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Black & Red

Friday, July 25, 2008
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AIR RAID!

Handful of migratory birds swoop in
on Red Raiders to protect offspring
... but pose minimal threat

See page 2

Some feathered guests at Tech cautious of wayward pedestrians

BY MATT MCGOWAN
MANAGING EDITOR

Now here's a feather to keep out of your cap.

Those who walk across the grassy field near the Merket Alumni Center on a regular basis know the drill: Duck, because that bird means business when it comes to his kin.

A handful of the migratory species of birds known as Mississippi Kites have made a home on campus. The species is known for, among other things, its dive-bombing behavior when a potential predator comes to close to a nest, but experts insist they are mostly harmless and merely looking out for the safety of their just-hatched offspring.

About 15 Mississippi Kites in about six nests call Texas Tech home this summer, but only two regularly are aggressive toward pedestrians, said Clint Boal, an assistant professor at Tech's Department of Natural Resources Management who has been studying Tech's Mississippi Kite population for several years.

"I've had them take my hat off before," he said. "(Swooping) is an effective technique, because they'll

harass things and they'll swoop at them, and (the threat) will leave the area. We're just another thing they'll swoop at, and, typically, it works."

No injuries or major incidents related to the species have been reported to Tech police, said Gordon Hoffman, deputy chief of the Texas Tech Police Department.

Signs have been put up near the open area in the southeast corner of campus to warn pedestrians about the birds. The signs ask people to stick to existing paths to avoid a confrontation with the potentially belligerent parents.

"Some pairs are more protective than others," said Danny Swepston, panhandle district supervisor at Texas Parks and Wildlife. "They are dive-bombers, but it's a temporary thing. Once the young birds leave the nest, they kind of group up in family groups and — they actually migrate clear into Central America."

Most Kites at Tech, however, go unnoticed every day, Boal said. Ivan and Ivonna — as in, "Ivan the Terrible": the names some of Boal's assistants gave to the commonly aggressive pair near the Merket

Alumni Center — may be more aggressive than the others for any number of reasons.

Ivan and Ivonna's older age may cause the pair to be more fervent about successfully reproducing and protecting their young, he said. Also, they may have lost one of their offspring at the hands of humans in the past, which makes them all-the-more wary.

Frequently, people mistake the species' normal behavior as aggression, Boal said. The Mississippi Kites often swoop low to clear a tree's canopy as they land at their nest, and nearby pedestrians may mistake this as an attack.

"It's part of information and interpretation and the ability to understand what the birds are doing," he said. "Not all acts that are perceived as aggression are really aggression. That does not mean that aggression does not happen, obviously, because it does happen."

Avoiding aggressive Kites usually remedies their wariness, Boal said. If pedestrians know the location of a nest, avoiding it almost certainly will satisfy both the birds and the human — everybody wins.

"Basically, the Kites, when they get here, they've picked where they're going to nest," he said. "When they're selecting a site, they know where the roads are. They recognize, I believe, the normal flow of

foot traffic. It's when people deviate from that that they may get agitated, especially when that deviation goes right underneath their nest."

Many people overestimate the size of Mississippi Kites, Boal said, comparing a preserved Kite sample to his travel coffee mug and pointing out that the bird could fit in the mug. A bird of this size, no matter how aggressive, rarely causes significant injury. The biggest threat is infection from the dirty talons.

"Occasionally, for whatever reason, one might make a pass," he said. "Occasionally, they may hit you. They are a raptor. They have a raptor speed. If they rake your head, they may leave a little scratch."

Some people intentionally antagonize the nesting Kites because they find it fun to be swooped upon, Boal said. He said he's seen students go into nearby bars, where they will get "three sheets to the wind" before coming across the street to get a rush out of harassing the birds.

Not only does this force the birds to waste energy — energy that could be better spent foraging for food — but he said it also makes the Kites more prone to swoop at an innocent passer-by, who normally might go unnoticed had the Kite not been agitated.

Boal said he heard unconfirmed rumors that as many as three Kites have been killed by on-campus pedestrians with tennis rackets. Other common incidents involving the species often occur on golf courses.

Federal and state law protect the Mississippi Kite as a migratory bird. Though the species is not endangered or rare, it is illegal to kill, relocate, disrupt or capture a Mississippi Kite, which is a forest bird that has found a summer home in — at the hands of human develop-

ment — an increasingly vegetated South Plains.

Boal encouraged pedestrians to be mindful of where they are walking when they are in the southeast corner of campus. If a serious incident occurs, he said it immediately should be reported to university officials so more signs can be put up. In the past, signs almost always remedy the problem. Rarely is official relocation warranted.

The species usually arrives in West Texas in early May, Boal said, where it mates and hatches its young. Most of the Mississippi Kite population returns to Ecuador by the end of August.

"Here we have this little falcon-like raptor nested in fairly high numbers in the city," he said. "People could really take the time to enjoy them, because they're something else to watch."

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RUNDOWN

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THE FRONT PAGE! Photo by Ruben Castillo. Mississippi Kites stake their claim on Texas Tech's campus.

Tech hospitality director appointed president-elect of national organization

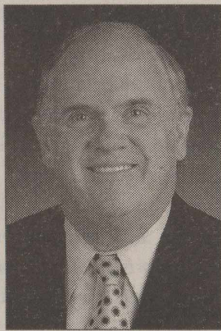
BY ANGELA FARMER
STAFF WRITER

The director of Texas Tech's Department of Hospitality Services was appointed a position on the executive committee of a national organization in his field.

Sam Bennett was appointed to be president-elect of the National Association of College and University Food Services as a part of the association's 50th anniversary celebration in Washington D.C. Bennett was elected July 18 at the General Membership Assembly.

While Bennett serves on the committee, he will continue to serve as the director of Tech's Department of Hospitality Services.

NACUFS consists of more than 625 professionals from universities across the nation who are involved with food services, Bennett said. Its regions also extend to Canada and Mexico.



Courtesy of Alan Cushman
Sam Bennett

"It is an organization with exchange of ideas and a wealth of information," he said. Bennett has been an active member of NACUFS for more than 20 years and is the second administrator from Tech to serve on the association's executive committee. He will serve a three-year, rotating term on the board as the president-elect during the first year, president in the second year and past president in the third year. Past presidents within the organization continue actively serving through advocacy and travel.

Bennett said the president-elect

position is a learning process and involves preparation to take on the position of the president.

Alan Cushman, administrator in merchandising and business development for the Department of Hospitality, said the president-elect position not only benefits Bennett, but also the department and the university.

"It's going to help us better show what we do for the university," he said. "It is going to create more work for everybody, but I think it's an amount of work that everyone welcomes and looks forward to chipping in and helping."

Before being elected, nominees usually are a NACUFS member in good standing, said Kirk Rodriguez, unit associate director of retail at Tech's Department of Hospitality Services. It also benefits nominees to have leadership work within the association and general knowledge and experience in food services.

In the past, Bennett served as the chair of association's Finance and Education Committee and as its regional president.

Rodriguez said Bennett already is instrumental to and involved with both the NACUFS and university food services.

As president, Rodriguez said, Bennett will be the voice and spokesman of NACUFS and will visit other universities nationwide.

"He'll get to see and experience a number of colleges and universities across the country," he said. "There's no better way, we think, to kind of gauge how you're doing and see what everybody else is doing — and how you improve by seeing what some of our competitions are doing."

Bennett will not be traveling during the first six months of his

three-year term. However, for 18 consecutive months after that Bennett said he will be traveling across the nation and outside the country to Mexico City.

"I'm very excited," he said. "I've wanted it for a long time. It's going to be a very rewarding experience."

Although extensive traveling comes with his duties for the association, Bennett said he plans to fulfill his responsibilities to Tech.

At Tech, Rodriguez said, the Department of Hospitality Services will continue to build on and improve the program, and the staff is prepared to take on more responsibility during Bennett's absence.

"I look forward to the challenges and balancing Texas Tech and NACUFS," Bennett said.

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Tech study: Women more likely than men to regret their tattoos

BY MATT COBB
STAFF WRITER

That tattoo of Snoopy does not seem so appealing anymore.

A group of Texas Tech researchers conducted a study about tattoo removal and found more than twice as many women than men decided to get their ink removed in 2006.

The study was a follow-up to a similar study on tattoos taken in 1996, said Myrna Armstrong, one of the study's researchers at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center.

According to the report, social support for women who have tattoos is stronger than it is for men.

The researchers surveyed 196 tattooed patients at four clinics in Arizona, Colorado, Massachusetts and Texas, according to the study, which was led by Armstrong.

The study found that women who have tattoos face more risks than men who are inked. Armstrong said one reason for this is that society is not as welcoming to tattoos on women.

Women who have tattoos are often subjected to more negative attitudes than men, she said. These negative attitudes and the location of their tattoos

both are reasons why more women are getting them removed.

"First of all, today (women) are wearing more of their tattoos on more visible locations," Armstrong said. "But, there still is a societal backlash to being able to see them."

According to the study, some of the reasons people initially got tattoos were because they said it "helped me feel unique," "helped me feel independent," or "made life experiences stand out for me."

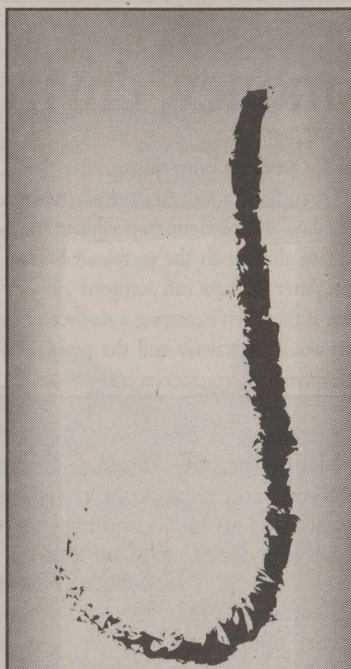
Even though the number of women who are seeking tattoo removal has risen, according to the study, the majority of people who have tattoos are happy with their markings.

Of the study's 196 participants, 83 percent said they are pleased with their ink.

Allison Jarrott, a junior food and nutrition major at Tech, said women with tattoos face unfair stereotypes usually not associated with men. A woman who has a tattoo is often judged more critically than a man who has one.

"People look down on a woman who has, like, a tattoo sleeve on their

Tattoos continued on page 5



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College students falling deeper into alarming debt, need university help

STAFF EDITORIAL
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
(U. CENTRAL FLORIDA)

Every year, a new set of students sets foot on campuses around the country, ready to embark on their college careers. They look forward to learning, socializing and simply enjoying life as best they can before they are cast out into the real world. What most students probably don't look forward to is the perils of financial responsibility.

Qvisory, a nonprofit online advocacy and service organization for young adults, released a study this week that details just how much of a toll the current economic situation is taking on 18- to 34-year-olds. The report, titled *Young People: Living on the Edge*, cites a survey which brings forward the most important concerns on the minds of young Americans — the economy being paramount this year.

The study illustrates some deeply

disturbing facts about the young adult age bracket. Three out of four young people report having gone deeper in debt over the past year. One in five reported having had their phone, cable or utilities cut off, and one in seven have faced repossession or had their credit card cancelled due to non-payment. One in three young people who owe money on a credit card owe more than \$10,000 overall.

Yet perhaps the most disturbing fact: Qvisory states that more than half of all young people have gone without health insurance at some point in the past five years — including 75 percent of those who currently have medical debts.

"Young adults are the most likely age group to be uninsured, with nearly 20 million individuals between the ages of 18 and 34 falling into this category," said Ron Williams, chairman and CEO of Aetna (one of the country's largest health insurance companies) in a press release.

College is just not the same as it was in much of the 20th century. The costs involved with a college education have risen exponentially faster than the overall inflation rate, causing many students to be financially strapped throughout their college career or forcing them to take out costly loans. Rising costs are due in part to increased demand for college educated workers, corporate greed on behalf of companies that see college students as a giant ATM and fiscal irresponsibility by the government.

Universities used to be run by educators, not by business people. Most legitimate schools, UCF included, are nonprofit, yet every decision usually comes down to the bottom line rather than the good of the students or faculty. One UCF professor recently said that they put in a request to their school's dean for a new instructor to be hired in their department. This was to ease the increased workload that had resulted from faculty turnover

and student demand, which had created larger classes. The dean replied to the professor's request by stating that they should submit a business proposal with a cost-versus-benefit analysis that would justify the hiring of a new instructor.

Apparently in the 21st century, professors are not only expected to be educators but financial analysts as well.

This isn't what colleges were meant to be. They weren't meant to be for-profit companies driven by numbers. Education used to be a top priority, but it doesn't appear that way anymore. Administrators scrimp and save every penny possible and then have the audacity to create questionable business partnerships that affect students' lives. Case in point: the "preferred lender lists" that were discovered in 2007, alleging that schools around the country, including UCF, were directing students to certain loan providers and were receiving financial kickbacks

in return.

The economy is obviously difficult for everyone presently, but it is hitting especially hard on college campuses where students are being charged an arm and a leg for nearly everything involved with their education. Ideally, students would be able to acquire a college education with little to no out of pocket expense. Yet, because of increased costs, many students have had to take on jobs outside of school and, as Qvisory reports, the number of parents loaning their children money has doubled over the last year.

In reality, it all comes down to responsibility. In business, it is the responsibility of a company's board of directors' to look out for the best interest of the shareholders. Therefore, it is the responsibility of administrators to look out for the best interest of the shareholders in a university — the students — because, without students, there would be no university.

Return to days of yore: Save gas money, environment with horse and buggy

BY JOSHUA GREEN
THE PITT NEWS (U. PITTSBURGH)

I'm worried, people. Gas is at \$4 a gallon. Our government is acting like Daniel Day-Lewis when it comes to oil. We need a solution, and we need it quickly. We're the United States, for crying out loud! How dare we pay the same price for oil that other countries have been paying for years?

When will some brave, courageous and uncomfortably attractive individual come along with the answer?

That time is now.

I, an uncomfortably attractive individual, have discovered the ultimate solution for several problems in American culture, including the gas prices. The saying goes, "less is more." I agree with this in all situations, except for when counting present biddies. However, in this situation, my idea is appropriate.

Horses.

Yes. If every American traded in his car

for a horse, we would see a drastic decrease in our oil addiction as well as our societal deficiencies. Think about it.

The very act of "riding" a horse rids us of the act of "driving" a car. This relieves us of our pain at the pump. You can't put a gas nozzle in a horse. Not with good results, anyway.

The more horses that are being used as transportation, the fewer that are making their way to the glue factory. Environmentally friendly people can rest easy knowing that they are saving a horse's life by turning it into a slave. They will also be happy to note that horses will not require any drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Caribou can rest easy ... for now.

Plus, people love the idea of living like a cowboy. When everyone begins riding horses, this idea will become a reality. Instead of parking the car outside or chaining up a bike, people will walk their steed to the stable and tie him up before entering a saloon.

People will naturally have more respect for their mode of transportation, knowing

that it is actually a living thing.

Going further with America's "cowboy mentality," increased gun ownership would increase along with the increased horse sales. After all, how can someone ride a horse if they aren't carrying a six-shooter? This would effectively end the problem with varying interpretations of the Second

Amendment. People who fear an increase in gun violence can live comfortably knowing that it takes longer to load and reload a six-shooter than an automatic.

Everyone who fears the abandonment of the Constitution and its principles will be happy to hear that cowboys will always be able to shoot robbers to death and receive

no punishment. The only difference is that they will do it on horseback.

What about horse excrement? I have already thought about this. The United States will simply hire people to clean up horse feces. This creates jobs and stabilizes the economy. Horse-poo shovelers will have a job that cannot be outsourced.

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Tech students' cars receive free pre-fall tune-up at on-campus car clinic

BY BRIDGET DE STEFANO
STAFF WRITER

It was a quick and painless checkup at the clinic — Texas Tech's annual car clinic, that is.

Students, faculty and local residents lined up for free fluids, parts and battery checks done by Scott's Complete Car Care on Wednesday at a parking lot on campus.

The car clinic, hosted by University Parking Services, is geared to provide students with free, professional services and advice, while educating them about regular preventative car maintenance.

Reuben Palacios, manager of the maintenance shop, said college students practically are on their own with maintenance responsibilities and should take advantage of free services offered to them.

Some common problems that on-site mechanics saw at the car clinic dealt with air filters, belts, wiper fluid, valve cover leaks and brakes.

The ones who did attend, Palacios said, needed mechanics to look at their car because they either were behind on maintenance checks or just want to start off right.

Mechanic Robert Hernandez with Scott's Complete Car Care said he was not surprised by people's expressions or reac-

tions when they told drivers about their problem.

"They were expecting something because they hadn't been keeping up with their maintenance," he said. "You should keep up with your maintenance so you won't have so many problems all in one shot."

Jonathan Sanchez, a senior industrial engineering major from Fort Worth, said he was told by Scott's mechanics that his truck may need some work because there is a transmission leak and a brake fluid leak.

The mechanics gave Sanchez a report he had already heard before, he said, which gives him a better understanding of the problem and what actions to take.

"This is a college town, so you never know when one garage may try to sway you one way," Sanchez said, "and I really don't know a lot of good, reliable mechanics here in Lubbock, so, as many opinions as I get, I can make an educated guess on where to go."

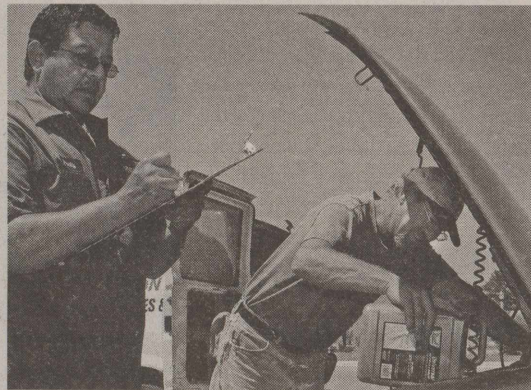


Photo by Coleman Morefield
Freddy Gomez and Howard Lowery, of Scott's Car Care, add fluids and check belts during Wednesday's car care.

Nearly half of the regular customers at Palacios' shop are Tech students, the manager said, and mechanics tend to see recurring problems with their cars, including underinflated tires, air filters and hoses.

Squeaky or growling breaks also are a common problem.

Over time, constantly making stops can cause brake rotors to become shiny and glazed or form heat cracks on the pads, which causes brakes to squeak or growl, Hernandez said. If this happens, drivers should have their rotors resurfaced and pads replaced.

Students also should get regular oil changes, Palacios said, and replace air filters

every other time they get an oil change or every 6,000 to 8,000 miles.

In Lubbock, dust and dirt collect in the air filters, he said, which affects the air that the driver and passengers breathe.

Although air contaminants also may collect in the engine, Palacios said, it does not affect the performance of the car and should be left alone.

Summer can bring a slew of new problems for vehicles, Palacios said, with overheating as the main culprit.

"Overheating kind of comes with the heat of the sun rays," he said. "Once that starts to stick, they just gotta keep an eye on their coolant levels and their gages."

Some of the issues are unpredictable, Palacios said. However, if students get their oil changed every 3,000 miles, then mechanics often will notify the driver of any problems and refill coolant fluids.

Rubber and other parts under the hood change during the summer as a result of the temperature, Palacios said, which also happens in the winter and may cause battery and fluid problems. Cameron Barber, a sophomore German and zoology major from Frisco, said he takes good care of his car — a 2002 Honda Accord — and has it regularly checked at a dealership in his hometown.

Barber said he was pleased with Scott's service, and now knows his car

needs a new air filter.

"If they do another free car clinic with Scott's, I will come by here again," Barber said, "especially if there's free stuff like a parking permit that I could maybe score."

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Tattoos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

arm," she said. "If a man has one, it's not as big of a deal."

Jarrott said she currently has five tattoos, but is planning on getting three of them removed. The reason she wants to get them removed is not because she dislikes them, but because, when she eventually has children, she wants to serve as a good example and does not want her tattoos to reflect poorly on her as a mother.

All of the tattoos she has are in places that can be easily concealed with clothing, Jarrott said. She said the locations of her tattoos are discrete, and should not hamper her after college when she goes to apply for a job.

"My friends who don't like tattoos have told me at least it's good that mine can be hidden," Jarrott said.

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Tech encourages Native American enrollment during summer program

BY MIA WALTERS
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech University became a little more diverse this week.

Tech hosted the Native American Summer Bridge Institute, which is a program that introduces incoming high school juniors that are of Native American heritage to life on a university campus.

The main goal of the institute is to aid Native American students in understanding they can attend college and graduate, said Jobi Martinez, director of the Cross Cultural Academic Advancement Center.

"We felt we weren't providing enough programs and resources and outreach activities for Native American students," she said,

"and we wanted to reach out to high school students to better prepare them for campus climate, college life, college academics and how to prepare for that so they can be successful at Tech or whatever institution they choose."

Martinez said there are 200 students of Native American heritage who attend Tech.

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 11.5 percent of Native Americans have at least a bachelor's degree, and 70.9 percent over age 25 have a high school diploma.

Twenty-one students, representing seven separate tribes, attended the institute that they referred to as their "journey." Four parents attended, as well.

About half of the students live on reservations, and the other half are affiliated with a tribe but do not live on a reservation, Martinez said. It is difficult for many of the students that live on the reservations to see past the reservation because their schools also are located on their reservations.

Some of the students faced more unique challenges than others, and Martinez said she learned much from the students. One of the most interesting comments a student made to her was that he was only accustomed to walking on dirt at his reservation and was not used to walking on so much cement.

"We love any opportunity for us to really learn where our kids are coming from, but it really is to introduce them to higher education opportunities — what a college campus looks like," Martinez said. "We want them to have that experience, to take that home, and hopefully that engages them and it sparks their interest so they can pursue college-going activities through junior and senior year."

As the administrative assistant for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Terrell Hill said he aided in getting the information about the program at Tech from NASBI to all of the parents with college-aged children in his tribe.

He said the amount of students who attended was not as great as he would have liked, but it was needed exposure for the students who did attend.

"This has been a great experience for them all the way around because a lot of Native American students don't really have the dreams or aspirations to go to college," Hill said, "so to actually be here is a chance for them to see what's out there — what's possible."

Hill said he attributes Native Americans not thinking about higher education to the "bunker mentality" of many Native Americans, in which they stay in a certain



Photo by Ken Muir

Vickie Sutton, a professor at the school of law and member of the Lumbee Tribe in North Carolina, speaks with high school juniors Janessa Shendo and Jessica Mendez on Wednesday evening.

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area for so long that it can be difficult to see beyond that.

"A lot of times we, as Native Americans, put the emphasis on right here, right now," he said. "It's really hard for us to see five years down the road. I think that's both a strength and weakness for our people at times. That may have to do with what has happened in the past: We are a people that have suffered a lot of hardships and, in the past, two years down the road may have not seemed possible."

The students participated in a number of activities during their five-day-long journey that got them involved in many different aspects of college life. They sat-in on classes covering multiple subjects, took campus and Lubbock tours, went to seminars about financial aid and how to pick their major and they stayed in residence halls at night.

Tech student counselor Gabriel Gonzales said that he thinks the students were inspired to go to college before the NASBI visit to Tech, but they did not think it was possible.

Gonzales said he was happy to be a

part of this experience because he learned as much about the students' culture as they did about his own. Because he is a young counselor, he said he strives to befriend the students.

"At first the kids didn't really know what they wanted to do or what was available for them," he said. "Now they realize there is a job and a major for everyone."

Myra M. Johnson is a mother of one of the students who attended Tech for the NASBI visit after traveling from Maryland. She said she discovered this opportunity for her son because of a letter she received through her family's tribe. She said she was extremely pleased when her son showed interest in attending.

After the second day of activities, she said her son told a counselor he now has hope for attending college.

"When we first came here, my son was thinking about doing construction management because that is what his dad does," Johnson said. "He is now seeing the possibility that he can do anything."

► mia.walters@ttu.edu

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Goodell steps in to monitor situation between Favre, Packers

MILWAUKEE (AP) — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is monitoring the ongoing rift between the Green Bay Packers and Brett Favre.

A person with direct knowledge of Goodell's interest said the commissioner has spoken with Packers management several times recently as tensions mounted between the three-time MVP and his team.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

ESPN.com first reported Goodell's interest in the Favre predicament, indicating that Goodell encouraged Packers general manager Ted Thompson to survey teams around the league to try to find a trade partner in hopes of resolving it quickly.

With the Packers committed to moving forward with Aaron Rodgers as their starter and Favre apparently still intent on reversing his decision to retire in March — although there have been no reports that Favre has formally petitioned Goodell for reinstatement — the best outcome for both parties could be a trade.

And Tampa Bay is emerging as perhaps the most likely destination for Favre, although it is unclear whether Favre would be willing to play for the Buccaneers.

NFL.com reported Tuesday that the Packers had spoken to several teams to gauge their interest in a trade for Favre. Tampa Bay officials have publicly downplayed interest in trading for Favre, but Buccaneers

quarterback Chris Simms told the St. Petersburg Times that Bucs general manager Bruce Allen asked him about Favre last week.

"He asked if I felt Brett would be able to come back and be good here if he didn't have a lot of reps in training camp," Simms said, according to the paper. "I said I thought he would but there would have to be some compromise with coach (Jon) Gruden. He'll just want the play called and to drop back and throw it in there. But it's something we talked about."

Gruden was a Packers assistant coach from 1992-94 and runs a version of the West Coast offense Favre would be familiar with.

The Packers play the Buccaneers Sept. 28 in Tampa.

Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher said he "can't imagine" seeing Favre anywhere other than Green Bay, but isn't surprised that he wants to play again.

"He loves football, and I think he kind of made the decision when the season was over," Urlacher said. "He was tired, he probably was worn down, like he said and he made a decision that he didn't want to stick with. But he's Brett Favre, he can do whatever he wants. I don't know what's going to happen, but I would like to see him playing somewhere next year."

But Urlacher said Chicago wasn't a likely destination for Favre.

"For us? I don't think that's a possibility," Urlacher said. "If they do trade him, I don't think it's going to

be in our division, No. 1. Maybe not even in our conference."

Favre made an appearance at Lambeau Field on Saturday to present former teammate Frank Winters for induction to the Packers' Hall of Fame, but declined to discuss his rift with the team. Favre accepted a team MVP award that night, calling himself "an old, gray-haired quarterback showing I can still do it."

Favre retired in early March, but recently has been having second thoughts about playing in 2008. But the latest, and most intense, episode in several off-seasons' worth of Favre's flip-flopping on his future in football was met with lukewarm enthusiasm by the Packers, who spent the offseason planning to move forward with Rodgers.

Person familiar with test: Hardy tests positive for banned substance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jessica Hardy's first trip to the Olympics could be over before it began. The swimmer tested positive for a banned substance, leaving her just two weeks to pursue any appeals before the Beijing Games.

Hardy's "A" sample from the recent U.S. Olympic trials tested positive, a person familiar with the test

results told The Associated Press on Wednesday night. The person, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly, said the banned substance was a stimulant but did not provide any other details.

In Beijing, Hardy was expected to be a medal threat in the 100-meter breaststroke, and to play an important part on the U.S. 400-meter free relay

team, and possibly the 400 medley relay.

USA Swimming spokeswoman Jamie Olson declined to comment from the team's training camp at Palo Alto, Calif., where Hardy left to return to her family's home in Southern California, the swimmer's agent said.

Agent Evan Morgenstein told the AP that during a brief phone conversation with Hardy, she told him, "I never did anything wrong. I never cheated."

Morgenstein said he was told that Hardy had two negative results sandwiched around a positive sample. He did not have further details.

"I'm very, very concerned about the confusion of her test," Morgen-

stein said. "She's the one person I would never believe would do anything — anything — to cheat. Ever."

Swimming World magazine's Web site first reported the positive doping test. The Web site nbcolympics.com reported Hardy's backup "B" sample also tested positive.

If she chooses, the 21-year-old swimmer can pursue appeals with the American Arbitration Association and the Court of Arbitration for Sport. With just two weeks to spare, Hardy could appeal directly to CAS, whose ruling would be final and binding.

Typically, a first-time doping offense results in a two-year ban.

Hardy earned spots on her first Olympic team in her best event, the 100 breast, and the 50 freestyle and 400 free relay.

"I don't think if you had told me a month ago that I would make it in all three of these events that I would

have believed you," she said at the trials. "I'm expecting good things for sure."

Mark Schubert, head coach and general manager of the U.S. team, and Dave Salo, Hardy's personal coach at Southern California, did not return phone messages left by the AP.

The U.S. squad departs Friday for a pre-Olympic training camp in Singapore.

Hardy's name was among the 596 athletes officially entered into the Beijing Games on Wednesday by the U.S. Olympic Committee. If Hardy appeals and loses, the U.S. could not add to its swimming roster because the deadline to do so was July 21.

That might leave 41-year-old Dara Torres in the 50 free and Megan Jendrick in the 100 breast as the sole American entrants in those events. It was not immediately clear if the U.S. could move a second swimmer already on the team into those events.

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