot in the head. Her body was found near the back door of a home.

Police said Crumley turned himself in Saturday. Fortenberry was already in custody on unrelated charges. They are charged with felony murder.

Pair injured in plane crash

TAOS, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico state police say two people from Texas were injured when their small plane crashed near Taos.

The single-engine plane went down in mountains west of the city around 10 a.m. MDT Saturday.

Police say the aircraft's two occupants — 57-year-old James Thompson and 42-year-old Angela Thompson of Dallas — were hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries. The two have a summer home in the area.

The airplane departed a Taos airport and was flying over trail heads when it went down.

Police say the Federal Aviation Administration will investigate the cause of the crash, which left the plane with heavy damage.

What's fair, and not fair? True and not true?

TOM MARGENAU Creator's Syndicate

Q. I am 61 years old. My husband is only 51. I have worked most of my life and paid Social Security taxes for many years. And now I've learned that I will not be able to collect a dime of my Social Security until my husband is getting his own Social Security. This is totally unfair!

A. Yes, it would be totally unfair if it was true. But it's not true. You can get your own Social Security retirement benefit, beginning as early as age 62, whether your husband is 51 or 151 ... or 21, for that matter. His age, and his Social Security eligibility, have nothing to do with your potential entitlement to benefits.

It is true that you wouldn't be able to collect any dependent wife's benefits on his record until he is old enough for Social Security and getting his own monthly checks.

But you are talking about your own monthly checks. And nothing about him and his Social Security has anything to do with you and your own Social Security retirement benefits.

Q. I just heard something about Social Security that is making my blood boil! I am 63 years old and never worked outside the home. My husband is 62 and is still working. He doesn't plan to retire and apply for Social Security until he is 66 years old. And I was told I have to wait until he signs up for Social Security before I can get any Social Security myself. If this is true, I'm upset. But here is what really ticks me off. I have a friend who is divorced. She is 62 years old. Like me, she never worked. Her ex husband, like my husband, is 62, and he's still working. He also plans to keep working until age 66 before he applies for Social Security. But my friend says she has already applied for divorced



wife's benefits, and her checks will start soon! How can this possibly be fair?

A. It's totally fair. And I'll explain why. It all has to do with the issue of dependency -- the core entitlement issue for any kind of Social Security spousal benefit.

You and your husband are still married. Because you don't work outside the home, you are financially dependent on your husband. That's what makes you potentially eligible for a dependent wife's benefit on his record. But because he is still working, the law assumes he is still supporting you financially. There is no reason to pay you a dependent spouse's Social Security benefit while your husband is still working. To put it more bluntly: why should the taxpayers support you when your husband is still supporting you?

Someday he will retire, and Social Security will start paying him a retirement benefit that's intended to partially replace the income he's lost because he stopped working. And at that time, Social Security will start paying you a wife's benefit that's intended to partially replace that portion of his income he was using to support vou.

But your friend's case is different. The law cannot assume that her ex husband is supporting her. So the rules cut divorced women a bit of a break. She is able to get a dependent wife's benefit on her husband's record even if he isn't yet getting Social Security retirement benefits himself. He simply has to be old enough to qualify for benefits. You said your friend's ex is 62. That makes him old

enough for Social Security. And your friend is also 62, meaning she is also old enough to qualify for divorced wife's benefits.

Q. You recently wrote a column where you mentioned a divorced woman getting benefits from her husband's account. And he was still living. I think you are wrong. A divorced woman cannot get benefits from her ex husband's record until he dies.

A. No, I'm not wrong. A divorced woman can get benefits on her ex husband's Social Security record while he is still living.

Any woman age 62 or older can get a dependent wife's benefits on her husband's Social Security retirement account IF she isn't due higher benefits on her own Social Security record. And as explained in the answer to the prior question, a divorced woman may be able to get spousal benefits even if her ex isn't getting Social Security himself yet.

Q. How come my wife isn't getting half of my Social Security? My monthly check is \$1,850. She's only getting \$700 per month. Shouldn't she be getting \$925?

A. If this isn't the most common question I'm asked, it's certainly in the top five! A wife is entitled to half of her husband's Social Security check IF she waited until age 66 to claim such benefits. But most women start getting dependent wife's benefits before age 66. And those benefits are reduced roughly one half of one percent for each month they are taken before 66. I'm guessing your wife started getting benefits between age 62 and 63, meaning she's due less than 40 percent of your rate.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

Top TxDOT execs' salaries up 42.5 percent

AUSTIN (AP) — Top executive salaries at the Texas Department of Transportation are up more than 40 percent since last year, and paychecks of other high-level managers at the revamped agency have also risen sharply amid deep cutbacks elsewhere in state government, a newspaper reported Sunday.

An analysis by the Austin American-Statesman showed that the three highest-paid TxDOT executives make an average of almost \$251,000. That includes executive director Phil Wilson, a longtime aide to Gov. Rick Perry who was hired in October. Wilson's salary of \$292,500 would have been higher 10, questioned the wisdom of the elevated pay amid severe state spending cuts. For instance, the Legislature cut \$4 billion for public schools last year, and a tight budget will again be a dominant issue when lawmakers reconvene in January.

"I know most (TxDOT executives), and they're all good people," Pickett said. "But it's got to be relative to the rest of state government. They're asking all of us to do more with less."

Wilson has created several new upper-echelon positions. Among them are the director of innovative finance and debt management at \$250,000 a year as well as a new chief planning/projects officer and a chief administrative and strategy officer, both making \$245,000 a year. Wilson also hired Scott Haywood — who formerly worked for Perry and in the secretary of state's office, as well as for an aerospace company — as chief of staff at \$135,000 a year. That position is also new. Agency spokesman Bob Kaufman said some of the new hires took "significant" pay cuts to work at TxDOT. Kaufman, a former spokesman for Dell Inc., was hired in January at \$190,000 to be the department's chief communications officer. Kaufman said the department's new hires, as well as some TxDOT managers "can command salaries that are 3-4 times their state salary." Terri Hall, a longtime TxDOT critic and who frequently railed against long-term toll road lease deals with private companies in front of the Legislature, said she worries the hiring push could put new momentum behind the practice. "If these guys think that this constitutes a remake of TxDOT, it does, but in the completely wrong direction," Hall said. "To me, it's not worth it to pay 20, 40, 50 percent more (to TxDOT managers) to get more expensive roads that nobody can afford to travel on."

N.M. police finish border op

LORDSBURG, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico State Police and federal agents are wrapping up an aggressive effort to round up illegal weapons and stall narcotic trafficking in New Mexico's Bootheel area.

The New Mexico State Police Aircraft Section is finishing Sunday its participation an "Operation Ridge bumps because they recognized the need for a new Line," a joint field operation with the New Mexico National Guard Counter Drug Support Task Force and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"Operation Ridge Line" is the first of several operations that the State Police Aircraft section will join throughout the year.

The U.S. Border Patrol is building an outpost in the state's Bootheel to battle human smuggling and drug trafficking. Federal officials say the mountainous area is one of the nation's last unguarded border regions.

Stolen car recovered after 42 years

DALLAS (AP) - Nearly 42 years after someone stole his 1967 Austin Healey 3000 from a Philadelphia apartment complex, Bob Russell is back in the driver's seat.

Russell, 66, a retired sales manager, spent years surfing the Internet looking for his car and eyeing similar Healeys on the road

Still, he didn't hold out much hope of ever finding the vehicle he paid a friend \$3,000 for back in 1968, only to find it stolen the morning after taking his future wife out on their second date.

Instead, it was listed for sale by a dealer in an online auction, which is where a restless Russell came across it when he rolled out of bed a few weeks ago and wandered onto eBay.

"Ever since eBay showed up, I'd check it periodically," Russell said. "I checked it on Friday, May 11, and there it was."

Wastewater plant goes solar

WESLACO (AP) — The 1,316 solar panels at Weslaco's southern wastewater treatment plant gleamed in the heat June 27 — their second day on the job. When the panels were officially plugged in last week, the facility went from being an energy consumer to a selfsupporting energy generator.

"We did see the meter turn backward here — when you're producing more energy than you're using and your energy company will pay you back," said Eric Kay, technician specialist and master electrician with Meridian Solar, which installed the panels.

That result was exactly what city leaders were aiming for when they secured a \$1.8 million grant from renewable energy stimulus funds to build the solar energy system. The panels will absorb enough energy to power the entire plant — saving \$75,000 per year — and still feed extra into the power grid.

before criticism halted an \$88,500 pay hike.

Since last year, the average salary of TxDOT's three best-paying jobs is up 42.5 percent. The agency's 10 highest-paid workers bring home an average of more than \$200,000 — a 21.4 percent spike from 2011.

Wilson told the newspaper (http://bit.ly/Ne2On0) that the Legislature last year authorized steep pay kind of leadership.

For years, TxDOT has been beset by legislative and internal scrutiny for issues ranging from transparency to communicating with the public.

A report by a state review council last year also urged consolidated financial operations and new leadership.

Wilson once served as Texas Secretary of State and is a former lobbyist, and his hiring illustrates the culture shift in a department where his predecessor was an engineer who made about \$100,000 less.

'They all realized we need this kind of talent to run a complex agency," Wilson said.

But the big raises, largely unnoticed by the public, haven't trickled down to the rank-and-file. The average salary of the department's 11,500 workers is \$48,000, up 3.7 percent from last year.

State Rep. Joe Pickett, an El Paso Democrat who led the House Transportation Committee in 2009-

Hospice

cont. from page 1

"There are young people that, for some reason, have a terminal illness, and get to the point that they don't want to endure treatment any more," said Rains. "That's when hospice would be a good option."

One of the largest myths is that hospice care ends after a patient's death. Accolade provides grief support to the patient's family for up to a year.

'If the family member's having a rough day, they can call and say, 'I need to talk to somebody right now," said Rains. "There are many different levels. There's group support if you want it, just whatever you feel like you need at the time."



viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 9, the 191st day of 2012. There are 175 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 9, 1962, the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles began exhibiting pop artist Andy Warhol's nowfamous set of 32 paintings of Campbell's soup cans.

On this date:

In 1540, England's King Henry VIII had his 6-month-old marriage to his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, annulled.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.

In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain.

In 1850, the 12th president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, died after serving only 16 months of his term. (He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.)

In 1896, William Jennings Bryan delivered his famous "cross of gold" speech at the Democratic national convention in Chicago.

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tenn. The Distinguished Service Cross was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1947, the engagement of Britain's Princess Elizabeth to Lt. Philip Mountbatten was announced.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman asked Congress to formally end the state of war between the United States and Germany. (An official end to the state of war was declared in October 1951.)

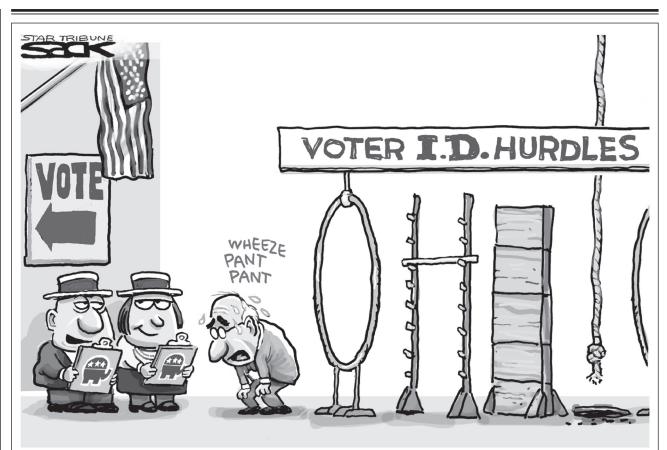
In 1974, former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington, D.C. at age 83.

In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed in Kenner, La., killing all 145 people aboard and eight people on the ground.

In 1986, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography released the final draft of its report, which linked hard-core porn to sex crimes.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton tapped Tennessee Sen. Al Gore to be his running mate. Former CBS News commentator Eric Sevareid died in Washington at age 79.

Ten years ago: The Senate voted to entomb thousands of tons of radioactive waste inside Yucca Mountain in the Nevada desert, rejecting the state's fervent protests. Speaking in New York, President George W. Bush called for doubled prison terms and aggressive policing to combat fraud and corruption in corporate America. African leaders launched the African Union. Baseball's All-Star game in Milwaukee finished in a 7-7 tie after eleven innings when both teams ran out of pitchers. Academy Award-winning actor Rod Steiger died in Los Angeles at age 77.



NOW MAKE HIM RUB HIS TUMMY AND PAT HIS HEAD! ...

Important unknown 'person' in campaign

For almost everybody in American politics -- except those shadowy individuals and companies, with their own unrevealed agendas, that make six-figure undisclosed contributions to influence the 2012 campaign -- any lingering "passion for anonymity" has been totally overcome.

Turn on the TV and flip the channels, and chances are good that you will find an on-camera interview with some campaign's manager, pollster, consultant, field director, press secretary, driver or receptionist. When pushed, all of those interviewed will, almost without exception, emphasize what a caring but strong, thoughtful but decisive, and humorous but serious-minded candidate they are privileged to be working for.

The foregoing qualities of character and disposition are testified to by those campaign people working for presidential candidates. After what some might consider a misspent youth and middle-age covering American politics, I have concluded that Americans' vote for president is the "most personal" vote that any of us casts. We are far more apt to cast a vote based upon issues -- whether education, taxes or the environment -- when voting for Congress or the U.S. Senate, where we generally don't have a real personal "feel" for the candidates, than in our individual presidential decisions. Because of the information overload, we have heard from the presidential nominee's former classmates, in-laws, co-workers, neighbors and babysitters, and we feel we have a semiinformed sense of what kind of a person the would-be president really



MARK SHIELDS

Let me introduce you to the Most Important Unknown Individuals (other than the billionaireunderwriters) in 2012 politics: The Campaign Advance Person or, simply, Advance.

Think about it: How do we, outside of the rare soul-baring interview or the televised one-on-one debate, form our impressions of the presidential nominees? By observing in his public and personal appearances whether each nominee is natural or programmed, unpretentious or selfconfident, quick or uncurious, funny or boring.

This is the job, in large part, of Advance, whose mission is to parachute into a city or town s/he has never before visited and to organize the candidate's visit to this crucial battleground state in four days or fewer. Advance has to make countless politically sensitive decisions. Who will be -- or not be -- invited to greet the candidate at the airport arrival? Who, if anyone, will be allowed to travel with the candidate from the airport, from the hotel, to the event, from the event, back to the airport? Will that be the most influential local journalist? The mayor? A potential major donor? The party chair? If the candidate's public appearance will be an indoor rally, Advance has to choose the site. If the room holds 500, then you need a crowd of

750 to demonstrate enthusiastic support and political momentum. The Advance Person is responsible for that crowd showing up. This could mean enlisting friendly unions, civic or business associations, or ethnic or religious groups to turn out their members.

Then there are the campaign signs for the event. Again, Advance must make sure they are clever, tasteful and hand-painted. Why hand-painted? To show ours is a grassroots, volunteer-heavy campaign. Because the TV cameras are often behind the crowd, the signs need to be painted on both sides. If the event is outdoors, Advance has to know that the sun will not be in the candidate's eyes or casting a shadow on the stage.

Where is the food and transportation for the press covering the candidate? Where is the private spot the candidate can get a nap or collect his thoughts? If the candidate is greeting blue-collar workers at a factory gate, Advance knows that the only time workers will pause to shake hands is on their way into work, which they will postpone, never on the workers' way out of work, when they're in a hurry to get a beer or get home. If everything works for the candidate event and the cameras capture an approachable, intelligent and spontaneous candidate, Advance has done its job. If anything goes wrong, Advance has screwed up. That's what makes the Advance Person's the most important, unknown job in campaign 2012.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush directed former aides to defy congressional subpoenas, claiming executive privilege in resisting Congress' investigation into the firings of U.S. attorneys. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., whose telephone number had been disclosed by Deborah Jeane Palfrey, the alleged "D.C. Madam," said in a statement he was sorry for a "serious sin" and that he'd already made peace with his wife. A jury convicted four Muslim militants of plotting to bomb London's public transport system. Character actor Charles Lane, 102, died in Santa Monica, Calif.

One year ago: South Sudan became the world's newest nation, officially breaking away from Sudan after two civil wars over five decades that had cost millions of lives. During his first visit to Afghanistan as Pentagon chief, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said that al-Qaida's defeat was "within reach." Derek Jeter homered for his 3,000th hit, making him the first player to reach the mark with the New York Yankees.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Ed Ames is 85. Actor James Hampton is 76. Actor Brian Dennehy is 74. Actor Richard Roundtree is 70. Author Dean Koontz is 67. Football Hall-of-Famer O.J. Simpson is 65. Actor Chris Cooper is 61. TV personality John Tesh is 60. Country singer David Ball is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Debbie Sledge (Sister Sledge) is 58. Actor Jimmy Smits is 57. Actress Lisa Banes is 57. Actor Tom Hanks is 56. Singer Marc Almond is 55. Actress Kelly McGillis is 55. Rock singer Jim Kerr (Simple Minds) is 53. Actress-rock singer Courtney Love is 48. Rock musician Frank Bello (Anthrax) is 47. Actor David O'Hara is 47. Rock musician Xavier Muriel (Buckcherry) is 44. Actor Scott Grimes is 41. Actor Enrique Murciano is 39. Musician/producer Jack White is 37. Rock musician Dan Estrin (Hoobastank) is 36. Actor-director Fred Savage is 36. Country musician Pat Allingham is 34. Actress Megan Parlen is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kiely Williams (3lw) is 26. Actor Mitchel (cq) Musso is 21. Actress Georgie Henley is 17.

Thought for Today: "They always say that time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." — Andy Warhol (1928-1987). Since 1988, Mark Shields has provided weekly political analysis and commentary for PBS' award-winning PBS NewsHour.



We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, July 10,2012:

This year, just when you think you are on cruise control, the unexpected hits. Until you understand and see the end results, this pattern could be disturbing. What occurs will point to what is frivolous in your life. If you are single, relationships formed this year will not be stable for at least a year. Time together is the real indicator of a couple's longevity. If you are attached, you not always love the form they take. Your bond will be far more dynamic in the long run. Be aware that this process will be challenging at times. ARIES is high voltage.

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)

 $\star \star \star \star$ The unexpected occurs, but others respond in a caring, distinct manner and want to be included. You might feel tense as a result of this surprise, a family member and/or a domestic matter. Brainstorm away, and you'll find a solution. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You look at a situation much differently than others do. You gain sudden insight and, as a result, can move forward with a personal matter very quickly. Keep conversations flowing, but if you need to, do take some personal time. Tonight: Take a night off just for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

someone you care a lot about. You will discover just how unpredictable this person might be. Show your caring through words, but also through your actions if you want to be trusted. Tonight: At a game, or anywhere night: Head on home. people are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You could be stunned by someone's ideas. You clearly care about this person, but you might not agree with his or her style. Do not let an innate difference create nerable. Be careful about mixing business tension between you. Tonight: Throw yourself in the whirlwind of living.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ Look at the big picture. You might feel much better and more empowered after you express the bottom line. You could feel as if someone is toying with you before this moment. After making your statement, you couldn't care less. Tonight:

Follow the music

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

 $\star \star \star$ You might want to rethink someone's comments. You could be oversensitive and take something the wrong way. In fact, you might be creating your own tension and stress. A partner acts in a most unexpected manner. Tonight: Find your favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Others seem to be "hunting" could feel waves of excitement but might you down. Enjoy the popularity, and do not make a big deal out of changing your plans. Listen with care to a loved one's feedback; you could be quite delighted. A respected person, boss, parent or elder makes demands that you might choose to ignore. Tonight: Out with your pals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

 $\star\star\star$ Others appear to be flaky, and no matter what stage of life you currently are in, you are left holding the bag. Detach from not-so-friendly feelings seasoned with resentment, and get done what you must. Tonight: Could go late.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ Your sense of humor helps loosen others up, and you create a smile wherever you are. Be open about your feelings -- you will appreciate the response you receive. Differentiate between a long-term relationship and just fun flirting. Tonight: Be careful not to start a problem with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

 $\star \star \star$ You cannot get away from a do- $\star \star \star \star$ You could be taken aback by mestic concern, at least until it has been appropriately handled. You know when enough is enough and set boundaries as a result. A close loved one or associate seems to be in a very different frame of mind. To-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Keep a conversation moving. If you or the other person overthinks, you could become far more closed off. There is a lot to be gained if you let yourself be vuland pleasure, as you could cause yourself a problem. Tonight: Out to a favorite place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

 $\star \star \star$ Be aware of your spending and allow greater emotional sharing to occur. You can give in ways that are more meaningful if you stop and think about it. Let your creativity emerge, and allow greater give-andtake. Tonight: Keep to your budget!



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible

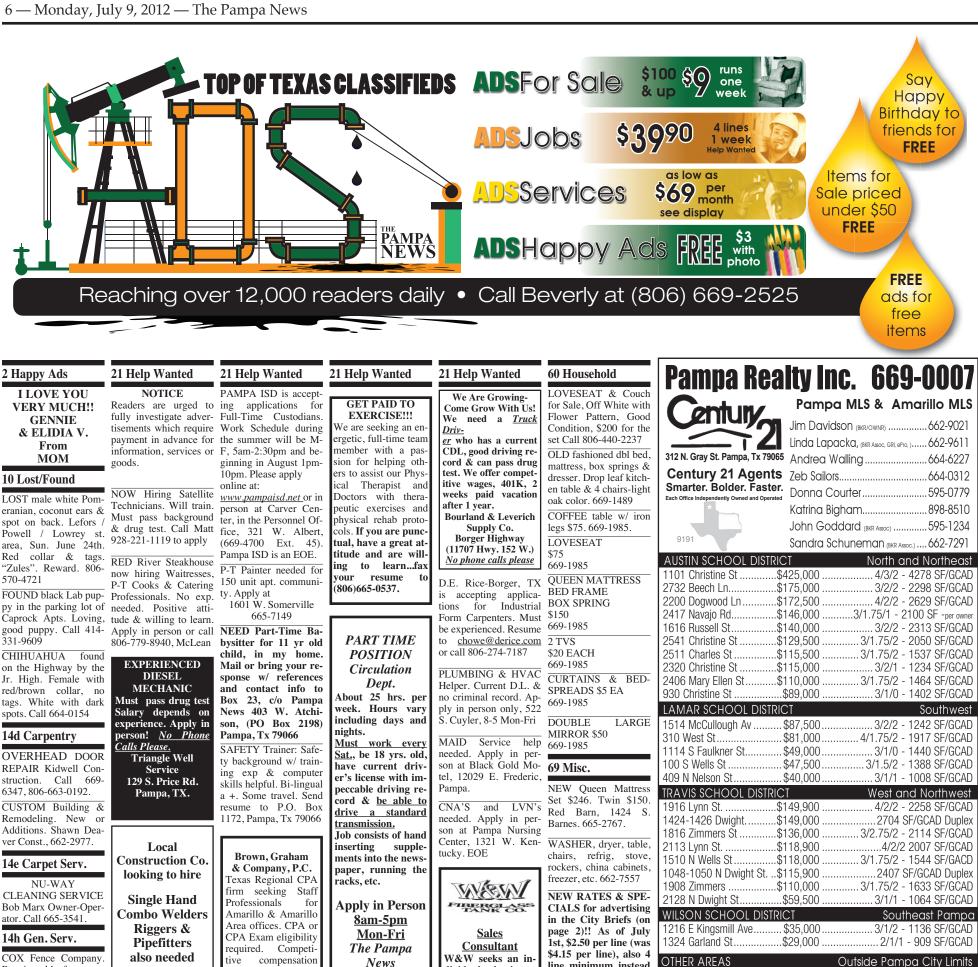


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Estimates. 806-207-0375	118 Bunton year. 806-665-711	One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used	748 S Price Rd\$350,000 3 Ac. + 14,400 warehouse offices
or 806-779-0851	Borger, Tx.	for the dimension \mathbf{L}^2 \mathbf{V} for the true \mathbf{O}^2 at $\mathbf{\hat{C}}^2$ is the letter.	302-308 W Foster\$309,900 4 Retail Outlets 10,874 SF/GCAD
01 800-779-0851	NO SECRETARY Wa		117 - 121 Ballard\$230,000
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ing & Air and Refriger-	Refinery atmosphere. F		Dogwood Ln \$9,000 Lot 2 & 40.35' of Lot 1
ation Specialists since	benefits. Outside work	V/ RYUJLPK CG HSN WFGXPFLPR.	Jupiter St \$9,000 Lot 3 Blk 4 Country Club Heights
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DEAR past month I have accidentally dialed a couple of wrong numbers. Because no one answered, leave a message.

Abby, both times the recipient of the wrong number called me to find out why I had called. The first time it was an irate mother demanding to know why I was calling her kid's cellphone. She threatened to call the police if I ever called again. The second individual also angrily demanded to know why I was calling. These folks could not accept the fact that I had simply misdialed. I feel their reactions were

unwarranted. Would vou agree? What is the best way to respond if it happens again? --HONESTLY MISTAKEN IN PLANO, TEXAS

HONESTLY DEAR **MISTAKEN:** People call wrong numbers every day. A misdial can occur if the caller is in a hurry or has poor vision, and it should not be a cause for panic or rudeness. If it happens again, the best way to respond is, "I misdialed. I'm sorry I bothered you." Then end the call.

DEAR ABBY: My mother's Alzheimer's became apparent after she was in a car accident. nature of Alzheimer's, it I should have noticed the signs

BANANAGRAMS

Rearrange the letters of each word below and place them in the blanks so that, together with the two LEVEL letters that have already been placed, they form a

new word.	
	DRAM
	A
	LOAN
	C
	LEAF
	B
	RAIN
	M

Yesterday's Answer: CHANDELIER,

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

ABBY: Over the earlier, but I didn't. Her body affect the physical, mental and recovered, her mind did not.

I built a new house with a separate suite for her. My wife I didn't think it was necessary to and I tried to care for her for a year, but I'm disabled and Mom was afraid of my wife. There was never a moment's peace. Fearing for our collective health, I finally placed Mom into an assisted living facility. It was one of the hardest decisions of my life.

My children criticized me but offered no alternatives. I visited her as often as possible. Because I could no longer drive, I sent someone with gifts and treats for her. Mom died in 2007 after 10 years in the facility. The last few years she didn't know me from a doorknob. Her disease left my wife and me drained emotionally and financially. I still feel guilty for not doing more. The look of fear on her face haunts me still. Is this normal for someone in my circumstances? -- ONLY CHILD IN FLORIDA

DEAR ONLY CHILD: Yes, it's very common. I'm sorry for your mother's passing and the difficult years you and your family experienced because of her illness.

Given the progressive can be extremely taxing and

financial health not only of the person with the disease, but also his or her caregivers. When caregivers attempt to shoulder these responsibilities alone, they put their own health at risk. Moving your mother into a residential facility was a way to ensure she got the care she needed and take care of yourself at the same time.

Alzheimer's disease is often referred to as a "marathon, not a sprint." That's why it's important for caregivers to get help -- whether it's a residential facility, professional in-home help or family and friends. If they don't, the results can be disastrous.

It's common for caregivers to feel guilty and wish they could have done more, but it's important that you let these feelings go. You did everything you could to ensure your mother received the best care possible. If you need to talk to someone about your feelings, call the Alzheimer's Association tollfree 24/7 helpline at 800-272-3900, or visit alz.org online to find a local chapter or support group.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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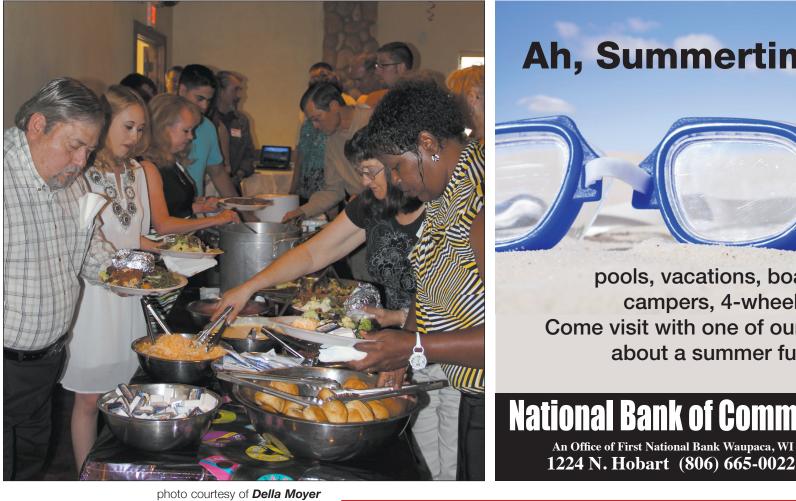




photo courtesy of Della Moyer

Susan Braddock, ex-wife of PHS graduate Terry Braddock, speaks with Mike Jennings.

Jan Zeuker Mattox, now of Sugarland, breaks out her dancing shoes.





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Reunion guests enjoyed a buffet provided by Desperado's of Amarillo.

Doctors

and in crucial need of drastic reform."

Democratic lawmakers have said Perry's demands to cut the budget rather than raise taxes is the reason why Medicaid is underfunded and doctors are dropping out.

The state's health and

Rodeo

2012 rodeo, according to Kemph, will be the Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas pageant, which was left off of the schedule after garnering only one entrant this year. However, Kemph said that she was looking forward to some new additions to the festivities, including a new announcer (Ken Stonecypher of Guymon, Okla.) and a new event, the five drum barrel race.

"We have two barrel

cont. from page 2

human services commissioner has estimated the Legislature will need to find \$10 billion in new funds to make up for the current Medicaid deficit and cover future growth of the program over the next two years.



racers running the barrel pattern at the same time, but with only five barrels," said Kemph. "That means that one barrel, the barrel in the middle, is going to be a common barrel. It's something that we think will be really entertaining to the crowd. We're taking entries for that right now. One of our rodeo directors introduced it to us via YouTube. It has the potential to get pretty western. It could get pretty good."



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