

Local

■ **The newest resource** for small-business owners to efficiently use technology is being provided by the SBA to help grow businesses. **2B**

■ **Maj. Nidal Hasan** did not rebut prosecutors' case against him in the Fort Hood shooting rampage, saying "illegal war" provoked it. **2B**

Crime beat



Tavares Byrd is in the Wichita County Jail on a \$2 million bail.

Second shooting suspect charged

The second of three suspects in the July 24 shooting at the Catalina Motel is in the Wichita County Jail on a \$2 million bail.

Tavares Daquan Byrd, 19, address listed in the 1400 block of Harding, was arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated robbery for his suspected role in the shooting.

According to the affidavits:

At 9:17 p.m. July 24, Wichita Falls police went to the Catalina Motel on reports of shots fired.

Officers found one victim bleeding outside his motel room from a single gunshot wound to his torso. The man was taken to the hospital for a life-threatening injury.

Police also found an uninjured, female victim at the scene.

She identified herself as the wounded man's girlfriend and said three men armed with semi-automatic handguns forced their way into the room and demanded money.

After taking their money, the men fled in a silver or gold sedan. All three robbers were armed, according to victims' statements in the affidavit.

The victim who was shot said the suspects threatened the couple, so he tried to defend his girlfriend.

A Crime Stoppers tip identified Tavares Byrd, Carlos Byrd, 38, and another person by name as two of the three suspects in the robbery.

Tavares and Carlos Byrd were identified through photo lineups.

The third suspect is still being sought by Wichita Falls police.



Cash McBride

Cellphone dispute lands men in jail

Two men were jailed after a fight over a cellphone, police said.

The incident occurred Tuesday at a home in the 400 block of Calhoun Street.

According to probable cause affidavits:

The trouble started when Jeffrey Cash, 50, asked Michael McBride, 40, if he could borrow

See **CRIME, 2B**

MSU meetings to go live online

■ **City, county early adopters of transparency**

By **Ann Work**
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If you've ever wanted to visit a Midwestern State University Board of Regents meeting incognito, you'll get your chance.

The university will begin streaming its quarterly

meetings in November. The public will be able to view the broadcasts live on the MSU website at www.mwsu.edu.

The move toward more transparency of the leadership meetings is a mandate from the 83rd Texas Legislative session.

"We see it as a very good thing," Julie Gaynor, MSU public information officer, said Wednesday. "It will allow others to see what goes on in a board meeting."

The University of Texas

and Texas A&M University systems already broadcast their meetings.

In Wichita Falls, both the City Council and Wichita County Commissioners stream their meetings live and have done so since 2012.

The Wichita Falls Independent School District does not stream its meetings and has no plans to do so, according to Renae Murphy, public information officer.

Typically, MSU Board of Regents meetings have

few, if any, visitors from the community, even though all meetings are open to the public.

But the Hardin Administration boardroom usually is crowded with chairs set up around the periphery of the room for invited speakers and MSU faculty and staff members who attend the meetings to provide information.

MSU administrators are investigating the type of equipment needed for the broadcasts, Gaynor said.

The plan is for community members to be able to log on to the MSU website, click on a link there, and be connected directly to live streaming of the committee meetings that usually convene at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, and then connect with the official board meeting. Regents meet at 9 a.m. Friday.

The two-day meetings convene in early February, May, August and November.

See **REGENTS, 2B**

WICHITA FALLS HOSPITALITY



PHOTOS BY TORIN HALSEY/TIMES RECORD NEWS

Construction continues on a new La Quinta Inn and Suites at 2511 Montgomery Place on Wednesday morning. The 80-room facility is scheduled to open in March 2014.

DIGS to DIG

■ **New hotel will add 80 rooms to local space**

By **Lee Anderson**
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Apollo Hospitality Firm of Ardmore, Okla., is adding a new La Quinta Inn and Suites in Wichita Falls.

Chief Financial Officer Mitesh Patel said that construction of the 80-room hotel at 2511 Montgomery Place began in early May and that it is expected to be up and running March 1.

"It is a great location due to the fact that it is by other great business-

es, hotels, and restaurants. It should thrive real well with the other hotels and businesses," Patel said.

He said the hotel will offer 17 suites and 17 kitchenettes in addition to the regular rooms, along with an indoor pool, a hot tub, a fitness room, a guest laundry, a meeting room and a business center. It also will have a full, hot breakfast menu and free high-speed Internet service.

Patel said the hotel will have about 20 full- and



An 80-room La Quinta Inn and Suites will open next spring at 2511 Montgomery Place, off Maplewood and next door to Parr's Furniture Galleries.

part-time employees.

The multimillion-dollar company has five other hotels: a Holiday Inn Express in Duncan, Okla., two La Quinta Inn and Suites in Ardmore, a Candlewood Suites in Ardmore,

and a La Quinta Inn in Bartlesville.

According to its website (www.apollohospitality.net), Vasant Patel, president and CEO, owns and operates a number of hotels around the Southern U.S.

Society invents Top of Texas

■ **Art, antiques at core of three days in October**

By **Sharon Galligar Chance**
Special to the Times Record News

The Wichita County Heritage Society is unveiling a new arts event it hopes will become its next fundraising masterpiece.

The Top of Texas Arts, Antiques and More Show will run Oct. 25-27 at Coyote Ranch Resort.

The three-day event will bring in artists, antique dealers and speakers from Dallas, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City and other communities.

Top of Texas is being modeled on a similar event in Round Top.

"We have discussed for several years having an event of this type," said Delores Culley, executive director of the Wichita County Heritage Society. "We have the annual home tour as a fundraiser, but we were looking for something on a larger scale — something new and different, and we came up with the idea of having the arts and antiques show."

The group also took into consideration the timing of other major events in the area when organizers began drawing up details for this show.

"We wanted to schedule this event for a time when we could get the top vendors and artists to attend, and October seemed to be such the right one," Culley said. "The date we have set up is between the show in Round Top and the Affair of the Heart show in Oklahoma City, as well as local events in the area, so it helps us to bring in the

See **ANTIQUES, 2B**

Stabbed man, 51, found in burning house

■ **Suspect, 39, is accused of assault**

Times Record News

A Wichita Falls man was stabbed early Wednesday in a house

where a fire also broke out.

The incident happened shortly after 5 a.m., when Wichita Falls police officers were sent to a house in the rear of a home in the 1600 block of Monroe. When officers arrived, the house had flames coming from it.

According to a police



Ramos was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault and was in jail Wednesday.

news release, the victim, Leeroy Longshore, 51, had been stabbed one time in the area of the

back. He was taken to United Regional Health Care, where his wound was not considered life-threatening.

A fire in the house at the time definitely was arson, according to Assistant Fire Marshal Antoinette Hastings. Though she didn't discuss details, she said the

house sustained about \$50,000 in damage. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries, and the blaze was extinguished shortly before 6 a.m.

Police arrested John Henry Ramos, 39. He is charged with aggravated assault and was in the Wichita County Jail on Wednesday.

IF YOU GO:

What: Top of Texas Arts, Antiques and More
When: Oct. 25-27
Where: Coyote Ranch Resort, 14145 U.S. Hwy 287 North
For vendor booth space or other information: 723-0623 or www.topoftexasantiques.com

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