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Stormy weather to clear up, NWS says

Warm weather expected for rest of week

By CAITLAN OSBORN
NEWS EDITOR

Though Lubbock experienced severe storm weather in the past few days, meteorologists expect the harsh conditions to clear with the arrival of May.

Jenn Daniel, a student volunteer at the National Weather Service of Lubbock, said the area was under a severe thunderstorm watch until 11 p.m. Monday, including parts of Lubbock County.

"Right now we're seeing most of the storm activity developing off just to our east, near Post and Crosbyton," she said Monday afternoon. "Tonight is mainly going to be high winds and hail."

Daniel said the NWS expected hail up to the size of tennis balls for the approaching storm.

There were reports of significant hail damage across the area, and people reported damage to skylights, roofs and cars parked outside, she said. However, Lubbock residents can expect summer weather to re-emerge later this week.

"As far as the coming days go, it looks like things are going to start to quiet down," Daniel said. "In fact, we're going to start warming up here back into the mid-90s for the rest of the week, and we should start seeing partly

to mostly clear skies."

Despite mild conditions replacing stormy weather, Daniel said people should be aware of what to do during a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch.

"The most important thing is to make sure that you know where the storms are and what warnings are out," she said. "If you're in your home, you want to make sure you're in an interior room without windows."

"On the Tech campus, basements are the best place to be. If you're driving, you really don't want to be in a car if there's a tornado threat or hail (because a lot of people can lose windshields that way). So the best place is to be indoors, away from windows."

Luke Wempe, a sports media graduate student from Lawrence, Kan., said since his home state is in the middle of Tornado Alley, he is used to severe storms.

"I'm from Kansas," he said, "so I'm used to this weather all the time. We have a lot more storms there, but severe weather is just like another afternoon for us."

Despite being used to harsh weather conditions, Wempe said he made sure he knew what was going on during the Lubbock storms.

WEATHER continued on Page 3

Derby Dollz



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTINA JOHNSON

THE WEST TEXAS roller derby team, Roller Dollz, compete in their next bout May 12 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center against the Abilene Dirty Dames.

West Texas derby team reveals what it takes to be part of Roller Dollz

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

When Mazzy Scar began going by the name Mazzy Scar, it took nearly nine months to process.

After choosing it, she had to wait for the derby registry to check it and for the

paperwork to be processed.

Of course, most people still call her Lilly. Mazzy Scar is Liliana Cordero's name when she puts on her skates with the West Texas Roller Dollz roller derby team.

"Your name becomes a part of who you are," the clinical psychology graduate student said.

Though some people keep their derby lives separate from the rest of their lives, Cordero, from El Paso, said the name and the team add a lot to her identity.

"I let everyone know about it, if I can," she said. "It's really addictive, but in a good way."

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DRIBBLE DRIVE



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/ The Daily Toreador

MICHAEL HINDS, A junior marketing major from Prosper, dribbles a ball forward as defender Kristin Nobis, a junior psychology major from Dallas, chases him during a soccer game Monday near the United Spirit Arena.

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WEATHER

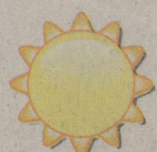
Today



Partly Cloudy

95/62

Wednesday



Sunny

95/59

Maggio: Please, no more smoking in public OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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Top EPA official resigns over 'crucify' comment

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's top environmental official in the oil-rich South Central region has resigned after Republicans targeted him over remarks made two years ago when he used the word "crucify" to describe how he would go after companies violating environmental laws.

In a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson sent Sunday, Al Armendariz says he regrets his words and stresses that they do not reflect his work as administrator of the five-state region including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The environmental engineer apologized last week for his remarks. A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, told The Associated Press that Armendariz has since received death threats. His resignation was effective Monday. Sam Coleman, a career official who led the agency's response to Hurricane Katrina and served as Armendariz' deputy, took over as acting regional administrator.

"I have come to the conclusion that my continued service will distract you and the agency from its important work," Armendariz wrote in the letter, which was obtained by the AP.

Republicans in Congress had

called for Armendariz' firing after Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe highlighted the May 2010 speech last week as proof of what he refers to as EPA's assault on energy, particularly the technique of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

President Barack Obama appointed Armendariz in November 2009 at the urging of Texas-based environmental groups.

The agency, perhaps more than any other, has found itself in the GOP's crosshairs. Republicans — including presidential contender Mitt Romney, who has called for Jackson herself to be fired — have blamed the agency for high gasoline prices and clamping down on American energy.

Armendariz, who was based in Texas, frequently found himself at odds with the state government and the oil and gas industry, which are often aligned.

The scientist and environmental activist had long been frustrated by the government's inability to clean up Texas' notoriously polluted air, and he had testified on behalf of activist groups about just how badly the EPA and state environmental agencies had botched things.

Ken Kramer, director of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, said "the only people who will celebrate his resignation are the polluters who continue to foul Texas air and the politicians who serve those special interests."

WAX WORK



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

DUSTIN SIMMS, A senior studio art major from Lubbock, uses a melting tool to make an wax investment in the 3D Art Annex on Monday. The investment will later be used to create an aluminum cast that will eventually become bowls for a full dining set.

Federal judge stops Texas law on women's health

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge on Monday stopped Texas from preventing Planned Parenthood from getting funds through the state's Women's Health Program — a decision the state immediately appealed.

U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel in Austin ruled there is sufficient evidence that a law banning Planned Parenthood from the program is unconstitutional. He imposed an injunction against enforcing it until he can hear full arguments. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott appealed Yeakel's decision to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, asking that it remove the injunction.

The law passed last year by the Republican-controlled Legislature forbids state agencies from providing funds to an organization affiliated with abortion providers. Texas law already required that groups receiving federal or state funding be legally and financially separate from clinics that perform abortions.

Eight Planned Parenthood clinics that do not provide abortions sued over the new law. The clinics say

it unconstitutionally restricts their freedom of speech and association to qualify to take part in state health programs.

The judge accepted Planned Parenthood's argument that banning the organization from the program would leave women without access to clinics for basic health services and check-ups.

"The court is particularly influenced by the potential for immediate loss of access to necessary medical services by several thousand Texas women," Yeakel wrote in his ruling. "The record before the court at this juncture reflects uncertainty as to the continued viability of the Texas Women's Health Program."

Texas officials have said that if the state is forced to include Planned Parenthood, they will likely shut down the program that serves basic health care and contraception to 130,000 poor women. Yeakel acknowledged that was a risk.

"The court observes that if the federal funds are phased out, Texas does not provide another source

of funds, and the Women's Health Program terminates, the controversy now before the court may be of no consequence," he wrote.

The Women's Health Program was established to provide care for poor women who would not otherwise qualify for Medicaid. It supplies cancer screenings, annual exams, and access to birth control.

Xelena Gonzalez of San Antonio said she received abnormal test results and needed a follow-up appointment just before the state law took effect in March, and her area Planned Parenthood clinic lost funding. She said she couldn't afford the lab fees and other costs of going to another provider. She said she is thrilled she can return to Planned Parenthood to follow up.

"It's a tremendous relief that someone is looking out for women," Gonzalez said Monday, referring to the judge's decision. "It makes me upset that these are men, for the most part, who are making decisions affecting our reproductive health and that they would try to shame us." Catherine Frazier, spokeswoman

for Gov. Rick Perry, said the state will pursue all legal options to keep the law.

"Texas has a long history of protecting life, and we are confident in Attorney General Abbott's appeal to defend the will of Texans and our state law, which prohibits taxpayer funds from supporting abortion providers and affiliates in the Women's Health Program," Frazier said.

Patricio Gonzales, CEO of Planned Parenthood Association of Hidalgo County, called on the Republican governor to stop trying to shut down Planned Parenthood in Texas.

"No woman should ever have to fear being cut off from her doctor's care because of shortsighted political games," Gonzales said.

The court's decision comes after the federal government cut off funding to Texas because of the state regulation excluding affiliates of abortion providers. Federal officials said the rule violates federal law by restricting women from choosing the qualified medical provider of their choice.

Today's su|do|ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle
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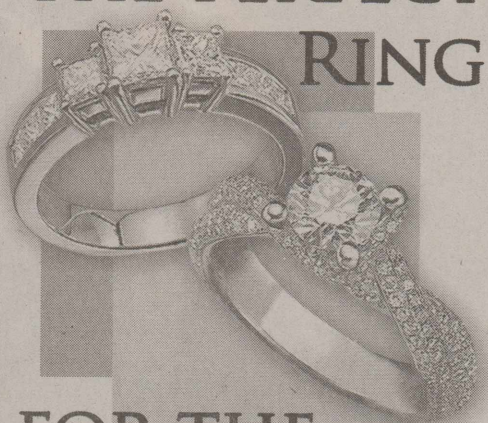
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Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

~Thomas Edison

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World Trade Center is back on top in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — One World Trade Center, the monolith being built to replace the twin towers destroyed in the Sept. 11 attacks, claimed the title of New York City's tallest skyscraper on Monday, as workers erected steel columns that made its unfinished skeleton a little over 1,250 feet high, just enough to peek over the roof of the observation deck on the Empire State Building.

City officials and iron workers applauded as the first 12-ton column was hoisted onto the tower's top deck.

"This project is much more than steel and concrete. It is a symbol of success for the nation," said David Samson, chairman of the Port Authority, the agency that owns the World Trade Center.

Clear skies afforded an immaculate 360-degree view from the top, although it wasn't easy getting up there. After riding an elevator to the 90th floor, a small group of officials and journalists had to climb three steep ladders to reach the top platform, which was encircled by blue netting along the perimeter.

The milestone is a preliminary one. Workers are still adding floors to the building once called the Freedom Tower. It isn't expected to reach its full height for at least another year, at which point it is likely to be declared the tallest building in the U.S., and third tallest in the world.

Those bragging rights, though, will carry an asterisk.

Crowning the world's tallest buildings is a little like picking the heavyweight champion in boxing. There is often disagreement about who deserves the belt.

In this case, the issue involves the 408-foot-tall needle that will sit on the tower's roof.

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East Texas actress has role in new film 'Bernie'

RUSK (AP) — Kay Epperson didn't think she would get the part.

But, when she read about a casting call in Carthage, her husband convinced her to audition.

"I brought a 5-by-7 picture and got in line. I knew nothing about the story at all. I just got bits and pieces from talking with others," the 70-year-old Rusk native said.

The movie was "Bernie," a story about the 1996 murder of 81-year-old millionaire Marjorie Nugent in Carthage by local mortician Bernhardt "Bernie" Tiede. Nugent's body was found in a freezer, and Tiede was sentenced to life in prison for the crime.

Epperson was told she would get a phone call if her audition sparked interest. That call came the next day, and she was cast as one of the gossips.

"I got a call, and they said 'We love your voice,' and I said 'Honey, it's for sale,'" she said before showing off her scrapbook of "Bernie" mementoes at her home in Rusk.

The former hairdresser didn't know who was in the film, but she soon found herself in Bastrop working on a project starring Jack Black as Bernie Tiede, Shirley MacLaine as the widowed Nugent, and Longview's Matthew McConaughey as the local district attorney. Filming occurred in fall 2010 in Bastrop, Carthage, Smithville, Georgetown, Lockhart and Austin.

Epperson said she first caught the acting bug when she joined the Cherokee Civic Theatre in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

She started out cleaning the restrooms and doing other things, but she eventually landed a role as Ouiser Boudreaux in "Steel Magnolias," a role she had a chance to tell MacLaine about.

"She was sitting outside the church one day with a Nook, and I figured out she was learning her lines, and I said 'I

know I'm not supposed to bother you, but I wanted you to know I played Ouiser, (and) she looked up and said 'Did you do us proud?' I said 'Honey, I promise you I did you proud.'"

However, movie acting was a different experience for Epperson.

She said the process was longer and harder than she thought.

"When you see it on the screen, you're relaxed and you're watching it and you think, 'Oh, my gosh. That's wonderful.' You have no idea the crew, the set, the makeup, what they go through to get there, so it's five times the work," she said.

The courtroom scene, which shows Epperson's rings, was shot in the third week or so and was the first time all the cast was together. The scene took two or three days, Epperson said, but the movie only shows bits and pieces.

McConaughey "was as handsome and skinny and polite and everything (as he appears). Of course, the first time I looked at Jack (Black), he looked like he was in character. He always looked like the funeral director," she said.

The actress also recalled a benefit for the Bastrop Fire Department and sitting in MacLaine's chair at the Bastrop Cemetery. A co-producer said MacLaine wouldn't be there at that time, so she sat in the chair and began to hear an animal sound.

"I looked behind me and in cages they had white humming doves," she said. "In the movie, they come up and circle the casket. It was the most moving thing I've seen in my life, and I said (to the co-producer), 'This is why I was in here today. I want these doves at my funeral.'"

Crews also did some filming at Nugent's old house, where the yard is done and somebody still comes to clean.

With director Richard Linklater,

Epperson said he "basically lets you find your own character."

The movie has drawn mixed feelings among Carthage residents.

Epperson said some were pleased with "Bernie" while others weren't so happy with the dark comedy.

Linklater "was wanting to do a premiere in Carthage, but there are still some people who don't want (it)," she said. "I think some of the ministers were saying they were making fun of an old lady being murdered. . . But where were they when she was in a freezer for nine months?"

She said the more she learned about the film and the real-life people, the more she understood why Nugent left everything she had to Tiede.

Carthage resident Reba Tarjick, who also was in the movie, said that Tiede was beloved in the community, and people were shocked at his arrest.

"I told (my husband at the time), 'Can you believe that?' He was like an angel. He had done everything for people in Carthage," she said.

And although some residents at her church refuse to see the movie, she said she sees nothing wrong with it.

"It's a true story. I think it's hilarious. It's a funny movie," she said.

As far as the future of her career, she has joined the Screen Actors Guild and was told she needed a representative and publicist.

She even got a few encouraging words from McConaughey.

"He said, 'Well, she's got a voice like (cook) Paula Deen, and if she wants to work, she can work after this movie comes out. She's gonna be good,'" Epperson said.

Her advice for other actors?

"Follow your dreams, honey. If somebody has an inkling, follow your dreams. Go for it. It doesn't matter how crazy it is," she said.

BOAT FLOAT



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
SHAWN MCINTYRE, A fine arts graduate student from Seattle, Wash., takes pictures of some clay boats he made in a puddle near the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center on Monday.

Dollz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cordero said even some people she has not told about her hobby know her by her derby name.

Cordero said she has had strangers approach her and ask if she is really Mazzy Scar.

Fame is not the only benefit, though. Team president Christina Johnson, who goes by AnnTix when in skates, said roller derby is a tremendous work out.

When a girl — who must be at least 18 years old — tries out, she is first given a skills test, Johnson said, and yet sometimes this basic test is sometimes too hard physically for some of the applicants.

Still, the team is willing to help anyone who is willing to try, Cordero said.

The top two issues beginners have is they cannot skate or think they are

not tough, she said.

If someone cannot skate, the team is willing to help. If they think they are not tough, Cordero said, then roller derby is a great way to conquer fears.

"It's not as aggressive as the movies make it out to be," she said. "But it is a legitimate sport."

This means there are occasional injuries, but the skaters take plenty of precautionary measures. In the end, she said, it's fun to toughen up and face your fears.

"It's definitely very empowering," Cordero said.

She said her confidence increased the first day.

"It was a little bit intimidating," she said, "but it was really fun and that's what kept me going."

Now, Cordero has been with Roller Dollz for 2 1/2 years.

Joining the team starts with partnering with a veteran member, Johnson said, and then being coached, training

in skating and learning the rules of the sport.

"We don't want to just throw them in there," she said.

Roller Dollz also has a B-Team to start on, Johnson said, and her own journey to the A-Team was a tough one, but one she loved.

The Roller Dollz practice twice a week, but are encouraged to do work-outs on skates on their free days, she said. She said it is a time commitment, but a lot of fun.

Both Cordero and Johnson said they encourage anyone interested to try it out and give it a chance.

The team also works to give back, Johnson said, with each bout focusing on a specific charity. The team then contributes to the charity whether with money or time.

The next bout will be May 12 in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, against the Abilene Dirty Dames.

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