

...More Classifieds

PROPERTY: September 6, 2021

REQUEST FOR HEARING: Request must be made in writing 10 days from the days of publication and addressed to City Council, P.O. BOX 26, Robert Lee, TX, 76945.

IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN TO ABATE THE NUISANCE VIOLATIONS, THE CITY SHALL ABATE AND SUCH NUISANCES AND ASSES THE COST AGAINST SUCH PERSON.

20-2tc

...Last of their kind

(Continued from page 4)

After two decades of TPWD management, what has become known as the Texas State Bison Herd has grown to almost 300 animals, thanks to selective breeding, annual health checks, vegetation studies and progressive habitat management practices. The donation of three bison bulls in 2003 by media tycoon and rancher Ted Turner helped broaden the herd's genetic diversity.

The bison's road to recovery was a long one. "When the park got them, there were 32," says Donald Beard, park superintendent at Caprock Canyons. "And then when I took over, there were probably around 60 or so, and that was in 2009. Then we released them into the park in 2011, and that's when they really started to flourish."

Before the 2011 release, the bison were enclosed in a 300-acre section of the park, far from view of Caprock Canyons' 100,000 yearly visitors. In September 2011 the bison were moved into more than 700 acres of restored native grass prairie but still were fenced off from the park's campsites and day-use areas.

Now the bison roam 80% of the park. "The park total is almost 15,000 acres, and they have almost 12,000 acres of it to roam," Beard says. "There is one section, which is on the opposite side of a county road, that they don't have access to, but other than that, they've got free run of this park. That means through the campsites, through the trails, on Lake Theo - everywhere. This is their historic range."

Today's visitors to Caprock Canyons State Park, which is served by Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, might be greeted at park headquarters by dozens of the massive, shaggy creatures. From a distance, they appear like black specks on the wide-open prairie, but when they approach the parking lot to graze and explore, an up-close view emphasizes their sheer magnificence: the broad hump between their shoulder blades; their thick, dark brown fur; and their awe-inspiring size. The bison is the largest mammal native to North America, and the bulls at Caprock Canyons can reach up to 2,000 pounds, with cows averaging 750 - 900

pounds. And even though some refer to the animals as buffalo because of their similar appearance, the only true buffaloes reside in Africa and Asia.

Driving through the park, it's clear who's the boss. If the bison feel like lounging on the roadway, well, so be it - traffic stops and drivers watch and wait. Hikers might also encounter them on the trails that weave through the park's striking red rock canyons, and campers might wake up to a crew of bison ambling outside their tents. Visitors to the park enjoyed a special treat in spring 2021, when about 80 bison calves joined the herd. "It's pretty neat when you get a bunch of calves out, running around and playing," Beard says. "It's a really good time to be here, come April or May."

Now that the herd is growing at a rate the park can sustain (to keep from degrading the grounds' natural resources, the current herd of about 300 is close to the park's max), Beard and his team are working on phase two of Caprock Canyons' bison conservation program. "To me, that second phase is satellite herds," he says. "So we would have another herd of 200 here, another herd of 300 there, but a herd of just Goodnight animals. And they would all be managed as one big herd - a

metapopulation basically."

Though there's a herd of bison at San Angelo State Park in West Texas, those animals aren't related to Goodnight's. In fact, Beard notes, anytime an animal leaves the grounds of Caprock Canyons, it's no longer considered part of the Texas State Bison Herd.

Beard - who sits on several boards for bison conservation, including the Bison Specialist Group, a species survival commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature - is in talks with the InterTribal Buffalo Council to start herds on tribal lands with Goodnight animals. He's also looking at how partnerships could work with the Nature Conservancy, other nongovernmental organizations and even private ranchers. "There's a big-picture vision in place," he says. "The plan hasn't been completely put together yet, but the vision is there."

So what has the plight of the Goodnight herd taught wildlife conservation experts? The way Beard sees it, it's been a lesson in survival. Around the same time Goodnight was forming his bison herd, four other conservation-minded individuals across the American West and in parts of Canada were doing the same. The five foundation herds helped save bison from extinction by providing the

foundation stock for today's herds. Though Goodnight's herd was small, it was one of the best known of the five foundation herds.

"[The Goodnight herd] has taught us that we can come back with a relatively small number of animals to a healthy, viable population," Beard says. "To be a success story in conservation, the IUCN and some of the other conservation organizations have said that you need a couple of thousand head of bison, which means that if we were to walk away and not touch this herd ever again, they would survive. We're not there yet, but we're well on our way."

This article appeared in the November 2021 of Texas Co-op Power magazine.

...School Menus

(Continued from page 5)

Robert Lee ISD

Breakfast

Monday, November 29

Cereal toast, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, November 30

Sausage, egg, and cheese biscuit, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, December 1

No menu available

Thursday, December 2

No menu available

Friday, December 3

No menu available

Lunch

Monday, November 29

Chicken spaghetti, breadstick, garden salad, tomato cup, green beans, fresh fruit, milk

Tuesday, November 30

Frito pie, charro beans, veggie cup, pineapple chunks, milk

Wednesday, December 1

No menu available

Thursday, December 2

No menu available

Friday, December 3

Blackwell CISD

Breakfast

Monday, November 29

Cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, November 30

Oatmeal, cinnamon toast, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, December 1

Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, December 2

Biscuit, gravy, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, December 3

No menu available

Lunch

Monday, November 29

Chicken sandwich, smiles, milk

Tuesday, November 30

Spaghetti, plain or meat sauce, green beans, garlic breadstick, milk

Wednesday, December 1

UIL

Thursday, December 2

Sloppy Joe pasta, corn on the cob, salad, cornbread, milk

Friday, December 3

Hot dogs, chili, cheese, chips, milk

FLOYD C. PETITT INSURANCE

**LIFE • HEALTH • GROUP HEALTH
LONG TERM CARE • ANNUITIES
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS
AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL**

WE PUT YOU FIRST!

YOU'RE NOT A NUMBER TO US, BUT A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY!

(325) 453-4551 (325) 223-1563
PO BOX 184 • 715 AUSTIN 5002 KNICKERBOCKER
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945 SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76904
floyd@floydpetittinsurance.com

CRMWD
Colorado River Municipal Water District

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for following position at Lake Spence area.

Reservoir Superintendent - Responsible for supervising parks and recreation employees to assure smooth operation of District park facilities and activities around District reservoirs and wildlife management areas. Ideal candidate should have progressive experience managing multiple projects and personnel.

For additional information, visit www.crmwd.org.

IVEY MOTORS

2018 Ford F-350 Lariat 4WD \$63,900
White w/Tan Leather! Navigation, Bed Liner, Heated/Cooled Front Seats, & FX4 Offroad Package!
6.7L Diesel! 58K Miles! Sharp Looking Truck!
#Y587A

2018 Ford Expedition XLT \$46,900
Silver w/Black Leather! New Body Style! Excellent Family Vehicle! 37K Miles!
#X545A

2019 Ford F-150 Lariat 4WD \$43,900
Silver Spruce w/Tan Leather! Navigation, Bed Liner, & Tow Package! Beautiful Truck! 59K Miles!
#Y563A

2017 Ford F-150 Lariat 4x4 \$42,500
Tan w/Tan Leather! 2.7L Ecoboost V6! Navigation, Heated/Cooled Seats, & Painted to Match Fiberglass Bed Cover! Clean Looking Truck! 78K Miles!
#7292A

2013 Ford F-250 King Ranch 4WD \$38,900
Kodiak Brown w/Tan Accent & KR Leather! 6.7L Diesel! Navigation, Heated/Cooled Seats, & FX4 Offroad Package!
Beautiful Truck! 150K Miles!
#X564A

2019 Toyota Tundra SR5 \$37,900
Black w/Black Cloth Seats! Double Cab! 4x2! Bed Liner & Tow Package! 37K Miles!
#5671A

2018 Honda CR-V Touring AWD \$32,900
White w/Leather! Navigation, Adaptive Cruise, & Power Lift Gate! 33K Miles!
#7286M

2020 Ford Escape SE AWD \$29,900
White w/Tan Cloth! Heated Seats & Backup Camera! Excellent Shape w/Only 4K Miles!
#7298A

2013 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali \$27,900
Maroon w/Tan Leather! 6.2L V8! Navigation, Sunroof, & Bed Cover!
#5677

2017 Ford Explorer XLT \$25,500
Smoked Quartz w/Tan Leather! Navigation, Rear Bucket Seats & Power Liftgate!
90K Miles! Very Nice SUV!
X501A

2015 Ford Edge SEL \$15,900
Silver w/Black Leather! Heated Front Seats! In Great Shape! 108K Miles!
#X471A

Let Ivey Motors help you with your service needs!!

453-4561

Ask For:

Cole Flanagan • Buddy Wallace • Kagan Maxcey

