



Lady Cub Mallorie Ellis leapt in the air Saturday morning to serve the ball in a game against the Lubbock Estacado Lady Matadors in Cub Gym. The Brownfield squad defeated the visiting Lady Mats in five hard fought games.

Young artist credits family support for creativity



Jaxson Rodgers

Five-year-old Jaxson Rodgers is already an accomplished artist.

Seven of Jaxson's paintings are currently on display at Blessed by the Best Gift Shoppe, 405 Lubbock Rd., and more are a prominent feature throughout his family's Meadow residence.

"I also have some of my paintings at home," he said. "We hang them up on the wall."

Most of Jaxson's paintings are abstract designs with acrylic on canvas. He usually uses brushes, but has been known to fingerprint.

"It's having fun," he said.

His artistic career dates back to when he was just 18 months and his mother, Karen, encouraged him to experiment with paints and brushes.

"I would sit him down in front of a canvas on a sheet with his paintbrushes and pallet," she said. "I would paint the background color and he would pick out all the other colors he wanted to use. I gave him autonomy to follow his creativity."

Jaxson wants to be a firefighter when he grows up, and also enjoys playing video games.

Southwest needs power lines to become solar hub

(AP) — Pick any stretch of road slicing through the American Southwest. The sun beats down on the asphalt like nowhere else and heat waves distort the landscape.

It's here, in these open expanses, that experts say is a massive untapped source of energy that could meet the nation's growing needs. But only if developers can get it out of the desert.

Even as renewable power projects get a boost from the federal government, a lack of transmission lines prevent places such as New Mexico and West Texas — where the sun shines more than 300 days a year — from converting the obvious potential into real watts that can charge smart phones and run air conditioners thousands of miles away.

Aside from Phoenix, the nation's sixth largest city, and Las Vegas, which glows around the clock, the region's rural stretches — the ideal places for acres of solar panels — have few energy demands. And sending solar power from there to population centers isn't as simple as loading coal into boxcars and shipping it cross country.

"We have incredible renewable energy resources," U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said during a visit earlier this year to a solar research lab in New Mexico. "The bad news is they're where there are not many people. We need a distribution system that can accommodate that."

Transmission lines are key to developing the region's solar resources. The problem is existing lines are maxing out, especially as the push intensifies to bring online more renewable energy. Building new lines can take years or even decades of cutting through a tangle of bureaucracy.

Spanning some 200,000 miles, much of the nation's existing transmission system is aging and will need replacement before 2030, according to preliminary findings of a new Department of Energy study on transmission congestion.

President Barack Obama reminded the nation during the Democratic National Convention that renewable power sources will play a key role in his "all of the above" energy plan. And nearly 5 gigawatts of solar and wind projects — enough juice to run about 3 million homes — were fast-tracked this summer by the federal government.



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