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See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Two Pampa schools increase TAKS rating level

By **KERRI SMITH**
Staff Writer

Two of Pampa schools went up one rating level from last year when the TAKS accountability ratings for 2006-2007 were released this week by the Texas Education Agency.

Pampa school board members were pleased to hear the news about the schools improving, especially one of the elementary schools.

Pampa High School, Pampa Learning Center, Pampa Junior High, Travis Elementary and Wilson Elementary were all given academically acceptable ratings. Austin

Elementary and Lamar Elementary were both rated as recognized, which is a step up from academically acceptable.

These are better ratings than last year when Lamar was academically acceptable and PHS was rated as academically unacceptable.

The rating system for TAKS scores has four categories, unacceptable, acceptable, recognized and exemplary. To receive an academically acceptable rating, 65 percent of tested students must pass the reading, writing and social studies portions of the test, while 45 percent of

those tested must pass the math portion and 40 percent have to pass the science part of the test.

To receive a recognized rating, 75 percent of all students tested must pass every subject on the TAKS test. When 90 percent of students pass every subject, the school receives an exemplary rating for that year.

"I'm very pleased with the ratings this year," school board member Lee Porter said. "It's great to see that the ratings are better than the previous year, but I'm especially pleased for Lamar Elementary because they are now recognized. That school has

made huge strides this past year. I feel the school and its outstanding administration and teachers should be recognized for these efforts."

School board members were all very pleased with the ratings, but agree that all Pampa schools should strive to be rated even higher this coming year.

Other Gray County schools also received their TAKS ratings. Lefors ISD, McLean ISD and Grandview-Hopkins ISD all received academically acceptable ratings for the 2006-2007 school year.

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Moon shining



Morning traffic at Kingsmill zooms by as the full moon sets behind the Wheeler Evans grain elevator earlier this week.

Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

School board OKs student conduct code

By **KERRI SMITH**
Staff Writer

Student code of conduct, an update on renovations at the high school and deciding whether or not to participate with other entities to fund the elections administrator position were the main topics of discussion at a special school board meeting held Thursday evening for Pampa Independent School District.

School board members approved the updated student code of conduct for the 2007-2008 school year. A preamble was added this year at the request of board member Lee Porter.

"I want students and parents to know what the board's expectations are of their behavior while they attend school in Pampa," Porter said. "We also want teachers and administrators to know that the board will support them when they have to refer a student for disciplinary action due to See **SCHOOL**, Page 3

Former Pampan has new book about area published

By **KERRI SMITH**
Staff Writer

Pampa can now claim another published author in Jill Chapman Fisher, who was born and raised in Pampa and graduated from Pampa High School in 1952.

Fisher has written "Carbon Cloud," a fictional account about the Great Depression and dust bowl in the small Texas Panhandle town of Parla.

Fisher said the book is basically what her life was like while growing up in Pampa during the 1930s.

"My mother died from dust pneumonia when I was 15 months old," Fisher said. "I never had a chance to know my mother and always had many questions about that time and how people lived through the depression and dust bowl era. While I was writing this book, I felt like my mother was standing over my shoulder telling me what to write."

This is the first book written by Fisher, who said it had been sitting in a drawer for

about three years. Some of her friends who had read the book urged Fisher to send it in. She said she did so expecting to receive a rejection slip from the publisher, but instead she received the news that they would like to publish her book.

The story is based on the life of Hank Carpenter, his wife Sue and their two daughters as they try to live and work through the severe drought and dust storms with their backbreaking labor. The Carpenters and their neighbors try to keep their faith while many suffer from illness and other tragedies.

Fisher says the book should appeal to those interested in the history of Texas or anyone who wants to learn more about how people were able to cope with and survive in such dire conditions.

To order a copy of "Carbon Cloud," go to www.amazon.com or www.authorhouse.com or contact the promotional services department of Author House at 888-728-8467.

Lofty perch



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

A huge flag flies high above Pampa. This flag is attached to a crane at the new business of WTL Power Equipment, 103 S. Hobart, which will hold a grand opening celebration Saturday.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday Sunday Monday



Partly cloudy



Partly cloudy



Partly cloudy

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
 Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 94. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
 Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 95. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
 Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Mendoza Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Inez Mendoza will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary with a special dinner hosted by their children. Inez Mendoza and the former Petra Alonso were married August 3, 1942 in Castolon, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Mendoza have lived in Pampa for 35 years and are members of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Children of the couple are Miguel Mendoza, Jessy Mendoza, Rita Ulloa, Susana Flores, Celia Mendoza, Maria Estella Martinez, Sandra Torres, Elydia Olivas, Juan Mendoza, Apolonia Mendoza, Ynes Mendoza, Ramon Mendoza and the late Maria Elena Mendoza.

They have 37 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

WILLIAMS, Ova Lura Sutterfield — 2 p.m., Central Church of Christ, Pampa.

Ova Lura Sutterfield Williams, 89

FARMERS BRANCH, Texas — Ova Lura Sutterfield Williams, 89, died Aug. 2, 2007, at Farmers Branch.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at the Central Church of Christ in Pampa, Texas, with Bryan Loughmiller, evangelist with the Central Church of Christ, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa, under the direction

of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Williams was born May 11, 1918, in Landis, Ark. She married Robert Williams on Dec. 21, 1935, in Sayre, Okla. He preceded her in death in 2001.

She had been a resident of Pampa since 1950 before



moving to Farmers Branch to be near her son. She was a homemaker and enjoyed raising her family. She had a passion for cooking, gardening and fishing.

She was a member of the Central Church of Christ in Pampa.

Survivors include one son, Joe Williams and wife Heidi

Cash Williams of Carrollton. She was preceded in death by a son, Terry, in 2000.

MEMORIALS: Central Church of Christ, 500 N. Somerville, Pampa, TX 79065, or the Alzheimer's Association, 1400 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, TX 79106.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Nine traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were reported in the 900 block of East Frederic, the intersection of Hobart and Somerville, the 1100 block of North Rider, the intersection of Hobart and Kentucky and the 900 block of North Duncan.

An accident was reported in the 500 block of West Francis.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 600 block of North Gray, the 700 block of North Christy, the 100 block of North Warren, the 900 block of East Francis, the 100 block of South Sumner, the 600 block of North Zimmers, the 1200 block of East Browning, the 1700 block of East Harvester, the 800 block of North Christy, the 1000 block of Twiford, the 1000 block of South Sumner, the 100 block of South Sumner, the 1300 block of South Hobart, the 700 block of North Lefors, the intersection of Harvester and Deane and the 1000 block of South Dwight.

Agency assistance was provided in the 200 block of North Frost and the intersection of Coffee and Worrell.

An alarm was reported in the 2300 block of Navajo.

Sex offender registration took place in the police department lobby.

Escort service was provided in the 200 block of North Russell.

Forgery in the form of two checks valued at \$174.36 was reported in the police department lobby and the 1400 block of North Hobart at the United store that involved a check for

\$27.03.

A narcotics violation was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Thefts were reported in the 200 block of West 30th and the 1100 block of North Hobart where a vehicle was stolen. It was recovered later in the day.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of South Wells.

A suspicious person was reported at the intersection of Neel and Crawford.

Three reports of a suspicious vehicle were reported in the 1600 block of Highway 60 East.

Warrant service was attempted at one location that resulted in one arrest.

Motorist assistance was provided in the 2050 block of North Perryton Parkway.

Violations of city ordinances were reported in the 900 block of North Frost and the 1600 block of Highway 60 East.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of West Sierra and the 300 block of South Jean where a minor was allegedly in possession of tobacco and consumption of alcohol.

A prowler was reported in the 1200 block of Duncan.

was arrested by GCSO on capias pro fines for running a stop sign, failure to give information or aid, no seat belt, speeding, disorderly conduct/noise, driving without lights on, disorderly conduct/language, and defective equipment.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Aug. 2

11:05 a.m. — Four units and seven personnel responded to the 2800 block of Charles on a false alarm.

1:27 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 200 block of Naida on a call for medical assistance.

10:34 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 100 block of East Harvester on a Dumpster fire.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Aug. 2

1:21 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Naida and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Friday, Aug. 3

5:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.

Thursday, Aug. 2

Betsy Amanda Crossman, 23, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department in the 1800 block of Hamilton on a capias pro fine for assault.

Paul Thomas Gerik, 50, of Pampa

Fight over oil tax threatens energy bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — House leaders pressed Democrats from oil states today to support \$16 billion in oil industry taxes and sought a compromise over use of renewable fuels by electric utilities, hoping to clear the way for approval of energy legislation.

The White House, meanwhile, expressed broad opposition to the two Democratic energy bills say-

ing they make "no serious attempts to increase our energy security or address high energy costs" and would harm domestic oil and gas production.

The administration's statement said senior advisers would recommend the president veto the bills, should they reach his desk. House Republican leaders on Thursday sent President Bush a letter also urging a veto.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has vowed to get

energy legislation through before lawmakers leave for their monthlong summer recess at the end of this week. The Senate passed its energy legislation earlier this summer.

A vote was planned for Friday.

But a partisan dispute that erupted Thursday night on an agriculture spending bill spilled over to Friday, making it uncertain whether the energy legislation might be postponed until the weekend.

The legislation would roll back nearly \$16 billion in tax breaks for oil companies and provide a broad array of tax incentives and other measures to spur development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency programs. It would establish new efficiency standards for appliances and other equipment and government support for research into alternative energy such as batteries for plug-in hybrid electric cars.

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PSA SOCCER Sign-Ups start Aug. 1st. Sign-up at T-Shirts & More, 111 W. Kingsmill, Pampa.

CHRISTMAS IN August at Tralee ReSale Shop! Come see our Christmas decorations, also some Fall clothing out. 308 S. Cuyler.

MARY ENGELBREIT framed prints & items, stained glass lamp, computer scanner, lots of nice items. Sat. only, 8am-5pm. No checks please. 824 N. Wells.

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Do you think...?

...the playground equipment in Pampa's parks is adequate or should be upgraded?



**Alice Wesbrooks
Grandma**

"The super playground is great, but the rest of the parks could use a little updating."



**The Garza Granddaughters
Zoe - 3, Aubrie - 10 mo., Emma - 3
grandma Diana, post office**

Diana - "The super playground is great, but it gets too crowded on nice days. The other parks could use upgraded equipment because a lot of it is run down or broken."



**The Ketchum Family
Sierra - 6, Savannah - 10
mom Melissa, stay at home mom**

Sierra & Savannah - "Yes, we would like newer stuff to play on."
Melissa - "Some of the playground equipment does need to be upgraded."



**The Mungula Family
Alexis - 8, Chantel - 4
mom Sondra, nurse**

Alexis - "I'd like to have more monkey bars & teeter-totters."
Chantel - "I like the super playground."
Sondra - "They need more equipment for the young children and I think they all need to be upgraded."



**Hector Leal
Culberson-
Stowers**

"All of the parks need to be updated, not just the ones with playground equipment."

House again rejects funding for horse slaughter plant inspections

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House voted once more to stop spending money on inspections of horse slaughter plants.

The measure, approved late Thursday, was part of a \$91 billion spending bill for farm subsidies and nutrition programs.

Two horse slaughter plants have been operating in Texas and one in Illinois. Court fights led to the shutdown of the Texas plants in the past year. But a federal appeals court in July allowed the plant in DeKalb, Ill., to reopen while it challenges an Illinois law banning

the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

Animal protection groups have been trying for years to get Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the slaughter of horses for human consumption and won overwhelming votes. But the bills

either stalled or were thwarted by legislative or bureaucratic maneuvers.

Congress voted two years ago to strip money from the Agriculture Department budget for inspections, and that bill was signed by the president. But the USDA then

offered inspections on a fee-for-service basis, allowing the horse slaughter plants to continue to operate.

Texas has had a law for decades preventing the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

Cerberus takes control of Chrysler Group

DETROIT (AP) — Private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management took control of Chrysler Group today in a \$7.4 billion deal designed to set the beleaguered 82-year-old automaker on a path to recovery as a private company.

DaimlerChrysler AG of Germany, which also builds Mercedes luxury cars, agreed in May to transfer an 80.1 percent stake in Chrysler to New York-based Cerberus. Daimler will retain a 19.9 percent interest in the company.

"We as Daimler employees have already made our choice. And I am sure the coming years will confirm that we've made the right decision," DaimlerChrysler Chairman Dieter Zetsche said in a letter to Daimler employees.

DaimlerChrysler is to be renamed Daimler AG, according to a statement from the company. Shareholders are expected to ratify that change at a meeting Oct. 4 in Berlin.

Former Chrysler executive Wolfgang Bernhard, a senior adviser to Cerberus, was expected to be named chairman of the board of directors of Chrysler Holding LLC. Chrysler Chief Executive Tom LaSorda was to continue to run the company's day-to-day operations.

Although Bernhard frequently has been seen on Chrysler's headquarters campus, Cerberus Chairman John Snow has said Cerberus plans to keep the same management team in place and give it the freedom to implement its restructuring plan. Snow has said

LaSorda can draw on experience of Bernhard and other Cerberus advisers as he works to restore Chrysler to profitability.

Snow also said that with the closing, Chrysler is free of the short-term quarterly earnings pressures that public companies face, since there will be no Chrysler shares. DaimlerChrysler shares will change to Daimler, but otherwise shareholders won't be affected.

The sale ends a stormy nine-year combination of Daimler and Chrysler, which combined in a \$33 billion deal that was hailed as creating a global giant. Instead, Daimler, like competitors Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp., found itself battered by rising pension and retiree health costs in the United States.

School

Continued from Page 1

inappropriate behavior. We want students in Pampa schools to receive the best education possible to help prepare them for their life as professional adults."

The board discussed the possibility of participating in funding an elections administrator position, which has been discussed by various entities in Gray County. The portion of the salary, equipment, programming and maintenance of voting machines for PISD would be \$7,611 this first year and probably around the same amount in subsequent years.

"Since we don't hold elections every year, I have a problem with paying this amount or more annually," board member Dana Terry said. "I would like the idea better if we could just pay this amount on the years that we hold elections."

The board discussed the options available if they choose not to participate. The school district could buy voting machines, but would have to pay additional money for programming and maintenance. There is also a possibility of leasing the equipment from the county, but the price for that was not clear. The board decided to table the subject until more information and clarifications can be made and they will vote during the Aug. 16 meeting and get back with the county on this subject.

Mike Baker from Parkhill, Smith and Cooper gave an update on renovations being done at the high school.

"The slab has been poured in the MPAC building and the block walls should start going up very soon," Baker said. "Holes have been cut in the roof of McNeely field

house and we are awaiting the arrival of the air conditioning units from Houston. We've been told we may not receive these until last August, so we are getting all of the ductwork and other preparations ready so as soon as we receive these units we can have them installed.

"If you've driven by the high school recently, you can see all of the demolition that's been done to the east wing of the high school. This debris is being loaded up in trucks and hauled off and as soon as that is out of the way we will begin digging trenches for utility and sewer lines that need to be run. As far as we can tell right now, everything is still on schedule."

The board approved a bid by West Texas Landscape for \$5,500 to remove 10 trees and a tree stump on the north side of the tennis courts at the high school. If possible, new trees will be planted in these holes later. The local policy on curriculum development (EG local) was reviewed and approved by the board.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel and the possibility of granting certain residents access to construction sites. The board decided to table the discussion of allowing certain residents on construction sites until more information can be collected.

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Viewpoints

Remember: There are no guarantees in life

Recently, I've been reminded once again that life is precious and it may only last for a short time so everyone should live life to the fullest and not hold back on doing something for fear of failing, being rejected or getting hurt (physically or emotionally).

Blake Hathaway, who was only 10, died last week in Mobeetie. I was writing a story about how full his short life was and everything that he'd accomplished in his few years on this earth and how there is a memorial fund that has been set up at the Optimist club for those wishing to make a donation in his memory.

Blake's mother, Kathy,

came into the office a few times to give me some information about Blake and brought in a picture for us to use in the paper. I was so impressed with her and am in awe of her and how she is handling this horrible situation (as are all of the other girls working in the front of the newspaper office).

I was amazed how involved Blake was in sports. He played basketball, football and baseball. I first thought about how busy his parents must have been running him all over the place for practice and going to games (and he had four siblings who are probably as involved as he was so that's just more running around for

the parents). And did they not worry about him getting hurt?

His mother said something that made a huge impact on me. She said, "Blake had a good life."

Kerri Smith

Staff Writer

money on uniforms and other supplies for his sports.

Last weekend, my family and I went to the White Deer Rodeo and really had a great time. The last competitor

one night was a high school boy who was riding bulls. He was ranked pretty high in the stand-

ings and apparently is very good at this sport. He managed to ride the eight seconds, but got thrown off right into the fence and the bull started to attack him. Luckily, the clowns and others ran over and distracted

the bull so he would get away from the rider.

My comment to my husband was, "I can't imagine being this high school kid's mother and watching that time and time again." I wondered why his parents allowed him to do this because it was dangerous. After talking to Blake's mother, I think I now understand and hope that I will be the same way with my son.

This kid was good at riding bulls and apparently loved doing it. I applaud his parents for allowing him the opportunity to do something he loves even though it is dangerous. He did take precautions because he was wearing a vest and helmet,

so he wasn't just throwing caution to the wind.

There are no guarantees in life so you should try something new, do something exciting and not allow fear to get in your way. I'm not saying that you should let your kids play in the street, but let them try new and different things. People get hurt and killed every day by doing ordinary things, such as driving your car (like the people who were driving on that bridge that collapsed a few days ago).

I think about doctors many times. How do they diagnose and treat people without being afraid of

See SMITH, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2007. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Two hundred years ago, on Aug. 3, 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Va., charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

On this date:

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

In 1914, Germany declared war on France at the onset of World War I.

In 1923, Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as the 30th president of the United States, following the death of Warren G. Harding.

In 1936, the U.S. State Department urged Americans in Spain to leave because of that country's civil war.

In 1943, Gen. George S. Patton slapped a private at an army hospital in Sicily, accusing him of

cowardice. (Patton was later ordered by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to apologize for this and a second, similar episode.)

In 1949, the National Basketball Association was formed as a merger of the Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League.

In 1958, the nuclear-powered submarine Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

In 1980, closing ceremonies were held in Moscow for the Summer Olympic Games, which had been boycotted by dozens of countries, including the U.S.

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1987, the Iran-Contra congressional hearings ended, with none of the 29 witnesses tying President Reagan directly to the diversion of arms-sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

Ten years ago: Iran's new president, moderate Muslim cleric Mohammad Khatami, took office with a message of peace to the world but said his country opposed the "high-handedness of certain big countries," a reference to the U.S.

Today's Birthdays: Author P.D. James is 87. Broadway composer Richard Adler is 86. Singer Gordon Stoker (The Jordanaires) is 83. Singer Tony Bennett is 81. Actor Martin Sheen is 67. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 66. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 66. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 58. Movie director John Landis is 57. Actress JoMarie Payton is 57. Actor Jay North ("Dennis the Menace") is 56. Actor John C. McGinley is 48.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Reading is the best fodder for the brain

The difference between hackwork and literature lies neither in the plot nor the subject. There are only about 54 possible plots in existence, according to a man who cataloged them more than 50 years ago. As for subject matter, there is only us — the human race.

The difference is the treatment of plot, characters and setting by the author. With the hacks, the emphasis is on the plot, and the characters are usually stereotypes or cartoonish. We read the hacks to be temporarily amused by the hero solving the problems piled on top of him. The very predictability of the hack story gives us comfort. We don't have to worry about the hero. We know he will triumph and get the bad guys and the girl.

Louis L'Amour gets my vote as the greatest hack in the modern era. He churned

out a prodigious number of short stories and novels with virtually interchangeable characters. His stories have the added virtue of being forgettable so that you can enjoy reading the same story more than once if you give yourself a little time between readings.

One of the best modern examples of an author who converts characters, settings and plot into literature is James Lee Burke. He has written a series of novels about an ex-New Orleans cop. His character, Dave Robicheaux, is an alcoholic with physical and emotional scars, a man who has known both joy and sorrow, and is full of love and hate. All of the characters in

the Robicheaux novels are fully drawn, interesting people.

When Burke writes about the Bayou Country, New Orleans and New Iberia, he is as careful as Hemingway

to get it right. Unless your imagination has died, you will finish one of his novels knowing what the place looked like and smelled like, and what the people sounded like.

Since Robicheaux is not a superhero, the plot is not predictable. All you know is that if you give Robicheaux reason to hate you, he will pursue you with a ruthless ferocity.

Burke's latest Robicheaux novel is "The Tin Roof Blowdown" and takes place

in Katrina-ripped New Orleans. The often-angry Robicheaux is enraged this time. If you missed seeing the hurricane and its aftermath, be sure to read this novel.

I've always believed that the virtue of good literature is that it can transport you to a different time and place. Literature also provides insight into human nature. It expands our knowledge of the world and of the people who inhabit it. Even literature of the fantasy genre is always based solidly on human nature, else we would find it unbelievable.

Harry Potter, for example, is a real boy despite his magical powers and the magical world he inhabits. Let's hope with the end of the series that parents will continue to encourage their children to

See REESE, Page 5

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ July 23

San Antonio Express-News on ethics reform:

A recent Zogby poll delivers some cheerful news for President Bush: the American people have an even lower opinion about Congress than they do about him. Thirty-four percent rank Bush's performance as excellent or good, while 66 percent said he had done only a fair or poor job.

Only 14 percent gave Congress good or excellent marks, while 83 percent rated the work of senators and representatives as fair or poor. Those are lower numbers than those logged last

October by Congress, shortly before voters flogged the GOP-majority in the general election. In fact, it's a record low for a Zogby poll.

A number of issues explain such cellar-dwelling survey results. The common denominator is that the new Democratic leadership of Congress hasn't delivered on the promises of change and reform that helped sweep it into power. And nowhere is this more obvious than on the issue of ethics reform.

By 2006, the Republican controlled Congress had become synonymous with corruption. Reps. Bob Ney and Duke Cunningham went to prison. The Abramoff scandal, still under investigation, led outward in a series of concentric circles from the officer of for-

mer Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Yet over the course of months and then years of troubling revelations, indictments and convictions, the House ethics committee was inactive.

The new Congress has taken some positive steps on ethics with regard to transparency and disclosure. But on the fundamental promise to change ethics on Capitol Hill, it has failed.

A bipartisan task force created to advance the reform process has hit a dead end. The primary obstacle is the refusal of congressional members to cede any ethics oversight authority to an independent body the cornerstone of meaningful ethics reform.

Lawmakers have amply demonstrated

See ETHICS, Page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Little House

Erin Parr, MacKenzie Parks, Kaylee Suttle and Sydney Taylor labor this summer at the "Little House" in Pampa. The house is a Girl Scout meeting place donated to Quiviara Council in the mid-1940s for a period of a hundred years. Troop 514 used the effort as a project for the Bronze Award.

Events calendar

- **Clarendon College-Pampa Center** is currently taking enrollment for an upcoming CPR Basic Life Support Class. The class will be conducted from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 15 in Pampa Center Room 106. Participants completing the one-day course will receive an AHA card valid for two years. For more information, call the college at 665-8801.

- **Carson County Square House Museum** in Panhandle will host art exhibition with Jim Jordan,

an area photographer, in the Hazlewood Gallery of the museum throughout August. The name of the exhibit is "Rarely Seen, Never Seen." A reception is planned from 2:30-4 p.m. Sunday at the museum.

- **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum** in Canyon will conduct a free storytelling workshop from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday in Hazlewood Lecture Hall of the museum. Volunteers who attend the workshop will learn how to incorporate storytelling into guided tours. From 10:30-11:30 a.m.,

Education Coordinator Millie Vanover will deliver a presentation on volunteer opportunities at the museum. Eldrena Douma McMenemy, a Hopi storyteller of Canyon, and Dr. Trudy Hanson, a speech communication professor, will present an additional workshop from 1-4 p.m.

- **Church of the Nazarene**, 500 N. West, will present a Southern Gospel concert with recording artists Bill and Vicki Sky at 7 p.m., Thursday at the church.

- **Borger will be the site** of the second round of Texas Historical Commission Preserve America workshops scheduled from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at Hutchinson County Museum.

- **Pease River Playhouse** will be the site

of a production of "Steel Magnolias" Aug. 10-12 at the auditorium in Goodlett. For show times and ticket information, call (940) 674-2477.

- **Amarillo Botanical Gardens** will offer the "Art of Science and Flowers" with art instructor Cynthia Padilla from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 15-16 at the gardens. The two-day workshop/seminar will teach participants how to draw, paint and understand floral structure. A certificate of attendance will be awarded to those who complete the course. Tuition is \$175. Advance registration is required. For more information, call (806) 352-6513.

- **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Aug. 15, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

- **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. Aug. 16 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. For more information, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.

Smith

Continued from Page 4

doing the wrong thing or missing something? I'm sure they help a lot more people than they hurt and I'm glad they were willing to take the chance and become a doctor to help me and others.

I started not to apply for this job as newspaper reporter because I wasn't sure if I could handle the job, but I decided to give it a shot and take a chance. Luckily, I was hired and given that chance because I absolutely love this job. But, I never would have known if I could do it unless I took the chance. The worst that could have happened would be to fail and then I could have moved on to some other venture.

You never know if you are good at something if you don't give it a try. Live life to the fullest without fear and enjoy every day because you never know when that day might be your last.

Ethics

Continued from Page 4

ed their inability to police themselves on ethics. Doubts about political conduct drive public cynicism and poll numbers.

As low as those numbers are, they can go lower still unless Congress reasserts its integrity by allowing an external office to monitor and enforce ethics rules.

URL: <http://www.mysa.com>

Reese

Cont. from Page 4

read, because reading is far more important than playing computer games or going to the movies.

Neither of those media works the brain and stimulates the imagination, and imagination is a key ingredient of thinking. Most of the real scientific breakthroughs resulted from imagination. Only after something new is visualized can reason and experiment be employed to bring it into reality.

The Potter novels, by the way, went against the grain. Reading is supposed to be declining, but the first six books in the series sold a total of 350 million copies worldwide and about 121 million copies in the United States. They transported the author from a single mom on welfare to a woman richer than the queen of England.

I can't think of a nonfiction book or series of books that has come close to having that large an impact. A lot of nonfiction these days tends to be cut-and-paste jobs from the news databases available online, and news stories are an unreliable source of information. Being printed and being true are two entirely separate things.

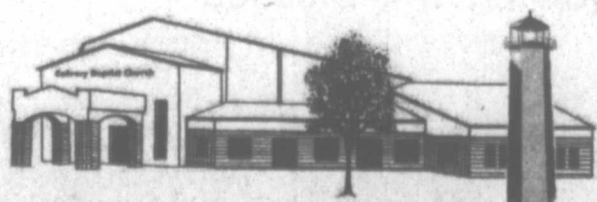
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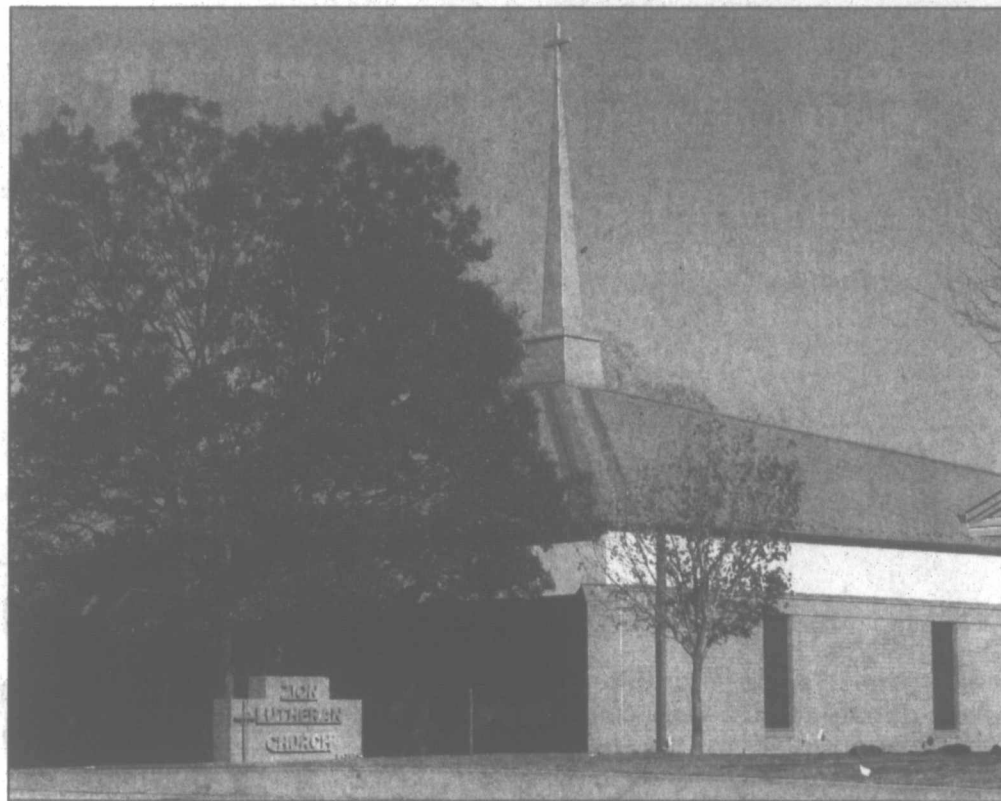
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Zion Lutheran Church

Church name: Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan, 669-2774.

Ministers: Rev. Michael Erickson.

Services: Sunday -- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School / Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Divine Service.

Activities: Big Z Barbecue each May, vacation bible school each summer, lemonade stand at Chautauqua each year.

Members: On an average Sunday about 75.

Denomination: The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

How long here: Since 1941.

Goals: We have purchased a corpus for our large cross in the sanctuary and are awaiting arrival from Italy.

Other activities: We actively support Good Samaritan services here in Pampa.

Main goal: To proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all people and to administer the Holy Sacraments according to the Sacred Scriptures.

Church message: We preach Christ and Him crucified. We teach that a person is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Responsible parties: Rev. Michael Erickson.

Information: Zion Lutheran is a faithful congregation in proclaiming and teaching God's Word and administering the blessed Sacraments.

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Religion



Gospel sounds



COURTESY PHOTO

Church of the Nazarene, 500 N. West, will present a Southern Gospel concert with recording artists Bill and Vicki Sky at 7 p.m. Thursday at the church. Bill grew up in the Arkansas Ozarks playing guitar and other instruments with his family in church and "making music" with the neighbors after a hard day of work in the fields. He has won numerous awards while performing on radio, TV, at fairs, Carnegie Hall and churches all over America. Vicki has ministered in churches throughout the years and in traveling singing groups. The couple married in the late 1990s. They perform more than 200 concerts a year together while traveling.

'Great Bible Reef'

COURTESY PHOTOS

Top: Chelsey Whinery and Nakayla Hardman worked recently at getting "the twist" down pat, so that they can help the kids attending the Great Bible Reef Vacation Bible School get the most out of songs for the school. The VBS will be held from 6-9 p.m. Aug. 6-10 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. First Christian, First Presbyterian and Hi-Land Christian are co-sponsoring the event. Bottom: Orville and Alice Whinery prove that age is no problem when it comes to learning all of the moves, songs and motions for the Great Bible Reef Vacation Bible School.

Methodist publisher cuts staff as costs increase

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The United Methodist Publishing House has laid off 30 of its 1,000 employees due to declining sales and rising production and labor costs.

Also, 20 or so vacant jobs will not be filled to save money, according to Neil Alexander, chief executive of the publishing house.

Sales have been dropping for several years, while health care and other costs

have increased. Also, an outside actuary made a mistake in estimating future pensions expenses, leaving the agency with a bill \$700,000 higher than expected, Alexander said.

Manufacturing costs have also risen, as have expenses for the publishing house's Nashville office, its distribution center and its 70 Cokesbury bookstores.

Among the agency's products are

Sunday school, vacation Bible school and Scripture study materials, along with church and clergy supplies.

The agency is self-supporting, financing its operations with its own revenues, and receives no money from the general funds of the denomination. The United Methodist Church has nearly 8 million members in the United States, and an additional 3.5 million church members overseas.

Hobart Baptist to present Game Day Central Vacation Bible School

Hobart Baptist Church Central will conduct its Vacation Bible School "Game Day

Central" from 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at 1100 W. Crawford. Game Day

Central is open to children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call 669-3212.

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Ref: Cyberhymnal.org

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband recently got custody of his 16-year-old son, "Zack," from his first marriage. We have been going to therapy with Zack for some things that happened to him while he was with his mother, and telling him that if he's going to live with us he has to go by our rules. Zack agreed to this, but since then has stolen from me and lied to my face about doing it -- even after I found the things that he had taken in his room. Zack has also tried to hit me, but when I told my husband, he just said he didn't know what to do. Zack's social worker wants to send him to a treatment center in a nearby state to help him with the problems he's having, but my husband doesn't want him to go. Abby, I gave my husband a choice: Either Zack goes to the center and gets treatment, or I leave forever, because I'm not going to be treated like this by a 16-year-old. What should I do? If my husband refuses to send his son, should I leave? Or should I stay and take the chance of being hit the next time I catch Zack doing something -- **BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE**

DEAR BETWEEN: Before you make that decision, please understand that your husband probably feels helpless and guilty about the way his son has turned out, and fears that sending his son away would somehow be letting him down. Your husband needs to understand that sometimes being a responsible parent means doing something that is painful. In two short years, his son will be 18 and an adult. Adults who steal from others and strike out at them in a physical way usually wind up in prison. The time to get the boy the help

he needs -- intensive help -- is NOW. If you can't get your husband to recognize these hard facts, then you may need the help of a marriage counselor or a clergyman to do so. If he still refuses after that, then you should pack your bags -- if not forever, until his son is out of the house and on his own. You have my deepest sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: Twenty-five years ago, I was dating a man I'll call "Robert" and became pregnant with our son. Robert and I parted ways and lost touch after a while. I raised our son by myself, with the help of my parents. Later I married and had more children, and Robert married, too. When our son was 23, he met his father for the first time. Robert and I have seen each other a few times over the years. We have remained friends. Abby, Robert's wife has died and I am now divorced. I would like to call him and talk to him and see if, maybe, we can become more than friends. I don't know whether I should approach him or not. I have always refrained from bothering him. I saw Robert recently, and he was nice to me. I don't know how our son would react if we became more than friends. He is friendly toward his dad, but nothing more. Should I contact Robert or wait to see if he contacts me? -- **LONELY IN MISSOURI**

DEAR LONELY: You must be very lonely to be fantasizing about getting serious with Robert. Where was he when you and your son needed his emotional and financial support? Contact him if you wish, but if he had romantic feelings for you, I am sure he would have contacted you already.

For Better Or For Worse



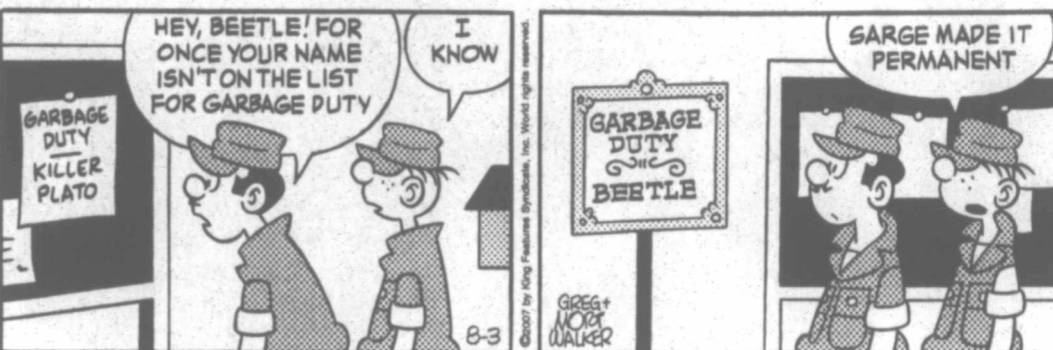
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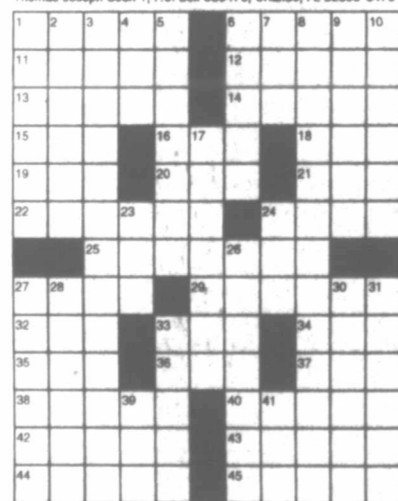
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 "Paper Moon" category
 - 40 Big name in day-time TV display
 - 42 Audacity
 - 43 Door holder's phrase
 - 44 Laundry-room sight
 - 45 Clear sky
- DOWN**
- 1 Rang
 - 2 On the go
 - 3 Old radio program
 - 4 Conducted
 - 5 Become more uphill
 - 6 Squad leader
 - 7 Put away
 - 8 Old radio program
 - 9 La Scala setting
 - 10 Flat-bottomed boat
 - 17 Zoo critter
 - 23 —
 - 24 Playfully shy
 - 26 Future frog
 - 27 Candy bar nut
 - 28 Less civil
 - 30 Nominally
 - 31 Lower sort
 - 33 Wolfish
 - 39 Blvd.'s kin
 - 41 Sulky state

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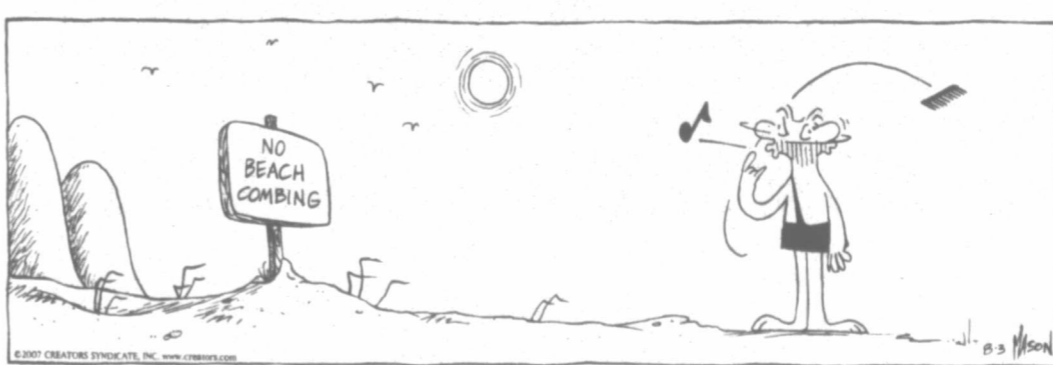


The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



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Hidden Hills results

Seniors Scramble
Hidden Hills
Golf Course
Aug. 1, 2007

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Carl Johnson
James Lee
Calvin Lacy

2nd Place (61)
Whitey White
Kenneth Williams
Butch Shepard
Joe Stringer

3rd Place (61)
Kent Olson
Dick Dunham
Waldon Haynes
Richard Abbott

4th Place (61)
Bill King
Bob Young
Travis Johnston
Nolan Lemaire

Cloest to the Pin
Gary Brewer (#6)
Jerry Davis (#15)

Volleyball swim party

High school volleyball players, friends, families and coaches are all invited to attend the Volleyball Swim Party Sunday at the Pampa Country Club swimming pool.

From 7 - 9 p.m., hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served for free to coaches, coaches' families and volleyball players and for \$3.50 for anyone else.

Pinch-hitter pitcher comes through for Astros; Bonds goes homerless for Giants

By The Associated Press

Houston manager Phil Garner hopes a little success at the plate for Jason Jennings will help him regain confidence on the mound.

In his last start, Jennings got pounded for 11 runs and didn't make it out of the first inning. Out of position players, Garner pinch-hit Jennings with two outs in the 14th inning. The pitcher came through with a RBI single to give the Astros a 12-11 win over the Braves, ending a three-game losing skid.

"He's a good hitter. He swings the bat good," said Garner, whose club dropped Atlanta 4 1/2 games behind the New York Mets in the NL East. "It was good for him and certainly good for us."

While Jennings came through for Houston, Barry Bonds remained at 754 homers. The Giants slugger had a single and a pair of walks in San Francisco's 4-2 victory over Los Angeles, and is hitting .188 since July

1. After three more homerless games, Bonds leaves Dodger Stadium and heads south to San Diego where Greg Maddux will try to keep him from hitting the single home run he needs to tie Hank Aaron's record.

"I talked to him and he says he feels fine, he feels great," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "What helps is we're getting leads and getting him out of there early."

In other NL games, it was the Mets 12, Milwaukee 4; San Diego 11, Arizona 0; Philadelphia 10, the Chicago Cubs 6; Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 4 in 11 innings; Colorado 4, Florida 3; and Washington 7, Cincinnati 3.

The 11 runs Jennings gave up in the first inning against San Diego on Sunday were the most by a pitcher to start a game since Aug. 13, 2006, when Kansas City's Luke Hudson allowed 11 runs against Cleveland.

After allowing a run in relief in Houston's 12-3 loss to the Braves, Jennings (2-7, 6.03 ERA) was scheduled to

start Saturday at Florida.

"Mentally, it helps a little," Jennings said of his game-winning hit. "But I don't get paid to hit. I'm paid to pitch."

The first nine Houston runs came from home runs — a two-run shot by Lance Berkman, Jason Lane's three-run homer and a grand slam by Mike Lamb that tied it in the ninth.

Lane hit a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning to give the Astros an 11-9 lead, but Atlanta responded in their half when Corky Miller reached on an infield hit and Matt Diaz hit an 0-1 pitch over the wall off Brad Lidge.

That set up Jennings, who was 1-for-17 entering the game. With Lane on second, Jennings waited on a 2-1 fastball from Oscar Villarreal (1-1).

"I had a good hitter's count, so I was sitting on a fast ball and that's what I got," said Jennings, who raised his average to .111 with the hit. "I knew he didn't want to walk me with the leadoff hitter coming up next."

From volleyball to the NFL: David Sutton takes a long road to Dolphins

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — David Sutton leaped and made a spectacular catch along the sideline, then landed awkwardly and briefly rolled about in obvious pain.

A few minutes later, he was back in action, trying to make another eye-catching play.

Something as insignificant as a minor injury — "I hurt my butt cheek," Sutton later explained — wasn't going to derail this rookie wide receiver from continuing his pursuit of an improbable quest to find a spot on the Miami Dolphins' roster. A volleyball player in his youth who never played football before college had enough athletic ability to earn the team's attention, yet whether that can translate into playing in the NFL is still a big question.

"There's something there," Dolphins coach Cam Cameron said. "We're just not sure what it is yet."

Sutton can only hope that gets figured out over the next couple weeks.

He only started playing football four years ago, yet here he is, with a corner locker and hopes to showcase his talent in the first pre-season game next weekend.

"So did I think I'd be here? Not at all. And is it overwhelming? Yes, it really is," Sutton said Thursday.

Sutton's first calling, he thought, was volleyball. He has a 39-inch vertical leap that would make many NBA

players envious. A high school star in his native California, the sleek, 6-foot-6, 222-pound Sutton had numerous offers to play volleyball at the Division I college level before deciding that the game didn't merit a place in his long-term plans.

"I was going to try to go to the Olympics to play on that little team," Sutton said. "But the world of volleyball is a whole different world. People don't know there's a lot of racism and I just got

tired of hearing all that."

Simply put, being among the few black players on most high school volleyball floors wore him down. Hearing racial taunts became nearly an everyday occurrence, and he wound up at Lincoln University in Missouri, a historically black Division II school with no volleyball team.

There, he found football, which didn't fit his volleyball-and-track schedule as a

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