



**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

**The Hoosiers of New Mexico
Lovington Leader Edition**

Thought For The Day

There's nothing wrong in suffering, if you suffer for a purpose. Our revolution didn't abolish danger or death. It simply made danger and death worthwhile.

--H. G. Wells

LEADER WEATHER CENTER

MOISTURE:

YTD 2.12

weather forecast

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 85. Windy, with a southwest wind 10 to 20 mph increasing to 20 to 30 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. Windy, with a west wind 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 10 to 20 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 81. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 76.

Briefs

Republicans Propose Fix For NM State Budget

By MORGAN LEE
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Leading Republicans in the New Mexico House of Representatives on Tuesday outlined a proposal to resolve the state's budget crisis by suspending construction projects and withdrawing money from a state pension fund.

Democrats who hold the majority of seats in both chambers have yet to come forward with a budget plan for a special legislative session that begins May 24. Republican Gov. Susana Martinez has called lawmakers back to the capital to resolve a feud over how to solve the state's budget crisis. She signaled her support Tuesday for the House Republican plan.

The governor last month vetoed all spending for the legislative branch and institutions of higher education for the fiscal year starting July 1, emphasizing her opposition to companion tax increases. Martinez

Budget 2

NMSP Release Name Of Man Killed By Train

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico State Police have released the name of a pedestrian who was killed last week after he ran onto the tracks and was hit by a Rail Runner Express commuter train in Santa Fe.

They say 21-year-old James Chavarria of Santa Fe was pronounced dead at the scene Saturday.

Police say the incident occurred on the tracks nearest Interstate 25 in Santa Fe County.

Witnesses told police that Chavarria got out of his vehicle that was parked on the shoulder of the interstate and crossed the roadway.

Police say Chavarria ran onto the tracks as the train was passing him and sustained fatal injuries.

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Lovington LEADER

ESTABLISHED

1910

OLDEST NEWSPAPER
IN LEA COUNTY

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Vol. 108--No. 58

Thursday Edition

50 cents

The Hoosiers of New Mexico



Above is a photo of this team. It was taken after the Wildcats' victory had dumbfounded just about every basketball pundit (coaches and writers) in the state. Like the movie, no one thought this team had a chance for the title. How did it happen?

This is Part 1 of a 2 Part series. Part 2 will be published in the Weekend Edition, May 20.

By Uyless Black
Part I

Recently, I took a trip back to my hometown, Lovington, New Mexico. The visit rekindled my interest in writing a piece about one of Lovington high school's basketball teams, the 1949 Wildcats. This idea came to mind after I had watched a TV rerun of the movie Hoosiers.

The movie tells the story of a small town basketball team in

Indiana that wins the state championship. The movie was made in 1986 and is based on the 1954 Milan High School basketball team. Gene Hackman plays the role of Coach Norman Dale and costars Barbara Hershey. Dennis Hopper plays the town drunkard, who substitutes for the coach in one game and displays sober brilliance in guiding the team to a victory. Mr. Hopper's depictions of his bouts with the bottle and his mastery of Xs and Os earned him an Oscar nomination.

What makes this story so intriguing is its implausible theme: a backwater bunch of county bumpkins

taking on and beating several teams from large urban high schools. Lovington's graduating class of 1949 numbered 38 students. It is akin to a junior college basketball team beating the Los Angeles Lakers. It is just not what we expect in the real world.

The old saying, "There is always room at the top" was not lost on these boys and their soon-to-be legendary coach. Perhaps they were ignorant of the odds stacked against them. Even though the high schools in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Roswell, and other cities had large enrollments, only five boys at a time could field the basketball court.

Digital Records?

When I began doing research to write this story, I was surprised to find I could not locate much documentation on the team. The local paper (The Lovington Leader) had no microfilm going back that far.

The younger readers of this story perhaps cannot conceive of a major subject such as a state basketball championship team not having terabytes of information stored on CDs, thumb drives, and in clouds. In 1949, paper files were the only source of archives. Microfilm and microfiche were emerging technologies, but not yet widely employed.

Jim Harris, the director of the local Lea County Museum in Lovington, was also unable to help. My brother Ross (Number 11 in the photo) had only anecdotal memories, no statistics or other hard facts. Luckily, my publicist Sylvia Gann Mahoney referred me to H.C. Pannell, Jr., also one of the players on the team (Number 33 in the photo).

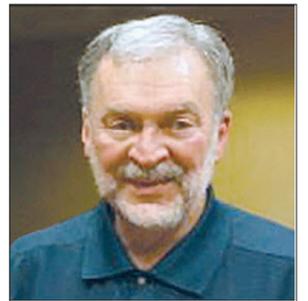
H.C. sent newspaper articles as well as his recollections of that year. Here are some of his thoughts about the forming of this championship team. For brevity, I have paraphrased some of H.C.'s recollections and added thoughts I collected from others who lived in Lovington in 1949:

The beginning of the 1949 state championship team started taking shape [two years earlier]. At the time, I was a sophomore and several in my class liked to play basketball: Donnie Smith, Bill Ponder, Jerry Dean, Kenneth Scoggins, and Warren John (Scooter) McAtee. We went out for the junior varsity team. Our coach was a man named C.C. Polling, who was the head football coach and coached the junior varsity basketball team. All of us also played varsity football.

The head basketball coach had just been hired by my father, the superintendent. [H.C. Pannell, also a legendary man in this part of the country.] The coach's name was Ralph Tasker, who later went on to national fame. He had been a star basketball player for the Alderson Broaddus Mountaineers in Virginia. He had coached one year back in West Virginia before committing to Lovington.

Hoosiers 4

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



U.D. Black

U.D. Black, born in Lovington, was the youngest of six boys. He graduated with the 1957 LHS Class, earned his BS at UNM, served as a U.S. Navy officer, a software programmer, a senior vice-president for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the ombudsman for the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, DC. He became an international lecturer and wrote thirty-five books on the emerging Internet technology. He lives in Hayden, Idaho, and continues to write books, for newspapers, and his blog.uylessblack.com.

Hobbs Police Looking For Suspects Involved In Shooting

Hobbs Police Officers responded to a shots fired call at the Four Season Apartments in the 2400 block of North Jefferson on Monday evening at approximately 6:43 PM. Officers found sever-

al bullet casings and what appeared to be blood droplets on the sidewalk in front of the management office of the apartment complex. Witnesses told officers that a black Chevrolet Corvette

and a red pickup truck were believed to be involved in the altercation. The corvette was reported as a convertible with chrome rims and a vented hood. Witnesses described a red bandana hanging from the rear view mirror. It was reported that the Corvette headed north on Jefferson and then west on Highland after leaving the apartment complex.

There were no details available regarding the identity or descriptions of the subjects in the vehicles. At this time, no injuries are known to be a result of the shots fired. The Hobbs Police Department is asking for anyone with information about this incident to call the Hobbs Police Department at (575) 397-9265 or Lea County Crime Stoppers at (575) 393-8005.



This photo is of the Chevrolet Corvette believed to have been involved in this altercation.

County Approves Tax Exemption For Lovington Solar Farm

By JOHN GRAHAM

The Lea County Commission approved a tax exemption last week for a 5-megawatt solar farm to be built northwest of Lovington off Gum Street.

The commission approved the 100 percent tax abatement on county taxes for 10 years and a 30 percent reduction in county taxes for the next 10 years for Middle Daisy LLC, the company building the solar farm.

The tax exemption was authorized under the New Mexico Community Development Incentive Act. The resolution states the county desires to promote industry and develop trade by inducing commercial enterprises to locate within Lea County with the incentive.

The project is expected to cost approximately \$8.5 million to build and the tax exemption is on the first \$5.9 million of commercial personal property effective January 1, 2018. The project will still pay taxes to the Nor-Lea Hospital District, Lovington School District and the NMJC District.

When the exemption ends in 20 years, the solar farm will start paying about \$26,000 a year in county taxes.

Solar 2

Eleven Students First Grads With NM Bi-Literacy Seal

By JOHN GRAHAM

Eleven Lovington High School students will walk the stage at graduation wearing a special stole Sunday afternoon. The special stoles will be embroidered with the New Mexico Seal of Bi-literacy. The seals were earned through a first year program at the high school for any senior wanting to be certified in their proficiency in two languages.

"This year is the first time ever we will have students walk the stage with a Bi-literacy Seal," said teacher Ezau Rios, who is the lead teacher in the program. "It was a very difficult task for the students. They had to read, write and speak at a high school or college entry level. All their work was critiqued. Their final presentation had to be at least 20 minutes using both languages at a high level of proficiency in all facets."

The state seal of bi-literacy on a New Mexico diploma of excellence certifies that the recipient is proficient for meaningful use in college, a career or to meet a local



The first students to receive a bi-literacy seal at LHS are: Aylin Torres, Maria Sanchez, Danielle Salcido, Kimberly Martinez, Jennifer Lopez, Eduardo Lopez, Deshree Larios, Areli Guzman, Abigail Contreras, Elizabeth Almodovar. (Not picture Luis Aceves)

Students 2



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Intel Sharing At Heart Of US, Europe Talks On Laptop Ban

By **LORNE COOK** and **LORI HINNANT**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The intelligence behind plans to broaden a U.S. ban on in-flight laptops and tablets to include planes from Europe took center stage on Wednesday as American and European officials met to discuss the looming decision.

The White House has defended the decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to discuss with Russian officials an Islamic State group terror threat related to the use of laptops on aircraft. European Union officials say they have not

been briefed on the threat.

The goal of Wednesday's talks is to "create a consultation, create a sharing of information," said an EU diplomat, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because the talks were ongoing.

Banning large electronics would create logistical chaos on the world's busiest corridor of air travel — as many as 65 million people a year travel between Europe and North America on nearly 400 daily flights, many of them business travelers who rely on the devices to work during the flight.

The ban would dwarf in size the current one, which was put in place

in March and affects about 50 flights per day from 10 cities, mostly in the Middle East.

The International Air Transport Association, which represents 265 airlines, on Tuesday wrote to both the EU and the U.S. Department to oppose the proposed ban, which it said would deeply affect the economy and cause the equivalent of \$1.1 billion in lost time to passengers.

There is also the question of the relative safety of keeping in the cargo area a large number of electronics with lithium batteries, which have been known to catch fire. The association proposed

more in-depth pre-flight screening, rather than forcing passengers to give up their electronics.

Nonetheless, airlines have said it is merely a matter of time before the ban is put in place, but the prospect has alarmed officials in the European Union, who want to know more about any new threats and the disruption such a move would create.

Experts say a bomb in the cabin would be easier to make and require less explosive force than one in the cargo hold. Baggage in cargo usually goes through a more sophisticated screening process than carry-on bags.

Hoosiers . . . continued from page 1

Five of us had been together as childhood friends for many years and played basketball together on dirt courts and on a hardwood court for four years, when Lovington put together a semblance of a gym. Donnie Smith was the only one of us that "lettered" in varsity basketball in his sophomore year, 1947.

H.C. was in Albuquerque at the time Ralph was being released from the service. H.C. was looking for a coach. Ralph was looking for a job. Their two needs coalesced, leading to the championship described in this story, as well as many other successes in life from this team's members and Coach Tasker's legendary career.

The summer between our sophomore and junior years, we would often get and go to the gym. I would get the keys from my dad and several of us would play "horse," two on two, and three on three. A lot of the time was spent at Coach Tasker's house talking basketball, eating cookies that his wife Margaret made. We had bonded as friends, and we now bonded as teammates.

In small towns (even today), students often played more than one varsity sport. Multi-processing of sparse personnel was needed in order to fill rosters. The same held true for coaches. Most of these men (in those days, only males) taught an academic subject (history, math, English etc.) and coached multiple sports. Versatility was a key word to being hired and holding onto a coaching job.

This writer was nine years of age when the 1949 Wildcats were playing. I recall one of their games. It was played at our local gym against the Tatum Coyotes, an even smaller town, and school twenty miles north of Lovington. My brother Ed was playing for Tatum. (My parents split when I was five years old. Ed lived with Dad in Tatum.) I recall people at the gym that night asking me which team I was cheering for. True to a child's profile, I said, "I dunno," which was the truth.

I recall this gym well. As a child, I often tagged along with my brothers and shot at baskets while the big boys were at the other end of the court. Imagine such a gym today, one that played host to a state championship team. A modern high school coach could not possibly "recruit" players to play in such a shack. Anyway, here is a fine recollection of a past time in America. Again, I have paraphrased some of H. C.'s thoughts and added recollections of ours:

Our so-called gym was the laughing stock of Southeast New Mexico. It originally had been built, so to speak, by joining two aging, weather beaten school buildings, one of which was originally located in Prairie View, a tiny town located east of Lovington, and the other moved from the railroad tracks in northeast Lovington. These two wooden buildings were joined together to make a gym in the late 1920s.

The gym ran East and West. There were three or four rows of bleachers on the north side with a seating capacity of about 150 people. The playing floor was nowhere near regulation size. In order to designate "half court" when the

Students . . . continued from page 1

community language need in a world language other than English. The graduate's high school transcript shall also indicate that the graduate received the state seal on the graduate's New Mexico diploma of excellence.

Lovington is the fourth school district in the state to offer the New Mexico seal of bi-literacy. Albuquerque High School was Lovington's model. Ivan DeAnda, the school administrator overseeing the local program, took a group to Albuquerque last year to see how they run their program.

DeAnda said the program is open to anybody who is proficient in two languages—not just English and Spanish.

"We started with 44 and 11 finished the program," said DeAnda. "We got to listen to the phenomenal stories that these 11 young people had. I wish everyone could have heard those stories," added DeAnda. "It was a very emotional time."

"It's not so much what the topic is, but to hear both languages," he said.

Rios said he originally was concerned about how his students would perform at such a demanding task. "We were worried, but our fears were unfounded. All easily passed," he said. "We are just now recognizing what our students are capable of doing."

"It opens doors for them," concluded DeAnda.

CITY OF LOVINGTON REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION MONDAY, MAY 22, 2017 5:30 P.M. TO BE HELD AT 214 SOUTH LOVE STREET	
AGENDA	
Notice of this meeting has been given to the public in compliance with Section 10-15-4 NMSA 1978.	
OPEN MEETING	
Call To Order	
Roll Call	
Invocation – Commissioner Gandy	
Pledge of Allegiance & Zia – Commissioner Gandy	
Approval of Agenda	
Consideration of the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2017	
COMMISSIONERS & STAFF REPORT	
PUBLIC COMMENT	
NON ACTION ITEMS	
• Health & Wellness Center Update	
• Planning & Zoning Commission Discussion of RV Parks	
ACTION ITEMS	
• Consider Ordinance 551: Authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental agreement and a project participation agreement accepting NMEDD funds for the Drylands Brewery Project.	
• Consider Resolution 2017-47: Amendment to Fund Balance Reserve Policy	
• Consider Resolution 2017-48: Approval of 2017 – 2018 Interim Budget	
• Consider Resolution 2017-49: Advertisement of Ordinance 552 – Sunrise Addition Phase II housing incentive	
• Consider Resolution 2017-50: Advertisement of Ordinance 553: Amendments to Lovington Municipal Code Title 13, Chapter 13.04-Water Service System, Chapter 13.08-Sewer Service System, and Chapter 13.12 – Rates, Billing, and Collection	
• Consider Resolution 2017-51: Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between City and County for improvements and reconstruction of a portion of Love Street and Washington Avenue	
• Consider Resolution 2017-52: Approval of LOGRT funding for GIS Project	
• Consider Resolution 2017-53: Approval of LOGRT funding for Main Street utility reconstruction project	
• Consider Resolution 2017-54: Approval of agreement between City and the Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging	
• Consider Accounts Payable	
CLOSED SESSION	
• Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978, Subsection H-7, regarding threatened or pending litigation – Intrepid Potash Water Rights Protest	
ADJOURNMENT	
If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 575-396-2884 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the City Clerk at 575-396-2884 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.	

team with the ball was in the east end, the half court line was considered 3/4ths of the way to the west basket. And vice versa. The width was less than regulation, and there was no way to enlarge that dimension. The north boundary also had two gas stoves that were surrounded by galvanized pipes. Out of bounds on this side was designated as the bleachers and the gas stoves. Going out of bounds by touching or hitting the stoves was more than just a humiliating experience. The south boundary was the side of the building; no out of bound stripes; just a wall that had thin sheets of tin nailed to its wooden sides.

On this side of the gym were four side-by-side windows, painted opaque and protected by heavy chicken wire to prevent breakage. If a player hit the metal covered wall or the windows, he was declared out of bounds. The west end wall was wooded and located about three feet behind the backboard. This limited space presented an obstacle to a driving lay-up.

Located on the east end of the court, about five feet behind the backboard were a pair of double wooden doors, which were the only entrance for fans attending the games. If one was not careful on a full driving lay-up, he could very well crash into late comers or worse, find himself outdoors [perhaps in a snow bank].

The building was also covered by tin-roofing material. However, the ceiling and rafters were the most daunting features about the gym. There was no ceiling. The rafters were exposed as were the lathes and shingles covering the roof. On a sunny day, rays of light filtered through the shingles, and of course, when it did occasionally rain, there were puddles on the floor. The rafters were only about five feet above the top of the square backboard, and the top of the backboard was about three feet above the rim.

Thus, there was only about eight feet clearance to allow any kind of arched shot. (Three point baskets were unheard of in those days. A player couldn't have made one with all the rafters anyway.) When a high arching shot hit the rafter, a lot of dust and even bird droppings would shower down on the floor.

Due to the physical factors of the gym, we learned to play more under the basket, shoot more bank shots, and rely less on long-range shots. This of course gave us a lot of advantage over any team coming to Lovington to play.

Behind the west wall was the dressing room with a door on the south rear side that led to the "shower building." The shower building was not connected to the dressing room. After the game or practice, a player would have to undress, walk outside around to the entrance to a cinder block building with about four showers on the boys' side and four on the girls' side. There was about one commode on each side. The visiting team had to use the girls' shower room as both toilet and shower.

A couple of the best gyms in the county during the late 1940s were in Monument and Eunice. During our senior year, we played about twenty games during the regular season. Only two teams agreed to play us in Lovington: Tatum and Jal.

Again, just imagine the handicap imposed on this team by playing most of its games on the road. The home court is a huge advantage in basketball. I recall playing with a Washington, DC Navy team in the 1970s, which played most of its games "on the road." Adjusting to different lights, floors, basketball rims, backboards, and the overall "feel" of the court area requires a player to make adjustments. These adjustments can add up to become a significant handicap.

Not to mention the home team fans. In those days, hostility toward a visiting team was rather subdued.

In Saturday's edition of the Leader (Part 2) we will take a look at this team's season and discuss why it was so successful.

Solar . . . continued from page 1

The project has local ties. Storm Field, a former resident and Lovington graduate, is the main principal in the on venture. Construction should start by this fall and it is expected to go online by the end of the year. Lea County Electric Cooperative will be purchasing the energy generated by the solar farm.

Budget . . . continued from page 1

has since indicated she would consider select tax revenue increases if they lower overall rates.

The House Republican budget plan would shift \$63 million in capital outlay money to bolster the state general fund, said GOP House minority leader Nate Gentry of Albuquerque. It would also claw back \$12.5 million in pension money set aside for the state's unsalaried legislators.

Both ideas were discussed and spurned by the Legislature during its 60-day regular session that ended in March. Revenue forecasts issued in February show a projected \$70 million deficit for the coming fiscal year if funding is restored to the Legislature and state universities, colleges and specialty schools.

"That reduces the need to impose new taxes," Gentry said of Republican proposal. "That more than fills the gap."

Gentry said legislative retirements are overfunded and can be drawn down, while state pension managers have warned that would affect the larger retirement fund for state workers and be illegal.

The House GOP budget plan also slightly increases spending on student aid and the University of New Mexico Cancer Center.

The Democratic chairwoman of the House appropriations committee, Rep. Patricia Lundstrom of

Gallup, said she has no objection to using capital outlay funds to shore up state finances, but that pension withdrawals would be illegal.

"That's like someone going into your Social Security and taking money away," she said.

Lundstrom said Democratic lawmakers still were working Tuesday on a budget proposal, and are in active communication with Senate Republicans.

ADMISSION:	LOVINGTON GUN SHOW
ADULTS: \$5	
KIDS 12-17: \$3	
CHILDREN UNDER 12: FREE!	
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SEE YOU THERE!	SUNDAY 10AM – 4PM
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	Lovington, NM 88260



Gloria Faye Miller

Gloria Faye Miller, 85, passed away on Thursday, May 11, 2017. She was born in September of 1931, in Old Glory, TX, to Quant and Pearl Caudle. She grew up with her three sisters, Vonnell, Doris, and Mary Jo, who were life-long friends. Gloria graduated from Whiteface High School, in Whiteface, TX and continued her education at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. In 1953, she received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Music, and later received a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the same University. It was during her college years that Gloria met the love of her life, Curtis Dale Miller. They were married in Levelland, TX in January of 1951 and were together for over sixty-six years. Gloria spent most of her career in Lovington, NM where she served Lovington Public Schools in various capacities which included a first grade teacher, a school counselor, and ultimately Director of Elementary Education. She was a world class teacher and was told by many parents and former students that she was the best teacher ever. Many of the educational programs she helped to begin in Lovington are the foundation for those that continue today. Gloria was always busy with additional activities and she was highly sought after for her organizational and leadership skills. She worked on several successful political campaigns including serving as campaign manager for the initial election of former Lea County State Senator Bill Lee. Gloria also served as campaign lead for U.S. Congressman Harold Runnels. She helped her husband to be elected to two terms as a Lovington City Council Member. Also, Gloria was selected to produce and direct the Miss New Mexico Pageant when it was held in Lovington. Before retiring, Gloria and Curt became entrepreneurs, where they owned the local Montgomery Ward Store and a Driver Education School.

Gloria and Curt retired to Ruidoso, NM in 1989 and lived there for over 20 years. They had many friends and "knew everyone in town." They lived on the Cree Meadows Golf Course and spent their retirement days playing golf, bridge, going to parties, eating out at the many local restaurants, and traveling. Gloria especially loved



to go to the casino to play the slot machines and going to the race track to play the ponies. She loved doing these activities with her sisters and friends. It was also in Ruidoso where Gloria met her dear and cherished friend, Dean Gunstream Smith. In 2011, Gloria and Curt moved to Albuquerque, NM, where they took care of Gloria's beloved little dog, Brandy, who was with her for 15 years. In Albuquerque, she was surrounded by love and loyalty from her husband and from her children and grandchildren. Gloria Faye Miller is survived by her husband, Curtis; her daughter, Misti; her son, Michael, along with his wife, Jackie, and their three daughters, Jessica, Michelle, and Maya. She is also survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Sid and Gaye Miller, Don and Marilyn Babers, and Gwen Harrison; and her nieces, and nephews, Jerry, Marcia Kay, Gary, Brent, Susan Carrie, Sidney, Bill, Terri, Doni, Sonna, Steven, Kathy, Sydney, Jeff, Trish, and Brent and their families. Family and friends will always love and remember Gloria for her generosity and vibrant personality. We know Gloria is sending the "Ya-Ya Sisters" lots of love. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the home of Michael and Jackie Miller. Please call 505-480-8724 for directions. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Gloria's name to the Animal Humane New Mexico, 615 Virginia St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Please visit our online guestbook for Gloria at www.FrenchFunerals.com
FRENCH - Lomas
10500 Lomas Blvd. NE
(505) 275-3500
www.frenchfunerals.com

North Korea's Actions 'Recipe For Disaster'

By **KAORI HITOMI**
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The top American military officer in the Pacific said Wednesday that North Korea's recent military actions are "a recipe for a disaster" and warned against a sense of complacency in the face of increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Adm. Harry Harris Jr. made the remarks at a lecture for a Tokyo think tank after meeting with Japanese leaders that he said focused on North Korea's missile and nuclear programs.

North Korea test-launched a missile on Sunday that many experts believe could be its most advanced yet, flying higher and longer than any previous missile.

"Combining nuclear warheads with ballistic technology in the hands of a volatile leader like Kim Jong Un is a recipe for a disaster," Harris said. "Kim Jong Un is not afraid to fail in public and every test he makes is a success because it takes North Korea one step closer to being able to deliver a nuclear-equipped missile

anywhere in the world."

The missile on Sunday was deliberately fired on a "lofted" trajectory — reaching more than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles), which is higher than satellites in low Earth orbit — to test re-entry capabilities and place its "splash zone" in the open Pacific.

Harris, head of the United States Pacific Command, based in Hawaii, said North Korea is "closer to being able to deliver a nuclear-equipped missile anywhere in the world" and called for further coordination between the U.S., Japan and South Korea to deal with the threat.

He also obliquely criticized China for throwing up obstacles to the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, where Beijing has constructed island bases in the disputed waters, saying "we should fly, be able to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows."

While in Tokyo, Harris met Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defense Minister Tomomi Inada.

Lovington LEADER		
Lovington Leader (USPS 321-100) is published Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings by Wal-Roy Publishing, Inc., John Graham, President, at 14 W. Avenue B, Lovington, New Mexico 88260. Periodicals Postage Paid at Lovington, New Mexico. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Lovington Leader, PO Box 1717, Lovington, NM 88260-1717.		
John Graham Publisher	Matt Price Editor	Janine Graham Society Editor
Joyce Clemens Advertising Mgr.	Gina Fort Class. Advertising	
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$79 per year by mail in Lea County, \$89 per year by mail outside Lea County.		
PHONE: 396-2844		

Thought For The Day

Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.

--Martin Luther

LEADER WEATHER CENTER

MOISTURE:

YTD..... 2.12

weather forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 80. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Monday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 81.

Briefs

Clovis Man Already In Prison Gets 24-Year Term In Drug Case

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP) — A Clovis man already incarcerated for prior drug convictions has been sentenced to 24 years in prison for trafficking in controlled substances and distribution of marijuana.

Prosecutors say 42-year-old Bernardo Baca also was convicted last Friday on charges of tampering with evidence and resisting arrest.

He was sentenced Wednesday on convictions stemming from a scheme to smuggle drugs into the Curry County jail.

Prosecutors say a package containing methamphetamine and marijuana was found in an alley near the jail.

They say Baca's girlfriend was jailed at the time and the drugs were originally placed where she could pick them up when she went outside for recreation.

Prosecutors say Baca's sentence will run concurrently with the prison term he's currently serving.



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LAND of the FREE...Home of the BRAVE



Lovington LEADER

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1910

OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN LEA COUNTY

Saturday, May 20, 2017 Vol. 108--No.59

Weekend Edition

\$1.00

The Hoosiers of New Mexico

By Uyless Black
Part 2 of a two part series
Practice, Preparation, and Opportunity

We continue the story of an improbable Hoosier dream come true, but with the Hoosiers of Indiana relocated--if only symbolically--to a small prairie town in southwest America.

Earlier in this article, a member of the 1949 Lovington Wildcats, Harlan Pannell tells us about the long association of several of the players on the team. They knew and liked one another. They played basketball for the joy of playing, spending time in their antiquated gym: shooting, passing, dribbling, and rebounding, without a coach's interventions.

They were on their own. Their minds and bodies, working in a harmonious but uncoordinated relationship, continued to develop a natural skill for the game of basketball. They were fine examples of the idea of, "We never do anything well, unless we love it for its own sake." And they loved basketball.

What they needed was someone who could harness their individual talents into a team. As we learned, just as Coach Norman

Dale came to Milan, Indiana High School in the Hoosiers movie, Coach Ralph Tasker came to Lovington, New Mexico, High School. This man later went on to fame, as summarized in the sidebar. For the year of 1949, he was just another obscure small time, unknown basketball coach.

His coming to this small town was a coincidence. He was hired just after WWII. In 1945, he was discharged from the US Army while stationed at Kirkland Field in Albuquerque. Harlan's father, H. C. Pannell, the school superintendent, happened to be in Albuquerque on a business trip for Lovington schools. As mentioned, there the two men met and the hiring took place.

Classless Competition

In those days of the late 1940s and early 1950s, the high school sports system in New Mexico was one in which there were no divisions based on the enrollment size of a school. All were competitors against one another. The larger schools usually dominated the win side of the win-loss columns because they had a larger pool of boys from which to form their sports teams. The boys on the 1949 Lovington team

Tasker Sidebar

Ralph Tasker coached for over 50 years, including 49 years at Hobbs High School in Hobbs, New Mexico. As head coach at Sulphur Springs (OH), Lovington (NM), and Hobbs, he compiled a win-loss record of 1122-291 (.794). He won twelve New Mexico Boys' State Basketball Championships: one with Lovington (1949) and eleven with Hobbs (1956, 1957, 1958, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1980, 1981, 1987, 1988). His other accomplishments include twice being named National High School Coach of the Year, induction into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame, and being chosen for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Morgan Wootten Award. The Hobbs Eagles' home gymnasium is named Ralph Tasker Arena in his honor. Known for employing a full-court press for the entire game, Tasker's teams were often high scoring, with his 1969-70 team averaging 114.6 points per game and recording 14 consecutive 100-point games, both national high school records."

Box Scores

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME					
Tucumcari (20)			Lovington 47		
fg	ft	pf	fg	ft	pf
Pelzer	4	6	4	4	3
Stoney	1	2	5	5	3
Izard	4	6	4	4	3
Babers	3	3	3	3	3
Marshall	3	3	3	3	3
Shockey	0	0	0	0	0
Langley	0	1	0	0	0
Tu'beaugh	0	1	1	1	1
Totals .. 14 11 15			Totals .. 18 11 19		
Half-time score: Tucumcari 28, Lovington 20. Free throws missed: Tucumcari 5--Pelzer, Izard 2, Babers, Shockey, Lovington 10--Smith, Ponder 5, Dean 3, Scoggins.					
FOR THIRD PLACE					
Belen (31)			Las Vegas (40)		
fg	ft	pf	fg	ft	pf
Birner	2	3	1	1	4
Orosco	1	3	5	5	3
Jaramillo	2	1	2	2	2
Gallegos	0	0	2	2	0
Stoney	0	0	2	2	0
Taylor	0	0	2	2	0
Sanchez	1	0	2	2	0
Quintana	0	0	2	2	0
Rivera	0	1	1	1	0
Totals .. 12 7 19			Totals .. 14 12 15		
Half-time score: Belen 11, Las Vegas 15. Free throws missed: Belen 11--Brian, Birner 2, Orosco 3, Gallegos 2, Taylor, Rivera 2, Las Vegas 10--Fulgenci, Atkinson 2, Roybal 3, Rapp 2, Monroe 2.					
SEMI-FINALS					
Belen (21)			Tucumcari (45)		
fg	ft	pf	fg	ft	pf
Brian, P	2	3	5	5	1
Jaramillo	1	0	2	2	0
Birner	2	1	2	2	2
Orosco	2	0	1	1	2
Stoney	0	0	0	0	0
Sanchez	1	0	1	1	0
Quintana	0	0	2	2	1
Gallegos	0	0	1	1	0
Rivera	0	1	0	0	0
Totals .. 10 4 15			Totals .. 19 8 9		
Half-time: Tucumcari 20, Belen 8. Free throws missed: Belen 6--Brian, Orosco 2, Birner 2, Rivera, Tucumcari 11--Izard 2, Marshall, Shockey, Stone 3, Babers, Langley.					
Las Vegas (60)			Lovington (60)		
fg	ft	pf	fg	ft	pf
Rapp, G	5	4	3	3	0
Roybal, F	2	2	3	3	7
Atkinson, F	3	3	3	3	3
Fulgenci, F	3	2	2	2	3
Anderson, G	0	0	2	2	0
Monroe, F	0	2	1	1	3
Mangum, F	0	0	0	0	3
Chaste, G	2	2	1	1	0
Totals .. 13 14 16			Totals .. 22 16 16		
Half-time: Las Vegas 18, Lovington 17. Free throws missed: Las Vegas 6--Rapp 2, Monroe, Roybal, Atkinson, Anderson, Lovington 6--Pannell 3, Smith, Pender, Scoggins.					

Lovington High To Graduate 200 Sunday

Lovington High School, New Hope and Tatum High School seniors will be graduating in special ceremonies this weekend. Tatum will be graduating 23 seniors in commencement exercises Saturday evening at 2 p.m. at the W.D. Caster Gymnasium.

Lovington High and New Hope will hold joint exercises Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Lea County Event Center. Diplomas will be handed to 200 Lovington High School grads and 32 New Hope High School seniors will walk the stage.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian had not been chosen by press time Friday as final calculations on grade averages were being done.



Special Graduation Section Inside today's Leader

Dispatch New Mexico:

Small-Town Grads Will Leave, A Few Will Come Back

By Tom McDonald

About this time every year, parents all over New Mexico swell with pride as their daughters and sons walk across the graduation stage — and wave goodbye.

The walk is ceremonial; the wave, at least for small towns, is figurative. As the urbanization of America continues, fewer of these young men and women will be staying in or returning to their hometown, simply because the opportunities they seek aren't there.

Some of them will choose to carve out a life in their hometown, while many others will move on. Their futures depend in large part on what's going on in the communities that raised them.

Some of the state's smaller communities have strong local economies, and you can see it in the stability of their populations. Oil and gas extraction in and around Lovington and Hobbs keeps that area's economy strong, and some good-paying jobs there are ripe for the picking. Los Alamos, with its lab, enjoys more millionaires per capita than any small city anywhere. And the Ruidoso area, with its racetrack, casino and wilderness areas, has carved out an economic niche that not only offers opportunities to the locals but brings in a lot of Texas money to boot.

Mostly, however, New Mexico's small cities and towns are struggling to keep the people they have. Overall, New Mexico's population is growing modestly — by 1.1 percent between 2010 and '16, according to Census Bureau estimates — but that's mostly because of the Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe metropolitan areas. Look beyond those sprawling cities and you'll find population declines all over the state — in villages like Clayton, Fort Sumner and Lordsburg, and in small cities like Las Vegas and Silver City.

For the graduates of schools in those communities, there are and always will be limits to number of the local jobs available. Ranching, drilling, mining and other rural operations offer work, but too often it's not enough to meet demand, so young people move to the urban centers for employment.

Still, small local economies aren't dead. Thanks to the Internet and interstates, they're not nearly as isolated as they once were, so living out in the boon docks doesn't necessarily remove you from the modern world. Plus, there are just as many innovators in the countryside as there are in the cities (proportionately, of course), and that's made for some pretty creative methods of making a living. Look at the novelty and specialty shops sprinkled around in small downtown districts and you'll see what I mean.

Farming and ranching may be on the decline in places like Taos County, but its county seat has carved out a niche, and an identity, based on the arts, and skiing. Meanwhile places like Silver City have found themselves to be a tourist attraction for Wild West enthusiasts and outdoors adventurers alike.

The thing is, small town life doesn't have to dry up and blow away, and in many instances it isn't. For a lot of people, rural life is considered a blessing rather than a burden. That's why country music is so popular — country folks relate to it and city folks wish for it. For many, country living is the preferred way of life, even if there are certain inconveniences that go with it.

Mostly, however, it's the older people who relish rural living. It should be no surprise that so many younger people see their futures elsewhere, either because of the job opportunities or simply because they're restless for the big city lights.

To them, I say: Go! Spread your wings and fly away. It's a big and exciting world out there, and you should see as much of it as your heart desires. Just don't lose your way back home. Someday, you might come to the realization that your dusty old hometown, the one you left behind, had something after all, something you might want to return to.

If you do, I'll bet you'll find someone there who will welcome you with open arms, perhaps with dinner on the table. That's the way it is in small towns, where sustenance comes naturally and the heart knows its home.

Tom McDonald is editor and founder of the New Mexico Community News Exchange and owner-manager of Gazette Media Services. He can be reached at tmcdonald@gazetemediaservices.com.



Tom McDonald

Six Arrested For Trying To Smuggle Drugs Through Lovington Magistrate Court

On April 11 Lovington Police Officers located a white balloon in a urinal inside the men's restroom at the Lovington Magistrate Court House. The Lovington Police Department removed the balloon from the urinal and contacted the Lea County Drug Task Force for assistance with the matter. LPD removed the contents from the inside of the balloon. The balloon contained 4.1 grams of brown leafy substance, a metal handcuff key, 6.92 grams of an orange powder substance, 11 Amitriptyline pills, 40 Hydroxyzine pills, 7 Clonidine pills, 3.9 grams of marijuana and .67 of cocaine.

The Lea County Sheriff's Office was contacted to

find out what inmates were scheduled for court on April 11. The Sheriff's Office advised that Aaron Gutierrez and Jossue Dominguez Ramirez had court that day and both were inmates at the Lea County Detention Center.

The Lea County Drug Task Force contacted staff at the Lea County Detention Center in order to have calls monitored as well as to have the staff listen to previously made and recorded calls.

The Staff at LCDTC advised Agents with the LCDTF that Crystal SIVILS and inmate Aaron

Arrested _____ 4



PALLET FIRE

Stacks of pallets caught fire yesterday at a location about two miles south of Lovington just off the Hobbs-Lovington highway around 4:30 p.m. The fire started when a previous controlled burn had not been fully extinguished and high winds reignited the debris, according to Fire Chief Terrance Lizardo. Multiple stacks of pallets caught fire making a heavy smoke trail. Lovington dispatched two grass rigs, one engine and a water tanker. Knowles assisted with an engine and Maljamar sent another grass rig.

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Prospect Of NAFTA Rewrite Gives US Farmers A Case Of Jitters

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sizable majority of rural Americans backed Donald Trump's presidential bid, drawn to his calls to slash environmental rules, strengthen law enforcement and replace the federal health care law.

But many farmers are nervous about another plank in Trump's agenda: His vow to overhaul U.S. trade policy, including his intent announced Thursday to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

Trump's message that NAFTA was a job-killing disaster had never resonated much in rural America. NAFTA had widened access to Mexican and Canadian markets, boosting U.S. farm exports and benefiting many farmers.

Farm Country went on red alert last month when it looked as if Trump wasn't even going to pursue a NAFTA rewrite: White House aides had spread the word that the president would simply withdraw from the pact.

"Mr. President, America's corn farmers helped elect you," Wesley Spurlock of the National Corn Growers Association warned in a statement. "Withdrawing from NAFTA would be disastrous for American agriculture."

Within hours, Trump softened his stance. He wouldn't actually dump NAFTA, he said. He'd first try to forge a more advantageous deal with Mexico and Canada — a move that formally began Thursday when his top trade negotiator, Robert Lighthizer, informed Congress of the administration's intent to renegotiate NAFTA.

As a candidate, Trump defined his "America First" stance as a means to fight unfair foreign competition. He blamed unjust deals for swelling U.S. trade gaps and steal-

ing factory jobs.

But NAFTA and other deals have been good for American farmers, who stand to lose if Trump ditches the pact or ignites a trade war. The United States has enjoyed a trade surplus in farm products since at least 1967, government data show. Last year, farm exports exceeded imports by \$20.5 billion.

"You don't start off trade negotiations ... by picking fights with your trade partners that are completely unnecessary," says Aaron Lehman, a fifth-generation Iowa farmer who produces corn, soybeans, oats and hay.

Many farmers worry that Trump's policies will jeopardize their exports just as they face weaker crop and livestock prices.

"It comes up pretty quickly in conversation," says Blake Hurst, a corn and soybean farmer in northwestern Missouri's Atchison County.

That county's voters backed Trump more than 3-to-1 in the election but now feel "it would be better if the rhetoric (on trade) was a little less strident," says Hurst, president of the Missouri Farm Bureau.

Trump's main argument against NAFTA and other pacts was that they exposed American workers to unequal competition with low-wage workers in countries like Mexico and China.

NAFTA did lead some American manufacturers to move factories and jobs to Mexico. But since it took effect in 1994 and eased tariffs, annual farm exports to Mexico have jumped nearly five-fold to about \$18 billion. Mexico is the No. 3 market for U.S. agriculture, notably corn, soybeans and pork.

"The trade agreements that we've had have been very beneficial," says Stephen Censky, CEO of the American Soybean Association. "We need to take care not to blow the significant gains that agriculture

has won."

The U.S. has run a surplus in farm trade with Mexico for 20 of the 23 years since NAFTA took effect. Still, the surpluses with Mexico became deficits in 2015 and 2016 as global livestock and grain prices plummeted and shrank the value of American exports, notes Joseph Glauber of the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Mexico has begun to seek alternatives to U.S. food because, as its agriculture secretary, Jose Calzada Rovirosa, said in March, Trump's remarks on trade "have injected uncertainty" into the agriculture business.

Once word had surfaced that Trump was considering pulling out of NAFTA, Sonny Perdue, two days into his job as the president's agriculture secretary, hastened to the White House with a map showing areas that would be hurt most by a pullout, overlapped with many that

voted for Trump.

"I tried to demonstrate to him that in the agricultural market, sometimes words like 'withdraw' or 'terminate' can have a major impact on markets," Perdue said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I think the president made a very wise decision for the benefit of many agricultural producers across the country" by choosing to remain in NAFTA.

Trump delivered another disappointment for U.S. farm groups in January by fulfilling a pledge to abandon the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which the Obama administration negotiated with 11 Asia-Pacific countries. Trump argued that the pact would cost Americans jobs by pitting them against low-wage Asian labor.

But the deal would have given U.S. farmers broader access to Japan's notoriously impregnable market and easier entry into fast-

growing Vietnam. Philip Seng of the U.S. Meat Export Federation notes that the U.S. withdrawal from TPP left Australia with a competitive advantage because it had already negotiated lower tariffs in Japan.

Trump has also threatened to impose tariffs on Chinese and Mexican imports, thereby raising fears that those trading partners would retaliate with their own sanctions.

Farmers know they're frequently the first casualties of trade wars. Many recall a 2009 trade rift in which China responded to U.S. tire tariffs by imposing tariffs on U.S. chicken parts. And Mexico slapped tariffs on U.S. goods ranging from ham to onions to Christmas trees in 2009 to protest a ban on Mexican trucks crossing the border.

The White House declined to comment on farmers' fears that Trump's trade policy stands to hurt them. But officials say they've

sought to ease concerns, by, for example, having Agriculture Secretary Perdue announce a new undersecretary to oversee trade and foreign agricultural affairs.

Many farmers are still hopeful about the Trump administration. Some, for example, applaud his plans to slash environmental rules that they say inflate the cost of running a farm. Some also hold out hope that the author of "The Art of the Deal" will negotiate ways to improve NAFTA.

One such way might involve Canada. NAFTA let Canada shield its dairy farmers from foreign competition behind tariffs and regulations but left at least one exception — an American ultra-filtered milk used in cheese. When Canadian farmers complained about the cheaper imports, Canada changed its policy and effectively priced ultra-filtered American milk out of the market.

Hoosiers . . . continued from page 1

courts, but these knocks eventually opened a lot of doors.

Still, the team did not impress anyone. They even finished second in the (Lea) county tournament. They were not considered a worthy contender to make it through the next round, the District tournament. To the surprise of many, the Wildcats won the District title. They were considered non-contenders for the state title. After all, several big school teams were in the tournament, including St. Michaels of Santa Fe, Clovis (home of the famous Clovis Man), Roswell (home of the famous Roswell Man), and Las Vegas (that is, Las Vegas, New Mexico).

A Scoring Blitzkrieg

The state championship tournament was held at the Carlisle Gymnasium in Albuquerque on the University of New Mexico (UNM) campus.

It made no difference if the Lovington Wildcats were touted as small-town and bush-league. They left four stunned opponents in their wake. When reading the scores below, keep in mind five facts of those days that do not hold today:

(a) Offensive players could not shovel (palm the ball). If this rule had been in effect during the Michael Jordan years, Mr. Jordan would not even be in the top ten scoring leaders. (He is number three. The most remarkable player in basketball history is Oscar Robertson. He played in the non-ball palming era. He is currently ranked number ten in the all-time scorers' list.)

(b) A player going for a shot could not take the permitted two steps, pause momentarily, then shoot. It had to be a continuous motion. (My younger friends who play basketball disagree with this contention. I simply ask them to look at old film.)

(c) Players paid more attention

to defense.

(d) There were no three-point plays.

(e) There were no one-and-one free throw options.

Here are the scores of the games Lovington played in the state finals:

Lovington 57 Aztec 28
29-point victory
Lovington 58 Forest 28
30-point victory
Lovington 60 Las Vegas 40
20-point victory
Lovington 47 Tucumcari 39
8-point victory

This small town team was the highest scoring team in the 29-year-old state championship history. The Albuquerque Tribune wrote, "...determination and hard work paid off with the richest bauble in the prep campaign this year. The Lovington team never gave up."

Consider the score differences of the four games. Only the Tucumcari Rattlers came remotely close to making it a contest.

The box scores for Lovington's final and semifinal games are shown on the front page. The Wildcats' Jerry Dean was the high scorer for the tournament.

Take a look at the box score for Tucumcari's Babers. He scored six field goals and one free throw. (He later became an All-American quarterback for Tulsa University). During the first half, Ross Black had been assigned to guard Babers, who had already scored four baskets and one free throw. During the half time, Coach Tasker did not spend much time in the locker room. When he came in, he informed his players the game might be lost if Babers could not be contained. The very player who had not contained him in the first half piped up and bet the coach a milk shake he could do the job. The bet was on.

In the second half, Babers scored two buckets. According to the Lovington Leader: "Also this week Ross Black is being treated to a daily milk shake by Coach Ralph Tasker. Ross won his shakes from Tasker by bringing a high-point man under control in the

championship game."

The newspaper article on this page of this report sums it up well: These New Mexico Hoosiers, underrated and unappreciated, made believers of all past skeptics. Just look at those score differences in the final four games.

The New Mexico "Hoosiers" did not gain enough attention as the Indiana team to have a movie made of their exploits, nor an improbable drunkard as a substitute coach. But their accomplishment equaled that of the famous Indiana Hoosiers.

Arrested . . . continued from page 1

Gutierrez appeared to be having suspicious conversations.

Based on that information, Agents with the LCDTF conducted numerous interviews with several suspects identified through phone calls made and recorded at the jail.

By the end of the investigation it was determined that the Jonathan Soto had approached Aaron Gutierrez to bring in the balloon from the courthouse and that Gutierrez would receive payment for bringing in the balloon. The information also showed that Crystal Sivils and Oscar Henderson took the balloon to the courthouse. Oscar Henderson was identified as who actually placed the balloon in the urinal. The investigation also showed that Crystal Sivils obtained the balloon from Kristen McLaurin.

Through phone calls it was determined that Anthony Quiroz had contacted Crystal Sivils by utilizing Jonathan Soto's Pin Code. In those calls, Anthony Quiroz gave Kristin McLaurin information and instructions on what to do with the balloon.

Warrants were issued for Anthony Quiroz, Crystal Sivils, Oscar Henderson, Jonathan Soto, Aaron Gutierrez and Kristen McLaurin. The warrants were for the charge of Conspiracy to Furnish articles for escape, a third degree felony which carries a punishment of up to three years imprisonment and Conspiracy to bring contraband into jail, a fourth degree felony which carries a punishment of up to 18 months.

All subjects have been arrested in this investigation and the case is ongoing. The investigation was a joint investigation with Lovington Police Department, Lea County Sheriff's Office and the Lea County Drug Task Force.

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THE LOVINGTON LEADER
AGNES KASTNER HEAD, Publisher
March 13, 1949
Established in 1909, 37 years old. Official Publication U. S. Land Office. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Lovington, New Mexico.
LEA COUNTY PUBLISHING COMPANY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 Year within Lea County	\$2.00
6 Months within Lea County	\$1.25
1 Year, outside Lea County	\$2.50
3 Months	.75

ACCOMPLISHMENT

The victory of the Lovington Wildcats in the state tournament represents the fruit of a very great achievement. As much as we regret the fact that they had to work under a handicap, we realize that the handicapped usually overcome their handicap and achieve the top of the ladder. Therefore we congratulate Coach Tasker and his entire squad for their achievement that is greater than usual.

Lovington has had to work out under adverse conditions all year. They have not only had inadequate practice space but they have been deprived of the usual home games. This has been a disappointment to both the community and the team.

It is customary that any ball team wins more games on a home court than it does on road trips. For this reason Lovington went into the state tournament unheralded. Their 19 wins and 7 losses didn't stand up very well against such records as St. Michael's 24 wins and one loss. Dopsters overlooked the fact that Lovington's season had been a road season. Few teams could have won as many games if they had to do it on foreign courts.

Maybe the fact that Lovington wasn't a favorite and wasn't considered anything more than a darkhorse helped, but the action of the state sports writers is regrettable. Lovington went into the semi-finals with the highest scoring in ten years and no one seemed to notice them. Coach Tasker said the teams looked stunned after each defeat. No one seemed to feel Lovington could do it, even after they had already done it.

Certainly none of the newspapers over the state seemed to begrudge Lovington the victory. All of them now realize that Lovington was far and above the best team in tournament, but sports writers, including this one, should be a little less record conscious. This past tournament saw the teams with the better record fall when they met a team with a poorer record but a tougher schedule.

Lovington can be proud of its record. Maybe next year, when conditions for training are better, Lovington will also have the record to go with their team. We consider it fortunate that Lovington didn't lose more games, considering odds were against them. After surmounting those odds though, it is no wonder they sailed through the state tournament so freely.

NMJC Foundation GOLF TOURNAMENT
June 10 & 11

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