

Bye bye bricks

See Page 2

Crabtree still unsigned

See Page 5

# THE DAILY TOREADOR

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## (IN BRIEF)

### STATE

#### Southwest makes bid to buy Frontier Airlines

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines Co. is seeking to trump a rival bid and acquire Frontier Airlines, a Denver-based carrier operating under bankruptcy protection.

A court had already approved the sale of Frontier Airlines Holdings Inc. to the parent of Republic Airways for \$108.8 million, but that deal can be nixed if a better offer comes along.

Dallas-based Southwest said it submitted a nonbinding bid of \$113.6 million.

### NATION

#### New jobless claims rise more than expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of newly laid-off workers filing first-time claims for jobless benefits rose last week, the government said, though the increase was mostly due to seasonal distortions.

The number of people remaining on the jobless benefit rolls, meanwhile, fell to 6.2 million from 6.25 million, the lowest level since mid-April.

The Labor Department said new claims for unemployment aid increased by 25,000 to a seasonally adjusted 584,000. That's above analysts' estimates of 570,000.

### WORLD

#### Spanish island's airport reopened after bombing

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands (AP) — Spanish authorities say Mallorca airport has been reopened to outgoing flights after a bomb on the island killed two police officers.

The airport was closed to outgoing flights earlier Thursday after police launched a manhunt for suspects in the attack blamed on Basque separatist group ETA.

Spain's airport authority said the airport was reopened at 5:45 p.m. (15:45 GMT, 1:45 p.m.). The ministry could not immediately confirm that the airport had been opened.

### DEATH TOLL

4329

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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### WEATHER

Today Isolated T-Storms

86/68

Saturday Isolated T-Storms

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## Ready for some football

Texas Tech players relishing underdog role, prepared to prove doubters wrong in 2009



COURTESY PHOTO TAKEN BY PATRICK BREEN/Daily Nebraskan

TEXAS TECH COACH Mike Leach talks with reporters during the Big 12 Conference Media Days Wednesday in Irving. Leach talked about a multitude of things during his press conference, including offensive lineman Brandon Carter's tattoos, how to correct a quarterback's sidearm motion and the transition from one highly successful season to the next.

By JON ARNOLD  
ELECTRONIC MEDIA EDITOR

IRVING — Media days are usually somewhat mundane affairs, with coaches giving the company line on how they are confident their team will exceed preseason expectations.

Leave it to Mike Leach to mix it up a little.

The Texas Tech coach spent nearly three of his 14-minute press conference giving reporters a mini-clinic on throwing mechanics and another three discussing the tattoos and demeanor of senior offensive tackle Brandon Carter.

"He's asked me do I want to get (a tattoo). And I've pointed out, no, it looks very good on him," Leach said Wednesday at the Big 12 Conference Media Days, "but if I was interested in something, it would probably be a piercing because, when I got tired of it, I could pull it out."

Much of the discussion during Tech's portion of media day's centered around tattoos, especially Carter's newest: a skull between two nautical stars all on a spider web, located appropriately on the left side of Carter's head, which sports a new mohawk.

*"I'd rather fly under the radar than be in the national news all the time."*

COLBY WHITLOCK  
Junior Defensive Tackle

While Leach didn't dodge the questions about the transition the team will go through losing players such as quarterback Graham Harrell and receiver Michael Crabtree, he doubted it will have a huge impact.

"I don't think it's really that dramatic," he said of the transition. "I mean, a lot's been made out of it. But there was a time when no one had heard of Harrell and Crabtree too."

Several members of the media focused on the side of Carter's head instead of the team's preseason outlook, and that's just fine with the team.

FOOTBALL continued on page 5 >>>

## House panel goes back to work on health care

By ERICA WERNER AND RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Health care legislation advanced slowly Thursday in the last of three House committees to consider the measure as the Senate's top Republican accused Democrats of cutting Medicare to finance a "massive new government-run plan."

"Some in Congress seem to be in such a rush to pass just any reform, rather than the right reform, that they're looking everywhere for the money to pay for it, even if it means sticking it to seniors with cuts to Medicare," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in the latest in a series of daily Senate speeches on health care.

McConnell's Republicans, unanimously opposed to Democratic-drafted legislation in the House, are watching

warily while three members of their rank-and-file negotiate over a bipartisan plan in the Senate that could hand President Barack Obama a victory on his top domestic priority.

Across the Capitol, the House Energy and Commerce Committee plowed methodically through a stack of proposed changes to the bill, one day after the White House, Democratic leaders and a band of conservative party members reached a compromise to clear the measure.

Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., presiding over the session, warned lawmakers against offering amendments that make the bill more expensive — and agreed to a Republican suggestion to limit the time allowed for debate. He said he hopes to finish the bill sometime Friday, and House leaders have promised to bring it up for a vote in the full House in September, after the congressional August break.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressed confidence the committee would approve the bill, and said the full House would follow suit in the fall. She also signaled flexibility on key issues, saying that despite her own backing for abortion rights, she would not allow the issue to torpedo legislation.

Waxman's shaky majority was on display early, when the committee voted 29-28 to defeat a Republican amendment to strengthen ID requirements designed to prevent illegal immigrants from getting Medicaid benefits.

Another controversial Republican amendment passed by voice vote, over Waxman's objections. Backed by Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., it would bar the federal government from using research comparing medical treatments' effectiveness to deny or ration care.

## Iranian police battles demonstrators

By NASSER KARIMI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian police fired tear gas and beat anti-government protesters with batons to disperse thousands at a graveside memorial Thursday for victims of post-election violence, witnesses and state television said.

Demonstrations that drew thousands more later spread to other parts of the capital Tehran and more clashes with security forces erupted. Witnesses said police fired tear gas at dozens of demonstrators on Valiasr Street who set tires and trash cans ablaze in response.

Police barred opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi from joining the crowd around the grave of Neda Agha Soltan, a young woman was shot to death at a June 20 to protest

the disputed presidential election. The 27-year-old music student's dying moments on the pavement were filmed and circulated widely on the Web, and her name became a rallying cry for the opposition.

"Neda is alive, Ahmadinejad is dead," some of those at the ceremony chanted, referring to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who the opposition claims won the June 12 election by fraud. Witnesses said plainclothes forces charged at them with batons and tear gas, some of them chanting, "Death to those who are against the supreme leader." State television also reported that police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

An amateur video that purports to show the memorial shows thousands marching through the cemetery, chanting and flashing victory signs. Some wore green T-shirts — the color of Mousavi's reformist movement.

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# Upcoming concert may attract new entertainment to Lubbock

By HANNAH BOEN  
STAFF WRITER

Many locals wish to see Lubbock's music scene grow and believe the Bob Dylan Show will predict the future of the town's live entertainment.

Gary Boren, president of Llano Estacado Music, believes Lubbock residents hold the key to the town's future in music because they control ticket sales and attendance.

"Entertainers base tour stops on ticket sales and attendance," he said. "If things are attended well, they'll try to book in those cities."

Lubbock has had poor concert attendance in the past, he said, leading many entertainers to pass over Lubbock while on tour. Selling out tickets for the August 8 show at Jones AT&T Stadium may draw positive attention.

"We're hoping that by bringing in big numbers in August," he said, "we're opening the doors to big bands."

Lubbock is one of the stops in the 24-state tour, which headlines Willie Nelson, Dylan and John Mellencamp and will open with The Wiyos.

The stadium show has sold 10,000 tickets, and approximately 4,000 tickets are still available, Boren said, many of which are \$39.95, a price he feels is affordable.

The raidervision video board will be used at the event, he said, to give everyone in attendance a good view of the headlining acts.

Also, his company has contributed \$10,000 worth of additional sound equipment to ensure a quality show for all audience members.

"If people will support this show," he said, "we can show that Lubbock is a great place for national entertainers to perform. We want to show that we can have a stadium act that people in Lubbock supported."

Ralph's Records is selling tickets to the event and assis-

tant manager Daniel Markham believes sales have been successful so far.

Markham said overall, he believes Lubbock is supportive of live entertainment, however, not all musicians find the town to be a successful venue.

"People here are more likely to go to a concert of a band they hear on the radio," he said. "Success just depends on the type of band."

Like Boren, he said he believes the success of the August event could have bearing on the likelihood of other big names stopping in Lubbock.

Although he believes many artists could have more success in larger venues, Markham said Lubbock's history in music should draw attention from musicians.

"People do enjoy music here," he said of Lubbock, "and it seems like it's got a pretty rich heritage in music."

Craig Wells, senior associate athletic director and chief of

staff, said the event offers an entertaining evening to Lubbock residents, but also an opportunity for the university to make money.

"Depending on the amount of food and beverages consumed," he said, "it's an opportunity for money to be made. Making money is one objective, but we also want to bring good, quality entertainment."

Wells said he hoped the success of the stadium event would bring more attention to the stadium as a location for national entertainers.

Since tickets went on sale June 13, more than half of the stadium seats have been sold for the evening of the event.

Boren said he hopes the three hall of fame artists will fill every seat in Jones AT&T Stadium.

"Here's our chance to step up and show the entertainment world that Lubbock is a place to bring anyone's tour," he said.

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PHOTO BY DAVID MCCLISTER/Courtesy Photo  
WILLIE NELSON POSES with his guitar. Nelson joins Bob Dylan and John Mellencamp for a concert set to take place in Jones AT&T Stadium Aug. 8.

## Brick roads in Lubbock replaced, repaired; Main Street first up



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

CONSTRUCTION CREWS TEAR up the bricks on Main Street Thursday to allow them to repave the road between Avenue M and Avenue O.

By KATE OZMENT  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Lubbock in 1920 was a growing community with an even faster-growing problem — the West Texas rain and wind would turn the unpaved roads into unusable muddy quagmires.

In January of that year, the city council accepted a bid from Panhandle Construction of Plainview to pave their first road, thus beginning the lasting legacy of the brick roads in Lubbock, according to documents provided by the Urban Design and Historical Preservation Commission.

The bricks, however, will be no more on some of the roads

throughout the city. Construction began Monday on Main Street between Avenue Q and Avenue O. The bricks will be removed as part of a downtown revitalization project.

The downtown revitalization plan is a city-backed effort to redevelop the downtown area, defined as the area from Fourth Street to 19th Street and Avenue Q to I-27, according to the newest action plan from the Downtown Redevelopment Commission. In the plan, the city said it has been developing the initiative since 2006.

Kevin Lair, street superintendent with the City of Lubbock, said his department is reconstructing Main Street from Avenue Q to Avenue L currently,

though other streets also have been marked for change.

"We had a list that was decided on by the historical society for the downtown revitalization about what streets they wanted to leave brick and which ones they wanted to update," he said.

The city, he said, has planned to reconstruct Main Street from Avenue Q to Avenue E, though the project will take time depending on funding.

For now, the crew is going block by block because of the weather, he said, and they plan to have the current section from Avenue Q to Avenue O open tomorrow.

"(How long it takes) will depend on what's under the pavers,

as far as if it's concrete or dirt or what," he said. "The current section, we did it in three days. The stuff was a concrete sub-base. We did have to do some repairs, but nothing major."

When the bricks were first laid, Texas Technological College had not yet been created. The cost of paving parts of present-day Broadway, Main Street and Texas Avenue was \$295,344.75, according to historical preservation documents.

When the college opened in 1926, present-day Ninth Street, 13th Street, and Avenues I, N and T all had brick paving in part, as well as extending the bricks on previous streets.

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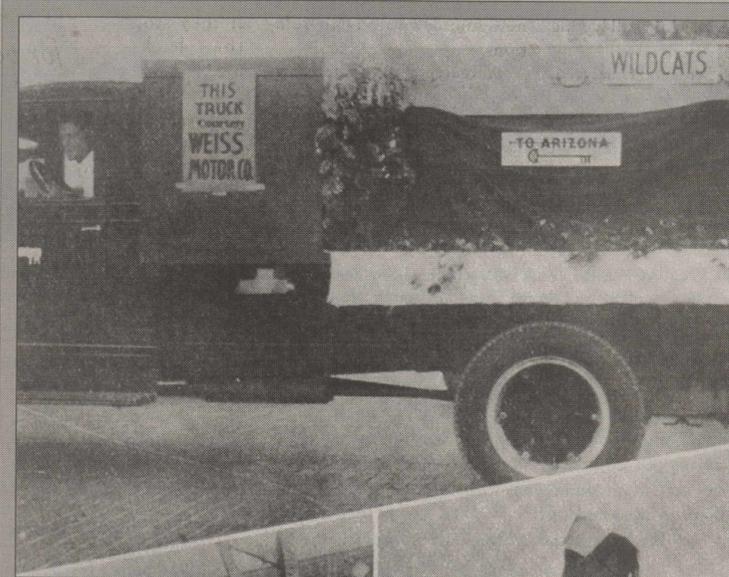
#### Letters

The Daily Toreador welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to dailytoreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

#### Guest Columns

The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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THIS COLLAGE, FROM the 1933 La Ventana yearbook, depicts a Texas Technological College student driving a coffin representing the University of Arizona, in a parade before the football game, where the Wildcats would take on the Tech Matadors. The brick road, presumably Main Street, in this photo remains unchanged today.

### From the pages of the 1933 La Ventana yearbook

In 1933, Texas Technological College completed its eighth year. The school's mascot was still the Matadors. The college president was Bradford Knapp, the replacement of Paul W. Horn, who died in 1932.

The freshmen built a bonfire, the second in school history, by raiding windmills, alleys, byways and asking local merchants for materials. They burned it before the football game against Baylor University.

The school was alive with activity, much as it still is today. Students joined organizations, such as Sock and Buskin, which was a drama organization that put on "Romeo and Juliet."

The football team, trying to make a name for itself, played schools such as Southern Methodist University, University of Arizona, Notre Dame and Trinity University. Tech also had other teams, including wrestling, golf, tennis, basketball, swimming and archery.

The school's paper, then called The Toreador, was published weekly, and the editor was Parker Taulman. The yearbook editor was Everett D. Fairchild.

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## Oldest man buried in UK

BRIGHTON, England (AP) — Henry Allingham understood the cost of war in his heart, his guts and his bones — and made it his mission to share that knowledge.

It seems he succeeded.

Politicians, military chiefs, a large extended family and hundreds of respectful strangers bade farewell Thursday to Allingham, the world's oldest man and one of Britain's last survivors of World War I.

Allingham, who died July 18 at 113, was a modest man who earned a place in history, and spent his final years reminding younger generations of the futility of war.

"No man who knows war wants war again," he would later write.

Allingham was the last founding member of the Royal Air Force and one of a handful of remaining veterans of what was once called The Great War. He wanted the dead to be remembered, and honored forever.

Royal Navy Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns told several hundred mourners at St. Nicholas' Church in Brighton, southern England, that Allingham "blew the dust off the history books for us, gave us an insight into our heritage."

## How to take the DMS from good to great

On the second floor of the University Library, up those elevators you've probably never taken, lies a magical place. It's a gadget utopia, a technology treasure trove. But there's trouble in paradise.

At first glance, the Texas Tech Library's Digital Media Studio is a brilliantly cool endeavor. It's an area dedicated specifically to — you guessed it — digital media. It acts as a technology lab, a gadget repository and a learning portal.

For instance, the DMS (which is NOT a quiet study area, as signs placed liberally around the place will tell you) has dozens of fairly recent iMacs and Mac Pros, in addition to a number of powerful Windows machines. These are all loaded with the latest versions of Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and a slew of other powerful design tools.

The DMS also checks out equipment. You can borrow iPods loaded with music, high-end Canon and Nikon digital SLR

**Stephen Torrence**



cameras, high definition Canon camcorders, professional microphones and more. Thousands of dollars of equipment is merely a student ID away.

Finally, the DMS houses a fairly state-of-the-art 3-D Animation Lab. There you will find 20 quad-core Dell XPS machines hooked up to massive 30-inch Apple Cinema Displays and installed with heavy-weight industry software like Maya and 3-D Studio Max.

What's more, the lab offers free 3-D animation classes during the regular semesters, so you and your friends can easily get an appreciation for just how hard the guys at Pixar and Dreamworks

toil to churn gold and mediocrity, respectively.

I have been a regular patron of the DMS since I discovered it about a year and a half ago. Now that the initial geeky giddiness has worn off and I've gotten to know the place, its resources and its day-to-day procedures like the back of my iPod, I can safely say that it has a lot of room for improvement.

Here's how Tech could take the Digital Media Studio from good to great.

First, the DMS should go all-out with audio. Right now it has three "dedicated recording booths," each with an iMac, a MIDI keyboard and a simple audio interface. They used to have four superb AKG condenser microphones that my friends and I would use for podcasting, but over time these deteriorated and disappeared inexplicably one by one.

The audio recording booth idea is solid, but musicians and podcasters alike need good equip-

ment to make magic. The DMS should have at least half a dozen working pro-quality microphones on hand with plenty of cables and adapters.

Also, there should be at least one isolated room large enough to record multiple instruments. Right

now the rooms are cozy even for one person. And finally, the booths should have professional tactile audio controllers and mixing consoles in addition to the MIDI keyboards. If the DMS wants to do audio, it should do it right.

Second, the DMS should eliminate its paper filing system. Every single equipment checkout requires one to fill out an entire sheet with his or her address, phone number, and other such information that

the DMS employees could easily access from RaiderLink.

This practice kills efficiency and causes frustration. Furthermore, such a waste of paper just doesn't jive with a campus committed to going green.

Third, the DMS should become more than just a passive repository. It has always been an extremely underutilized resource considering the amount of cool technology it holds, and while some of that could be due to limited awareness of the DMS among students, those who do know about it might see it as too complicated to be of use.

Therefore, I believe the DMS should offer more than just 3-D animation classes. It should team

up with the Teaching, Learning and Technology Center or perhaps some enthusiastic faculty to offer introductory digital photography, audio and video production and perhaps 2-D design training.

By the time you read this, I will have participated in a library-organized focus group aimed at improving the DMS, and you can be sure I will have mentioned all of these ideas. If you have used the DMS and have your own suggestions for how they can take it from good to great, please let them know. They will listen.

In a campus that has become my home, the Digital Media Studio is that cool room I always visit whenever I'm feeling creative. But all rooms need occasional TLC to stay fresh, relevant and useful, and this one is no different. It's time to take the DMS to the next level.

**Torrence is a philosophy major from Georgetown. E-mail him at [stephen.torrence@ttu.edu](mailto:stephen.torrence@ttu.edu).**

*“It's a gadget utopia, a technology treasure trove. But there's trouble in paradise.”*

## Obama Administration has chance to stabilize Middle East

The Obama Administration has begun the normalization of relations between the United States and the Middle East with the sending of George Mitchell (Yes, the guy that did baseball's steroid investigation) as the special envoy to the region.

President Barack Obama has started to test the waters especially with Syria. Mitchell told Syrian President Bashar al-Assad the U.S. will seek sanction waivers to export equipment to Syria — waivers that are perfectly in line with Bush's national security waivers under the sanctions placed under him and renewed by Obama.

More importantly than the waivers are the statements made by both sides and actions. Mitchell stated the United States will need Assad's help in negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

Syria is a supporter of Hamas and Hezbollah, which are anti-Israel groups. Obama also plans on sending an ambassador to Syria as another small step toward normalization.

Syria, while the lesser known

**Paul Williamson**



of the Bush administration's "axis of evil" (others include North Korea, Iran, Iraq and Cuba), is a key first step to begin peace talks.

Assad has been known to be the less of the ideologically driven leaders, while still having those tendencies.

In 2000, Syria and Israel were close to a peace deal in which Israel would give back the Golan Heights in exchange for normalized relations and security guarantees from Syria.

This was when Assad's father, Hafez Assad was the president. However, before a deal could be reached, Hafez passed away and put an end to the talks.

Now there is another window of opportunity now that Bush is gone.

Bush would not allow any

U.S. official to talk to Syria and effectively isolated the country from the rest of the world. This caused Assad to turn to the support of extremist groups as he faced isolation.

Assad has said that he always wanted normalized relations with the West but saw that was impossible with the Bush Administration.

With Obama now in control, the window of opportunity is there. Despite Obama's renewal of the sanctions against Syria in May, Assad is welcoming the new-found warming in relations.

A Reuters report stated "Syrian officials privately say Damascus has played a role in bringing Hamas to a more accommodating position on peace with Israel."

That shows the power Syria has over Hamas and other anti-Israel groups. If Obama can get Israel and Syria to normalize relations, we can finally see a true chance for peace in the Middle East.

Oh come on now Paul, this is ridiculous, Syria supports

terrorism and negotiating with them would give legitimacy to supporting terrorism.

That is a ridiculous argument when compared to the alternative of continued support of terror organizations.

It is not like we are just giving everything up to Syria and begging them to stop. If they stop their backing of Hamas and Hezbollah then there will be benefits to it.

If peace is truly wanted then concessions will have to be made on all sides. Israel will have to give up Golan Heights.

Syria will have to anger the hard line factions in their country and cut ties with extremist groups and the U.S. will have to ... trade. Now who is giving up the most in this situation?

All this for normalized relations where all countries can trade with each other with no restrictions and terror groups will take a major financial and infrastructure hit. Syria provides them with a home for base of operations.

Oh and Iran loses an ally in the region, too. That will put

it in a very difficult position in the region and will weaken them significantly.

In the end, do not fear negotiations. Do not fear speaking with our enemies. The stalemate of hard-line stances and sanctions allows for no progress and only opens the door for conflict.

The only thing talking does is open the door for a chance for an end to conflict. If the talks do not work out then what was lost? Nothing. We just go back to square one.

Talks may not work, but we must try. We cannot sit idle and watch more innocent civilians die because of a refusal to talk.

Not trying would be a mistake.

**Williamson is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Crosby. E-mail him at [paul.w.williamson@ttu.edu](mailto:paul.w.williamson@ttu.edu)**

*“If Obama can get Israel and Syria to normalize relations, we can finally see a true chance for peace in the Middle East.”*

## ESPN reporter complains of harassment

ATLANTA (AP) — The ESPN reporter surreptitiously videotaped nude in a hotel room expressed frustration at being "treated like Britney Spears" when she called 911 to report paparazzi gathered outside her Atlanta area home.

In an audiotape released Wednesday, Erin Andrews is heard speaking with a 911 operator in suburban DeKalb County on July 22 to complain about two people parked in a car outside her home in a gated community.

Andrews identifies herself and tells the operator, "I'm all over the news right now," and describes herself as "the girl that was videotaped in my hotel room in the nude."

Clearly frustrated on the call, Andrews uses expletives to describe the two men whom she says also knocked on her door.

"I did nothing wrong, and I am being treated like (expletive) Britney Spears, and it sucks," Andrews told the operator.

Dunwoody police spokesman, Sgt. Mike Carlson, said officers responded to the call but no incident report was filed.

Dunwoody is about 14 miles north of Atlanta.

It was not clear when the video of Andrews in the hotel room first appeared on the Internet. The person who first posted the video didn't identify the nude woman, but Andrews' attorney has since confirmed the video was of the 31-year-old reporter.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

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# What's next for Sarah Palin?

It's been almost a year since Sarah Palin became a national superstar when Sen. John McCain selected her to be his presidential running mate. And what seems like a short year to many Americans, for Palin it has been one of the most trying since she began her career in politics.

Sarah Palin resigned as governor of Alaska Aug. 26, 17 months before her term of office expired. In her resignation speech, Palin announced she was resigning because she could "fight even harder" for the Alaskan people once out of office. However, there are other reasons as well.

Ever since Palin's vice-presidential campaign, she has been targeted constantly by the press. Probably the most controversial issue that finally pushed her to resign was the accusation of her violating ethics laws.

Since Palin and McCain lost the 2008 presidential bid, almost every American has been asking themselves, "What is Sarah Palin going to do now?" Many people see a bid for the White House as part of her future, especially with the formation of her own political action committee (PAC).

It's admirable Palin would resign under the impression that it is what's best for the Alaskan

**Hunter Jones**



people. Millions of dollars were spent by taxpayers to prove her innocence in the ethics laws matter. If trying to save the people's money is one of the main reasons she resigned, I can't think of a nobler one.

In response to an earlier statement, how does Palin expect to fight even harder for the Alaskan people now that she is out of office? There is one reason that just jumps out: She won't have to worry about making statements that reflect poorly on the Alaskan people. Palin is now able to lash out at whoever she chooses. She no longer has to worry about protecting the image of her state; all she has to worry about is protecting her own image.

However, with a possible 2012 presidential bid, resigning under pressure wasn't Palin's best career move. If she wants the American people to elect her as the leader of the free world, she must first show she is capable of persevering to the end. And

with only serving a little more than two years as governor, how will people expect her to serve all four years of a presidential term?

When Palin announced her resignation, she also declared she will write a book. Books have been a useful tool for many politicians to gain a higher office. Take Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John F. Kennedy — all of them wrote books. Not only did the book sales help with campaign funding, but the books were also a way to gain national popularity. Is this what Sarah Palin is trying to do now?

Palin has stated she will continue to campaign for politicians around the country. While she may have more time to do this, with her current approval rating at 40 percent, there may be some politicians who don't want her to

speak on their behalf.

How well do we really know Palin? Since she became known nationally, she has been accused of violating ethics laws, using GOP funds inappropriately and now she's made herself look like a quitter.

We haven't seen the last of Palin. Just because she is no longer governor of Alaska doesn't mean she will stay silent. I anticipate her popularity will rise in the next few months and she will make an attempt at the presidency in 2012.

However, if Palin does want to make a run in four years, she'd better start showing the American people she's capable of taking on the job. And just like any job, quitting is not the best way to show dedication.

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*"I anticipate her popularity will rise in the next few months, and she will make an attempt at the presidency in 2012."*

# 'Wii Sports' sequel serves up great new game action

If you have a Wii, you've played "Wii Sports."

Heck, even if you don't have a Wii, there's a good chance you've played the now famous mini-game collection. The game comes bundled with the Wii system, and it has taken over homes, dorms and retirement homes the world over.

While that original package had five great games to help people learn the basics of the Wii Remote and have fun with family and friends, the sequel, "Wii Sports Resort," goes to great lengths to surpass the original in every single way.

The first and most noticeable feature in "Resort" is the inclusion of the "Wii MotionPlus" add-on. Many people might be getting tired of buying additional peripherals for their Wii, and understandably so. From nunchucks to balance boards to plastic guitars, there has been no shortage of new hardware to try to convince you to part with your money.

But Wii MotionPlus is different. In essence, it makes the Wii Remote do things people have wanted it to do since the system was released in 2006. Namely, true one-to-one motion control.

What does that mean? It means that no matter which angle you hold your remote, and no matter how slightly you twist your wrist, the remote can now mimic it in gameplay exactly. Before, game developers had gotten away with faking this with the technology they were given. The results were still often fun but noticeably off and flawed. Wii MotionPlus makes the game experience much more intuitive and precise.

And what better way to show this off than with games? Nintendo has crammed 12 mini-games into "Resort" (10 of which are brand new, two of which are improved versions of older games), up from the five of the original "Wii Sports."

Many games also have various different modes which change up the games considerably. While some games are certainly more fun than others, they all do a very good job at showing off what the Wii MotionPlus can do.

A good example of this is honestly one of the best games in the collection: "Sword Fighting."

When the Wii Remote was first shown to the public, most people almost immediately thought, "Dude, that could make for an awesome sword or lightsa-

**Britton Peele**



ber game!" It was a nice thought, but most games that have tried to do this haven't turned out especially well. The Wii Remote can detect if you're slashing it or stabbing it, but it can't pick up any of the real finesse that you might be trying to put into your swings.

Wii MotionPlus changes that. In the "Sword Fighting" game, every one of the player's movements with the remote is taken into account. This allows for much more strategy to be incorporated into battles. A little kid can no longer win a match simply by swinging around a remote like YouTube's "Star Wars Kid" while having a seizure. To really succeed, you're going to have to be careful about your swings and blocks.

While "Sword Fighting" may be a highlight, there are plenty of other enjoyable experiences to be had here. The Frisbee game, for example, accurately replicates the movement and experience of throwing a Frisbee. So playing the "Frisbee Golf" game feels natural and intuitive.

Archery is another fun game. As someone who owns and shoots a real bow, I can't say it's exactly like a real-world bow hunting experience, but it's certainly not a bad imitation, and is definitely a lot of fun.

"Table Tennis," "Canoeing," and "Power Cruising" also feel quite natural, and "Basketball" is a lot of fun.

Some games — such as "Sky Diving" and "Dogfighting" — don't force you to mimic real world sports as much as simply move the remote in various angles, but

they're still fun little games that can be a lot of fun with a group of people.

While I feel that Nintendo did just about everything right with this "Wii Sports" sequel, there are some things I wish the game had. For example, as a former wake boarder, I really feel that the "Wake Boarding" game could have benefited from use of the Wii Balance Board, for which there is no support in "Wii Sports Resort." While there's certainly something to be said for releasing a game that people can play right out of the box, I do sort of wish that Nintendo rewarded owners of their other hardware with some extra features.

Some games are also a little weak, with the "Cycling" game coming to mind. The game has you moving the Wii Remote and Nunchuck with your hands as if you were peddling a bike ... with your hands. And the experience feels somewhat clunky.

You'll also need to plop down at least another \$20 for an extra Wii MotionPlus add-on if you want a full multiplayer experience. While many of the games are "pass-and-play" and involve taking turns ("Bowling" and "Golf," for example) games like "Sword Fighting" require each user to have a Wii MotionPlus.

All said, though, "Wii Sports Resort" is an outstanding sequel that does almost everything right. It provides accessible, family friendly gameplay that easily can be enjoyed by all ages, and crams in enough content to keep gamers coming back for awhile to unlock everything.

The Wii MotionPlus add-on could provide a bright future for Wii games, and "Wii Sports Resort" is a perfect indicator of that. Pick it up if you own a Wii.

**Peele is The DT's opinions editor. E-mail him at [britton.peele@ttu.edu](mailto:britton.peele@ttu.edu).**

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**  
 Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**  
 1 Rock concert equipment  
 5 Washington successor  
 10 Donations to the needy  
 14 Sonny and Cher, e.g.  
 15 "The Many Loves of Gillis": old sitcom  
 16 Bug spray ingredient  
 17 This, in Seville  
 18 Motionless  
 19 Swan lover of myth  
 20 Angel  
 23 SF datum  
 24 Tint  
 25 Asian counters  
 26 Belt holders  
 28 Lady of Bavaria  
 31 Small spasmodic reaction  
 32 Tablespoon, maybe  
 33 Disney villainess — de Vil  
 36 Angel  
 41 Portuguese capital  
 42 Golden rule word  
 43 Meth subj.  
 46 Supporter  
 47 Snack chip  
 48 Lundi follower  
 50 Diamonds, to a fence  
 52 Rent  
 53 Angel  
 58 Assess  
 59 Honor with bars  
 60 Egyptian fertility goddess  
 62 First place?  
 63 Arm of the sea  
 64 Ideal for tubing, as a river  
 65 Senator from Kansas or North Carolina  
 66 Minuscule  
 67 Dark clouds, often

**DOWN**  
 1 Fruity drink  
 2 Grow exponentially

By Mike Peluso

3 Baseball's all-time leader with 4,256 hits  
 4 Colonnade of ancient Greece  
 5 Bye that's bid  
 6 "Death, be not proud" poet  
 7 Genesis victim  
 8 Boglike  
 9 Complete  
 10 Ignore the script  
 11 Watch in a lustful way  
 12 Florentine ruling family  
 13 Radio annoyance  
 21 Beta alternative  
 22 Zahn of TV news  
 23 He played Pierce on "M\*A\*S\*H"  
 27 Parisian pop  
 28 New Brunswick's Bay of \_\_\_\_\_  
 29 Move, to a Realtor  
 30 Bass and others  
 33 XXXV x X  
 34 Fidel's successor  
 35 Lago contents

37 "I Am \_\_\_\_\_": Neil Diamond hit  
 38 Government finger-pointer?  
 39 Put under  
 40 Origin  
 43 Strolled lazily  
 44 Texas border city  
 45 Humble oneself shamelessly  
 47 Japanese computer giant

49 "I'll Be Your Shelter" singer Taylor  
 50 "A Doll's House" playwright  
 51 Spiteful  
 54 Court order  
 55 Top-notch  
 56 New Haven Ivy  
 57 Unit of mass, briefly  
 61 Thesaurus wd.

# Astronauts launch satellite, prepare for return journey

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Their two-week-plus mission finally winding down, space shuttle Endeavour's astronauts released a mini research satellite Thursday and said it's time to come home.

Endeavour and its seven astronauts are aiming for a touchdown late Friday morning at NASA's spaceport.

"I'm ready to get back ... I think I have a landing in me, so don't want to get anybody on the ground worried about that," commander Mark Polansky said in an interview with The Associated Press.

In one of NASA's longer shuttle flights, Polansky and his crew put a new addition onto the international space station — a porch for Japan's massive \$1 billion lab — and freshened up the place with batteries, experiments and spare parts. They rocketed into space July 15.

Thursday marked Day 15 in space for Polansky and all but one of his crew. For Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata, Thursday marked Day 137. He flew to the space station back in March, becoming the first person from Japan to live at the orbiting outpost.

Wakata said he's longing for sushi.

"That's the first thing that I'd like to have and also a hot spring in Japan sometime in the near future," Wakata told the AP.

One of Wakata's space station experiments involved wearing a new type of anti-bacterial, water-absorbent, odor-eliminating underwear provided by Japanese researchers.

He's bringing back the used under-

garments for scientific analysis.

"I haven't talked about this underwear to my crew members," Wakata said, drawing a big laugh from his shuttle colleagues. "But I wore them for about a month, and my station crew members never complained for about a month, so I think the experiment went fine."

The underwear is called J-Wear, and includes a line of shirts, pants and socks as well. Wakata tested all of them during his mission. "We'll see the results after landing," Wakata said.

J-Wear is billed as being antistatic and flame retardant, which is especially important for spaceship wear. The clothes are also seamless, making them lighter and more comfortable, according to the Japanese Space Agency. The goal is "comfortable everyday clothes for life in a spaceship."

On Thursday morning, the shuttle astronauts released a small canister containing a navigation, rendezvous and docking experiment prepared by University of Texas and Texas A&M researchers. In the afternoon, they planned to launch an atmospheric density experiment, so scientists can better understand how orbiting objects move and eventually come down.

Over at the space station, meanwhile, the major air-purifying system on the U.S. side failed again, and the crew spent the day trying to fix the balky equipment. A carbon dioxide-removal system on the Russian side is still operating properly, and the six astronauts have backup methods for cleansing the cabin atmosphere.

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# Crabtree only one unsigned from Tech's NFL draftees

Former Texas Tech receiver and the San Francisco 49ers' top draft pick Michael Crabtree remains the only unsigned player out of the four Red Raiders selected in this year's NFL Draft, according to the team's Web site.

Guard Louis Vasquez, a third-round pick by the San Diego Chargers, signed a four-year contract, the Chargers' Web site reports, and he is expected to compete for the starting job at right guard during training camp.

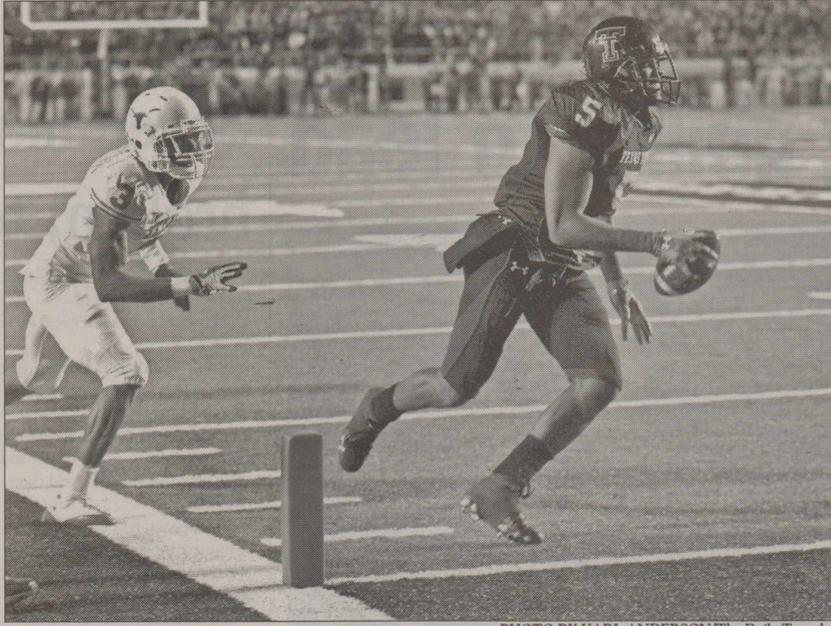
The Broncos signed second round draft pick Darcel McBath, who could end up being the long-term replacement after safety Brian Dawkins retires.

And Brandon Williams already has been signed by the Dallas Cowboys and is competing for the backup spot behind linebacker Anthony Spencer.

That leaves Crabtree, who apparently is asking for a contract normally given to a top five draft pick, where he believes he should have gone, according to numerous media outlets.

In quotes transcribed on the San Francisco 49ers Web site, head coach Mike Singletary talked about how he held out of training camp twice when he played for the Chicago Bears.

"I know it all," Singletary's comments read on the Web site. "It's the same way every year. It's important for the rookies to get in, but I know that's the business side of it that they



FORMER TEXAS TECH receiver Michael Crabtree scores the winning touchdown against then-No. 1 Texas on Nov. 1, 2008, which propelled Tech to a historic No. 2 ranking. Crabtree was taken 10th overall in the 2009 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers, and he remains unsigned.

have to handle. But my side always stays the same, and it's football, and it's winning and it's developing our guys. I'm going to continue to go forward with that."

Singletary said he is hopeful that Crabtree will join the team soon, and that he understands the negotiation

process is ongoing between the 49ers and Crabtree's agent.

"As a coach, I think every situation is different," Singletary's comments read. "I don't know his agent. I don't know all the other stuff. I do know that we have been fair. I do know that we are hopeful about

getting it done and in some point in time it will work itself out."

As for if Crabtree is ready to jump into workouts once he hits the field, Singletary said "Yes, he's ready to go," according to the team's Web site.

>>> [daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu](mailto:daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu)

# Brazilian police rule Gatti's death suicide

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Boxer Arturo Gatti's death was ruled a suicide by police Thursday and his wife, once suspected of killing the former champion, was released from jail.

Lead investigator Paulo Alberes told The Associated Press authorities decided Gatti killed himself on July 11 while at a seaside resort in northeastern Brazil.

When asked if police had determined the case was a suicide, Alberes said "yes." He offered no other details, though a judge — in ordering the release of Gatti's wife — cited the police investigation and wrote that "the victim took his own life, committing suicide by hanging."

The boxer's widow, 23-year-old Amanda Rodrigues, said in a phone interview as she walked out of jail she thinks Gatti may have killed himself because he was afraid she was going to leave him after the pair had a violent disagreement in public the night before his death.

"We had an argument in the street. Then he pushed me and I hurt myself. I believe that when we got home and he saw that he hurt me, he thought I would leave him, that I would tell him

to just let me go, that I would separate from him," Rodrigues said. "He did that in a moment of weakness. He was drunk, maybe he didn't know what he was doing, maybe he thought I would leave him the next day."

A day after the 37-year-old Gatti was found dead, police said that Rodrigues had strangled him with her purse strap as he drunkenly slept.

But police began to back off the accusation about a week later after a coroner's report said Gatti may have killed himself as he was found "suspended and hanged." The autopsy report didn't exclude the possibility he was slain, but said he also could have died in an unexplained accident, or could have committed suicide.

"The police investigation concluded that Arturo killed himself," said Celio Avelino, Rodrigues' attorney. "I've said before it would have been impossible for her to suspend and hang a man of that size."

Judge Ildete Verissimo de Lima ordered the immediate release of Rodrigues after receiving the police report. The judge wrote that police informed the court "the detention of the suspect was no longer needed" as the investigation "excludes the possibility of murder."

# Sandra Gal grabs Women's British Open lead with 69

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP) — Sandra Gal of Germany shot a 3-under 69 Thursday to grab the lead after the first round of the Women's British Open.

At 9:15 p.m., at the end of a round that lasted nearly six hours, Gal chipped from the greenside rough over a mound to about a foot from the flag. She escaped with a skillful par and finished a shot ahead of Angela Stanford and Song-Hee Kim, who each posted a 70 earlier. Stanford birdied the last hole

from 30 feet, and Kim — one of 29 South Koreans in the championship field — made a birdie on No. 18 from 20 feet.

"That probably ranks pretty high for me," Gal said. "They were very tough conditions, but I felt I played steady and kept my ball in the fairway most of the time."

"And that shot at the last was very nice. I just tried to get it as high up in the air as I could and it just landed perfect. It could not have been better."

## Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I'd rather fly under the radar than be in the national news all the time," said Colby Whitlock, a junior defensive tackle who will anchor the defensive line in the fall.

Whitlock may get his wish this season, but last season was a different story.

Tech's media day looked vastly different when they went into the 2008 season returning 17 starters and poised for a breakout season. Reporters questioned Leach and

his players on if they would be able to win their first division title.

After an 11-2 season, Tech took a share of the Big 12 South, albeit while being part of a three-team logjam — with Oklahoma and Texas — at the top.

This season it's back to normal for the Red Raiders, who are selected to finish fourth or fifth in the Big 12 South by most publications.

"That's how it's been since I've been here, it ain't nothing new, but I enjoy it," Whitlock said. "We use it as motivation and everything else, but I don't mind it at all really."

Senior cornerback Jamar Wall also is accustomed to lower expectations from outsiders.

"We're underestimated every year actually," Wall said. "It's really no big deal to us. We hear it, but we don't let it get to us. We just do what we do best: work to come out and prove people wrong."

Carter said the team doesn't put any stock in the projections.

"Everyone says we win a game that we're not supposed to every single year," he said. "The players and the coaches don't see it as that."

"We believe we can win every

single game. Whenever you believe that you can't win a game, you shouldn't be playing it anymore."

Carter said being near the bottom of preseason polls won't be a source of inspiration, but he said they will draw on the experiences of last season for motivation.

Whether the media is checking out his tattoos, speculating on if Leach will go left ear only or double studs, or the Red Raiders transition, Carter said the team is excited for the season.

"We're ready to go," he said. "It's definitely not a rebuilding year."

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## Carter showing ability to lead

By ALEX YBARRA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After being named as an All-American last year and a preseason All-Big 12 Conference selection for 2009, Texas Tech offensive lineman Brandon Carter wants to be more of a leader to ensure the Red Raiders finish strong this time around.

And with his presence at Big 12 Media Days in Irving this week, he's already gotten started.

"I think the Oklahoma game was a huge hit to us," Carter said of Tech's 65-21 loss to the Sooners after starting the season with a 10-0 record. "We had a huge high note with Oklahoma State and Texas.

"That schedule was hard, we gave it everything we had in the Texas and Oklahoma State game. It was huge to us to win those games, and we went down hill from there."

Tech had a comeback win against Baylor in Lubbock before entering the Cotton Bowl where the Red Raiders lost to Ole Miss.

Carter said the "leadership kinda went downhill" after the loss to Oklahoma, saying "people just didn't really care much about that afterwards" and the team should have taken the Cotton Bowl "more seriously."

"I'll make sure that in the bowl game and the last game of the season that we're focused," he said. "A lot of those young guys don't realize that the bowl game's not about a vacation. It is not a vacation, it's not about the presents, the money whatever. It's about the game."

"That's why we're there. We're there to win a game, and I'll make sure we do that this year."

This is all part of the senior's new role. Granted, Carter was an inte-

gral piece to a monster offensive line in 2008, and incredibly identifiable because of the makeup plastered on his face, the tattoos and the massive mohawk.

But this year seems different for Carter, who passed on the NFL Draft in April before deciding to return for one final year.

He's a leader, a frontrunner for captain, and a magnet for the media.

At Big 12 Media Days on Wednesday, Tech coach Mike Leach discussed a couple characteristics that make Carter special, saying his top lineman "looks like a curveball, but it's going to come in as a fastball straight down the middle."

There's Carter's intelligent demeanor.

"He's got the highest test score on our team," Leach said. "He's a ridiculously articulate person. I remember he hadn't had German or anything, and he had the class. So he takes something like German II. I can't remember what it was, because it fit his schedule better and then of course did real well at it."

Then there's the intensity.

"He's one of those guys that wishes we were playing a double-header instead of one game," Leach continued. "He plays really intense. And you can literally see, regardless of the score, he's disappointed the game's over."

"And you're talking about just a huge, gigantic person ambling around, diving at stuff, hitting stuff, wrecking stuff and then looks up at the clock and is upset that it's over."

And there's also the wrestling aspirations—either Mixed Martial Arts or the entertainment kind.

"Hopefully I can continue my



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador  
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN BRANDON CARTER will be an important piece if Texas Tech plans on having a productive season in 2009.

football career after this year," he said. "I think I could manage being a wrestler. I think it'd be fun. I'm a huge mixed martial arts fan. I watch that kind of stuff all the time. I'd do that also. I box every single day, and I try to train MMA every once in a while to stay flexible. I just love anything physical."

Carter acknowledged that leadership will be a key role this year and he is happy to take part in it, but he challenges others on the team to step up as leaders "because we're gonna need it."

For the recent Ultimate Fighting Championship 100, he took to his role as a leader by inviting teammates to watch it at his place.

"I had over probably half the team, and we all had burnt hot dogs and we all watched it," he said. "I think it was good for the team. I think it brought a lot of the guys together."

"I try to do stuff like that every once in a while for those guys and tell them I appreciate their hard work and everything."

>> daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

## Seven more records broken; total at 29

ROME (AP) — When in Rome, throw out the record book.

No need for one at the fastest show on water.

Even with Michael Phelps sitting in the stands, seven more world records fell Thursday. For those who've lost count, that's 29 over five days at the Foro Italicco — and there's still three days to go at the world championships.

At last summer's Beijing Olympics, swimmers broke 25 records at the Water Cube, and the world thought that would be tough to beat.

Records fell so fast in Thursday's nine events that the crowd barely had time to cheer one swimmer before another mark dropped.

"I think it's only been two or three races that haven't had a world record," said Australia's Jess Schipper, who got in on the fun by taking down the old standard in the 200-meter butterfly.

So, is this a good thing? Or does it cheapen the coin of the realm, so to speak?

"It's hard to say," Schipper said. "It's been a very exciting meet. It's been very fast. But we all knew it was going to be fast coming in here, so nobody can say that they didn't expect this. I think that the world records, while they may have been helped with the suits, it still has a lot to do with the swimmer and the work you've put in."

Ryan Lochte got things rolling by breaking Phelps' mark in the 200-meter individual medley, with the former record holder cheering him on. The Chinese women finished it off with a flourish, taking down the 800 freestyle relay mark by more than two seconds in a thrilling race with the hard-charging Americans, who also broke the previous record but only got silver.

For the most part, the swimmers are just enjoying the ride, knowing this might be as fast as they'll ever swim and have it count. Some of these records could stand for years, even decades, if FINA follows through on its plan to ban bodysuits in 2010 and ensure that next-generation attire is made from textile fabrics instead of buoyant materials such as polyurethane.

Soaking up some rays on the sunny side of the stadium, a bare-chested Phelps joined in the celebration when Lochte touched in 1 minute, 54.10 seconds. That broke Phelps' gold-medal time of 1:54.23 from Beijing, and Lochte did it wearing the year-old Speedo LZR Racer, just like Phelps the previous night when he broke his own world record in the 200 butterfly.

"Everyone is complaining about all these new suits, blah blah blah, and I go out there and wear the same suit that's been out there and I just give it to them," Lochte said.

He would have liked Phelps in the water, not the stands. Phelps actually had an entire day off, the benefits of a reduced schedule in Rome. Not quite as fit as he was last year, he dropped both the 200 and 400 individual medley from his program.

"It feels good to do that (world record), but at the same time I wish he was doing it," Lochte said, referring to his biggest rival. "I love a challenge. And I love racing against him, because he is one of the best swimmers ever. Anytime I can race against him, I would be more than happy to."

Although his swimsuit may be out of style, Lochte did break out a new set of "grills," blinging up the medal stand and bringing a little levity to the ceremony, as he did after winning his first world title at Melbourne two years ago.

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## Disabled bagger pitches in Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — Calvy Schoen stands on the pitcher's mound in his Austin Express uniform, sweating in the still-sweating evening sun.

Marbridge is winning the softball game, leading the Express 5-0 in the second inning. Calvy's pitches are unpredictable — sometimes wild, sometimes precise — and the 21-year-old H-E-B bagger is frustrated.

Last year, Calvy was the Express' relief pitcher. Now he's the starter. "I blew it so far," he says a few minutes later in the dugout. "Look at the score."

The game last week was the first of the season for the Express, one of five adult softball teams organized by Special Olympics Texas and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. The program, which has been around for nearly two decades, caters to players with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics is mostly associated with its statewide and national competitions that lure accomplished

athletes in sports such as powerlifting, swimming, track and basketball. But the nonprofit also offers year-round programs in more than 20 sports.

"There's literally something going on every weekend," said Andi Baca Kelly, spokeswoman for Special Olympics Texas, which serves 32,000 people across the state.

Calvy hooked up with the organization three years ago after hearing about it from a friend. The Austin man had always loved sports, but participating was difficult.

Calvy was born with hydrocephalus, an abnormal buildup of water in the brain that caused his intellectual disabilities. He also was flat-footed, and in eighth grade he had surgery that left his legs in casts for months.

In high school, he couldn't play because of his shunt — which drains the excess water from his brain — and leg braces. He satisfied himself by watching University of Texas baseball on television.

Calvy has wanted to pitch since

he joined the softball program. He's worked with his coaches. He's practiced at home with his mother's boyfriend, Steve McBride.

But when the first game of the season arrives, Calvy is jittery. He tries to soothe his nerves before the game by listening to Nickelback.

At 6:30 p.m., Calvy and his teammates gather in a dugout on the Krieg Fields in southeast Austin. Two coaches go over the basics: Hit, catch, throw, run, have fun.

Calvy wants to pitch well against the team from Marbridge, a 170-acre South Austin campus for people with disabilities. The last time the two met, Marbridge won 14-2, and Calvy doesn't want a repeat.

It's hot out there on the sunny field, with temperatures pushing 100 degrees. Calvy's palms are sweating, and the ball slips from his hand.

McBride and Calvy's mother, Ellen, sit near the field in lawn chairs, shouting encouragement and advice.

## Vick says he's 'getting close' to deal

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP) — Michael Vick said Thursday that he is getting close to signing with a professional football team but refused to elaborate.

Vick made the comment to reporters as he left a courtroom after

a hearing in his bankruptcy case. Asked about his progress in signing with a team, Vick said: "We're getting close." He declined to answer additional questions.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell conditionally reinstated Vick on

Monday, a week after the former Atlanta Falcons star completed his 23-month sentence for running a dogfighting ring. Vick is free to sign with a team and could be playing in the NFL by week six.

He also could play in one of a couple of football minor leagues if no NFL team signs him. His agent, Joel Segal, did not immediately return a telephone message.

Vick, 29, did not speak during the hearing. Afterward, the U.S. bankruptcy trustee and a lawyer for Vick's creditors shook Vick's hand and congratulated him on his NFL reinstatement. Vick thanked them and said, "It's exactly what I needed at this point in my life."

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Frank Santoro postponed until Friday a decision on whether to approve \$1.5 million in legal fees sought by Crowell & Moring, the Madison Avenue law firm representing Vick in the Chapter 11 case. Santoro was astonished that the firm is billing Vick for 8,000 hours of work over about 10 months.

"I don't understand how that happens," said Santoro.

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