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Call 877.369.8800 for a free consultation.

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## OBITUARIES

### BREYFOGLE Roger Eugene

83, of Mesa, Az., formerly of Sioux City, Iowa, passed away peacefully after a long illness on March 3, 2011. Born and raised in Sioux City, he was the son of Earl and Ethyl Breyfogle. He served his country in the Navy during WWII and the Korean War. He worked as a firefighter in Sioux City until his retirement in 1976 as a lieutenant. After his retirement from the fire department, he worked for Kidder Kneffler Chevrolet. After retiring again, he settled in Mesa, Az. Roger leaves behind his loving wife Cora, his brother Jerry (Geri) of Tucson, his two sons: Scott (Susan) of Mesa, and Mike (Linda) of Sioux City, three grandchildren: Shawn, Chris, and Jeff, and one great grandchild. He is also survived by his loyal companion; his dog "Princess". Viewing will be from 12 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, and funeral at 10 am Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at Sonoran Skies Mortuary, 5650 E. Main St. Mesa, Az. 85205

## DEATH NOTICES

**BARBER**, Vinette, 89, of Mesa, AZ, died on March 6, 2011 in Mesa. Services: 11:00 AM Thursday March 10, 2011 at Mountain View Funeral Home, 7900 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ. 85207. Mountain View Mortuary handled arrangements. (480) 832-2850

**CAMPBELL**, Carole J., 80, of Mesa, AZ, died on February 28, 2011 in Mesa. Angels Cremation And Burial handled arrangements. (480) 962-6435

**COX**, Rebecca Lynn, 55, of Mesa, AZ, died on March 2, 2011 in Mesa. Services: Private. Wyman Cremation & Burial Chapel handled arrangements. (480) 668-2898

**HACKER**, Ross H., 93, of Apache Junction died on March 3, 2011 in Apache Junction. Services: 11:00 AM Monday, March 7, 2011 at United Methodist Church, 6640 S. Kings Ranch Rd., Gold Canyon, AZ. A Wise Choice Desert View Chapel handled arrangements. (480) 626-6363

**KROONE**, Ruth A., 77, of Mesa, AZ, died on March 2, 2011 in Mesa. Angels Cremation And Burial handled arrangements. (480) 962-6435

**MORINHO**, Marie Elizabeth, 84, of Chandler, AZ, died on March 2, 2011 in Gilbert, AZ. Angels Cremation And Burial handled arrangements. (480) 962-6435

**MUELLER**, Daniel B., 73, of Queen Creek, AZ, died on March 2, 2011 in Queen Creek. Mountain View Mortuary handled arrangements. (480) 832-2850

**ORTIZ**, Emma A., 100, of Mesa, AZ, died on March 4, 2011 in Mesa. Services: Services out of state. Mountain View Mortuary handled arrangements. (480) 832-2850

**QUIGLEY**, Roy R., 79, of Apache Junction, AZ, died on March 3, 2011 in Apache Junction. Services: Private Services Mountain View Mortuary handled arrangements. (480) 832-2850

**RALL**, Lois Niles, 93, of Apache Junction, AZ, died on March 2, 2011 in Apache Junction. Services: Were held. A Wise Choice Desert View Chapel handled arrangements. (480) 626-6363

**WILLIAMS**, Kay Elaine, 70, of Chandler, AZ, died on March 1, 2011 in Chandler. Services: 3PM Saturday March 12, 2011 at Chandler Bible Church, 1200 N. Price Rd., Chandler, AZ. 85226. Falconer Funeral Home handled arrangements. (480) 892-9411

## ECONOMY



A motorist finishes pumping gas to his car at an Arco station in Federal Way, Wash., on Monday. Pump prices have jumped an average of 39 cents per gallon since mid-February. [AP photo/Peter Haley]

# Gas prices are about more than just oil

## Variety of factors play into cost at the pump

By Jonathan Fahey  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Jay Ricker, owner of the BP gas station off Interstate 70 in Plainfield, Ind., set the price of unleaded gasoline at \$3.44 per gallon on Monday of last week, it was 4 cents higher than the Friday before.

That alone might have been irritating to drivers paying the highest gas prices in more than two years. It was even more so because it happened on a day when the price of crude oil, which is used to make gasoline, fell almost \$1 a barrel.

"It's up 20 cents one day, down 10 cents the next day," says Oscar Elmore, a courier who was filling up his Ford Taurus at a RaceTrac service station in Dallas recently. "It sounds kinda fishy to me."

Gas prices rise when oil prices rise, and fall when oil prices fall — except when they don't. What you pay at your gas station depends on an array of factors, from what happens on an exchange in New York to what the competition is charging.

This can rankle drivers, especially these days. Gas reached a national average of \$3.51 a gallon on Monday. That's up 14 cents, or 4 percent, over the past week. The week before, the average rose 20 cents, the steepest increase since September 2008.

A year ago, the price was \$2.75. The average is the highest it's ever been this time of year, and analysts expect it to climb higher in the coming weeks.

Unlike an iPhone or a pair of jeans or a Big Mac, oil and

gas are commodities, and their prices can change every second at the New York Mercantile Exchange and other trading hubs. Those far-off changes affect the cost of the next day's commute.

Sellers of commodities, like gas station owners and refineries, price their product based not on what it costs to produce it, but on what it costs to replace it. Stations like the Plainfield BP, which gets shipments of gas several times a week, must constantly adjust their prices to keep up with the changing costs of their shipments.

Oil is the biggest factor in gas prices. It accounts for 50 to 70 percent of the cost. Recent upheaval in the Middle East and strong demand for oil around the world have pushed oil prices over \$100 a barrel for only the second time in history. But the price of a gallon of gas at the pump rises — and, yes, falls — for a number of other reasons.

Oil prices can be moved by geopolitics, the value of the dollar, extreme weather or Chinese demand. Gas prices can be moved by oil prices, refinery problems or even weather that might keep drivers at home.

In the next few weeks, gas prices are expected to rise as refiners switch to a more expensive blend of gasoline designed to help protect against evaporation during the warmer summer months.

"We have to pay whatever the market says we do. It's an instantaneous world," says Joe Petrowski, CEO of Gulf Oil, a big gasoline wholesaler.

# America's 'heartland' is shifting westward

By Hope Yen  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington** • America's population center is edging away from the Midwest, pulled by Hispanic growth in the Southwest, according to census figures. The historic shift is changing the nation's politics and even the traditional notion of the country's heartland — long the symbol of mainstream American beliefs and culture.

The West is now home to the four fastest-growing states — Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Idaho — and has surpassed the Midwest in population, according to 2010 figures. California and Texas added to the southwestern population tilt, making up more than one-fourth of the nation's total gains since 2000.

When the Census Bureau announces a new mean center of population next month, geographers believe it will be placed in or around Texas County, Mo., southwest of the present location in Phelps County, Mo. That would put the center at the outer edge of the Midwest, on a path to leave the region by midcentury.

"The geography is clearly shifting, with the West beginning to emerge as America's new heartland," said Robert Lang, a sociology professor at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas who regularly crunches data to determine the nation's center. "It's a pace-setting region that is dominant in population growth but also as a swing point in American politics."

The last time the U.S. center fell outside the Midwest was 1850, in the eastern territory now known as West Virginia. Its later move to the Midwest bolstered the region as the nation's cultural heartland in the 20th century.

In the 1960s, "Will it play in Peoria?" was a common phrase that coincided with the U.S. center's location in Illinois. It was a measure of whether a politician or consumer product could appeal to mainstream Americans with traits associated with Midwesterners, such as stability and caution.

But over the last decade, the Phoenix suburb of Peoria, soared past its namesake Peoria, Ill., in population size.

The fastest U.S. growth is occurring in the Mountain West, which includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.