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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 9, 2013



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Banquet details are set

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
Managing Editor

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has set the time, place and date for its annual banquet and as a result, has extended the deadline for Man and Woman of the Year nominations.

First things first. The banquet will begin at 7 p.m. Jan. 31 on the Sonic Floor at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$25 per person, with a reservation deadline of Jan. 25.

Masters of ceremony will be Jay Hendricks and Tatum Hubbard with CBS 7 News. Providing entertainment will be Eddie Vandewalker and the Howard College Music Department. Great Western Dining will cater the meal.

Highlighting the banquet is the announcement of Man and Woman of the Year. Nominations for the awards have been extended until 5 p.m. Monday.

For those unfamiliar with the rules, nominations must be submitted by a chamber member, but a nominee does not have to be a member of the chamber.

"There are many people who do extraordinary things with their business or place of employment and we commend those performers, but we want to recognize those people who go above and beyond day in and day out and strive continu-



HERALD file photo
Jan Foresyth, at microphone, accepted duties as the 2012 Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board president during last year's banquet. She also recognized outgoing president Terri Johansen. On Jan. 31, Foresyth will be handing the gavel to incoming president Jim Clements.

ously to improve the community they live in," said
See **CHAMBER**, Page 3

No jail time for spinning tires in city

City council approves law on initial reading

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area teens intent on barking their tires or slinging gravel on Big Spring streets could certainly find themselves in hot water with law enforcement. However, such a childish transgression will no longer merit a trip behind bars.

The Big Spring City Council approved a new ordinance Tuesday night that will hopefully address a problem presented several years ago when the state legislature made such exhibitions of acceleration a Class B misdemeanor.

"A few months back I spoke with City Attorney Linda Sjogren to see if she could find an alternative to give our officers another tool to correct errant driving behavior among some of our young drivers," Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith told the council. "Years ago, when we were growing up, state law included measures for exhibition of acceleration. They would get a ticket and then go on about their business. A few years back, they changed that. If they get caught now they go to jail because (state law made it) a Class B misdemeanor. You have young people who now have arrest records for something that is normally a traffic (issue)."

The new ordinance, which would be added to Section 18-78 entitled Racing and Exhibition of Acceleration, would make it unlawful for any person to race or otherwise cause a motor vehicle to make a rapid start or acceleration on a roadway.

"I understand the concept the legislature was trying to address (when they changed the

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3



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The land of cotton Howard County is not

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The lingering drought and low prices were cited as major factors behind a sub-standard cotton crop in Howard County this past year.

Less than 6 percent of the county's certified acreage produced a crop, said County Extension Agent Tommy Yeater.

"It wasn't very good," Yeater said. "I'd say that only 6,000 acres (out of 115,000) were harvested (in 2012), and that was on irrigated farmland."

The remainder off the county's cotton farmers had to rely on crop insurance, he added. In 2011, prices were high enough to validate harvesting a crop; that was not the case this past season.

"Because of low prices, it was just a better business decision for them to turn it in as an insurance claim," Yeater said.

Adding to farmers' frustrations this year was the continuation of drought conditions.

"We didn't get the timely rains we needed," Yeater

said. "We got a little bit of moisture, but it wasn't enough to help the cotton crop."

Looking ahead to the 2013 planting season, the mantra of farmers is simple: Let it rain.

"If we don't get any moisture, it doesn't look good going into 2013 with cotton," Yeater said. "We've got to get some rain."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

Grand jury will debate train case

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — Grand jurors will consider the case of a train collision that killed four veterans riding on a parade float last fall.

Midland County prosecutor Eric Kalenak will present the case Wednesday to a newly impaneled, 12-person grand jury. He won't say whether the office is recommending an indictment in the Nov. 15 accident.

The veterans died when the flatbed truck on which they were riding was hit by a Union Pacific train traveling at 62 mph. The truck was the second float in a parade organized to honor wounded veterans and their wives.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating. Investigators haven't yet interviewed the truck driver.

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Obituaries

Donald Ray Duke

Donald Ray Duke, 82, of Rising Star passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family Monday, Jan. 7, 2013. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013, at Higginbotham Funeral Home in Cross Plains with Dwaine Clower officiating and Charles Chesshir assisting. Burial will follow in the Liberty Cemetery in Eastland County. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013.

Donations may be made to the CP EMS, CP Fire Department, P.O. Box 699, Cross Plains, TX 76443; or Lighthouse Hospice, 957 E. Main, Eastland, TX 76448.

He was born to John and Bertha (Phillips) Duke at Sabanno, Texas, on Aug. 1, 1930. He married Doris Hodnett on Oct. 11, 1947, in Sabanno.

In 1949 he moved to Corpus Christi, where he went to plumbing school. In 1950 they moved to Big Spring and went to work for Dryer Plumbing. Then, in 1951, they went to work for Cosden Oil and Chemical. In 1974 they relocated to his farm between Rising Star and Cross Plains, where he farmed, ran a dairy and ran a plumbing and electrical company until declining health caused him to retire.

Ordained as a deacon in 1951 at Hillcrest Baptist Church, he surrendered to preach in 1994, where he served as pastor for Cornerstone Church in Cross Plains, as well as Mitchell, Breckenridge, then to Pioneer where he served until his health caused him to retire completely.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Doris; son, Michael Ray Duke; daughters, Donna Merrick and husband Teddy and Teresa Enfield, all of Weatherford; grandchildren, Krystal Barrett and husband Tyson of Brock, Jeanie Walker and husband John T. (Rusty) John Russel Duke and wife Rochelle of Fort Worth and Kacie Edwards and husband Bubba of Borden County, Texas; great-grandchildren, Brylan and Dylan Barrett of Brock, Carson, Prestie and Lanie Walker of Brock, Walker and J.D. of Fort Worth and Callie and Trey Edwards of Fort Worth; as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of friends; and Robert Hodnett and wife Liz of San Antonio.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Wesley Duke and (Willie) William Duke; sister, Rosa Gage; and two infants.

Paid obituary

John Rusk

John Rusk, 44, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 4, 2013. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Corene Schaffner

Corene Schaffner, 77, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Viola Johnson

Viola Johnson, 94, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lillie Kerr

Lillie Kerr, 85, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013, at Parkview Nursing and Rehab. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:

- JESSE RODRIGUEZ LOPEZ, 45, of 114 Hooser Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- ISSAC JAMES TARIN, 20, of 1907 S. Main St., was arrested Tuesday on citations for public intoxication (two counts) and failure to appear.
- DAMIAN WESLEY BAILEY, 22, of 435 Dallas, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DANIEL RUSSELL QUALLS, 33, of 2516 Chanute, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for no driver's license - when unlicensed and failure to appear.
- PATRICK TERRALL KESLER, 34, of 1600 S.

Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

- ASSAULT was reported:
In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
In the 800 block of W. 17th Street.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

• ASHTON PIERRE ROLLINGS SR., 23, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a motion to revoke probation for out-of-county warrant.

• DAMIAN WESLEY BAILEY, 22, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• PATRICK TERRALL KESLER, 34, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• BLAKE MICHAEL GEE, 30, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond - forgery of a financial instrument (two counts).

• DANIEL RUSSELL QUALLS, 33, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.

• SONNIE ESTELLA KUNKLE, 27, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on charges of bondsman off bond for displaying a fictitious license plate and bondsman off bond for prohibited weapon.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Willia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Indian Hills. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of S. Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Hearn and Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of S. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Drexel. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help pay funeral expenses for local resident Joe Gomez, who passed away on Dec. 12. Donations can be sent to Myers and Smith Funeral Home at P.O. Box 2760 in Big Spring.

• Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432-268-7730.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432-268-7535.

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main.

Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.




• Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 1/10	Fri 1/11	Sat 1/12
		
44/38	61/42	70/37
Windy with rain early...then remaining cloudy with thunder-showers in the afternoon. High 44F.	A few morning showers. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:00 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:01 PM

American Profile
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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	48	39	rain	Kingsville	72	49	t-storm
Amarillo	47	33	rain	Livingston	65	53	t-storm
Austin	59	42	t-storm	Longview	60	56	rain
Beaumont	66	59	t-storm	Lubbock	41	34	rain
Brownsville	67	52	t-storm	Lufkin	64	57	t-storm
Brownwood	53	44	t-storm	Midland	43	38	rain
Corpus Christi	68	50	t-storm	Raymondville	69	50	t-storm
Corsicana	55	50	rain	Rosenberg	66	53	t-storm
Dallas	56	51	rain	San Antonio	61	43	t-storm
Del Rio	58	41	rain	San Marcos	60	43	t-storm
El Paso	53	32	windy	Sulphur Springs	56	52	rain
Fort Stockton	42	35	rain	Sweetwater	45	39	t-storm
Gainesville	51	46	rain	Tyler	59	54	t-storm
Greenville	54	50	rain	Weatherford	54	45	rain
Houston	66	54	t-storm	Wichita Falls	50	44	rain

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	60	52	cloudy	Minneapolis	33	22	sunny
Boston	47	33	pt sunny	New York	52	37	pt sunny
Chicago	44	30	pt sunny	Phoenix	69	44	sunny
Dallas	56	51	rain	San Francisco	56	43	cloudy
Denver	50	29	sunny	Seattle	45	36	rain
Houston	66	54	t-storm	St. Louis	53	39	cloudy
Los Angeles	70	51	mst sunny	Washington, DC	57	40	pt sunny
Miami	82	69	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 1/10	Fri 1/11	Sat 1/12
2	4	3
Low	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 being the lowest and 11 being the highest. A higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Chaplain Lannon Martin, center, is sworn in as a new Emergency Services Chaplains Corp chaplain. Also pictured are Fire Chief Craig Ferguson, left, and Chaplain Joel Miller.

Courtesy photo

► Odds and Ends

WWII soldier's duffel bag returned 7 decades later

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A World War II veteran who served in France during the war has been reunited with his Army-issued duffel bag nearly seven decades after it went missing.

Ninety-two-year-old William Kadar of Merrillville opened a carefully wrapped package Tuesday to find his drab green duffel bag inside. The folded up bag is still stenciled with his name and serial number.

Kadar tells the Post-Tribune he last saw the bag soldiers use for toting their gear in November 1944, a month before he was captured by the Germans.

His granddaughter, Arleen Haas, says a letter in the package says a 16-year-old French boy found the bag in his grandfather's house, tracked Kadar down and sent it to him.

Haas says her family hopes to speak to the boy through Skype soon.

Mass. couple's wedding day is also town's ZIP code

AMESBURY, Mass. (AP) — Couples often hold weddings on significant dates, but a Massachusetts couple has come up with a new way of remembering their ceremony.

Cheryl Bennett and Steven DeLong, longtime residents of Amesbury, are getting married Wednesday, the same date as the town's ZIP code of 01913.

Forty-five-year-old mechanic DeLong and 31-year-old medical receptionist Bennett will hold a short outdoor ceremony at the town gazebo with their children from previous marriages.

Bennett tells The Daily News of Newburyport that she is fascinated by numbers and that the ZIP code wedding idea was hers.

Her favorite numbers are 11 and 22, and her husband-to-be's birthday is Nov. 22.

Man who rode horse while drunk gets time served

BUNNELL, Fla. (AP) — A Florida man accused of riding his horse while intoxicated during a police chase has changed his plea and was sentenced to time served.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reports 29-year-old Charles Larkin Cowart pleaded no contest Tuesday to obstructing an officer without violence and interfering with railroad tracks. He originally pleaded not guilty to the Sept. 24 ride through Bunnell, north of Orlando.

Circuit Judge David Walsh also sentenced Cowart to three years of probation. He had been held in the Flagler County Jail on \$7,000 bail.

Police say Cowart told them he was on his way to this grandmother's house. He refused their request to get off the horse and took off. Eventually, the horse became exhausted and Cowart ran. He was arrested a short time later.

Sweden seeks 2 Britons for smuggling garlic

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish prosecutors say they have issued international arrest warrants for two Britons suspected of masterminding a smuggling ring involving over a ton of Chinese garlic.

Prosecutor Thomas Ahlstrand says the men first

shipped the garlic to Norway by boat, where it entered the country duty-free since it was considered to be in transit. They then drove the approximately 1.2 tons of garlic across the Swedish border, avoiding customs checks and Swedish import duties.

Ahlstrand said Wednesday the men avoided some €0 million (\$13.1 million) in Swedish taxes through the scheme.

The prosecutor says a lengthy police investigation led to the identification of the two British allegedly behind the operation, which took place in 2009-2010.

Squatter warmed up in crawlspace of home

YELM, Wash. (AP) — A heating repairman had good news and bad news for Washington state homeowner Velma Kellen.

The good news was he had fixed her heating ducts after she reported her furnace was failing to heat the house.

The bad news: Someone was living in a crawlspace under the home and had diverted the heat to keep warm.

The repairman said he found beer cans and a liquor bottle beneath the house.

Kellen told KOMO-TV on Monday that she had no idea how long the unwanted visitor had been climbing into her crawlspace, which has an opening to her backyard.

Kellen thinks the person also might have smoked marijuana, because she often smelled smoke. The squatter somehow fooled her three dogs that never barked.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

law)," Smith said. "In the metro areas, such as Houston and Dallas, there are young kids gathering, blocking off the streets and conducting races. That's the concerns the legislature was addressing when they changed the law a few years ago. However, I don't think they looked at all of the ramifications it would have on rural areas. This (new ordinance) will give our officers an alternative tool to correct the problem without making an arrest. The officers can cite the driver without placing them under

arrest ... and they don't have to spend the night in jail."

Smith said the ordinance will give law enforcement officers the opportunity to be "community-minded" when they encounter teens attempting to show off on local roadways.

"A lot of these cases are simply kids who are spinning their tires or otherwise showing off; however, they aren't racing on the highway or other roads," Smith said. "This will allow officers to address the problem without these 16- and 17-year-old kids ending up with an arrest record when it's really not necessary."

District 5 Councilman Craig Olson offered concerns the new ordinance might be trumped by state mandates.

"As I understand it, state law says it is mandatory to make a standard arrest on the spot as the law is written now, as a Class B misdemeanor," Olson said. "So, what you're asking is to possibly reduce it to a Class C misdemeanor, a citable offense and let them go on their way?"

Smith said the ordinance — which was passed by the council on a unanimous vote — will not create a conflict with state law.

"We're not in opposition with the state law.

We're just making a city ordinance that goes along the same lines so we have something that's enforceable under city ordinance," Smith said.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council:

- Approved final reading of a resolution authorizing the city to apply for a grant from the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission and Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

- Approved a joint election agreement with the Big Spring Independent School District for the upcoming municipal elections.

- Accepted Big Spring Economic Development

Corporation board of directors minutes from the meeting held Nov. 20, 2012.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Carol Anderson, 66, d. Viola Johnson, 94, died Thursday, December 20, 2012. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Corene Schaffner, 77, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

John Rusk, 44, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

Debbye ValVerde, Chamber executive director. "We want those people to know their work is not in vain and someone has noticed just what they have been doing."

Any area resident who has shown an all-around contribution to the community and has a consistent track record of doing so is eligible.

There are a few exceptions, however. Anyone holding a political office should not be nominated. Nominees should be residents in the area served by the Big Spring

Area Chamber of Commerce. Nominations should include all relevant information that might be considered in the selection process.

"We don't want to make this a popularity contest and in order to do that judges will only take into consideration the information provided in the nomination and not refer to any personal knowledge of one's background," ValVerde said.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the chamber office, located at 215 W. Third. Forms can be mailed to 215 W. Third or P.O. Box 1391, Big Spring, Texas. For more information or to

request a nomination form, call the chamber at 432-263-7641.

Sponsors for this year's banquet include Alon USA, GEO Group, Oncor, State National Bank, Wal-Mart, Water, Water and Wells Fargo Bank.

The banquet theme is Moving Forward with

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2013 Travel Showcases
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<p style="text-align: center;">Big Spring Travel Show Thursday, January 10 10:00 AM Dora Roberts Community Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Permian Basin Travel Show Thursday, January 10 2:00 PM Holiday Inn Express Hotel 5309 West Loop 250 North Midland, Texas</p>
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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Glenn Stifflemire Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Brian McCormack Sports Editor	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OTHER VIEWS

Let us vote on casinos

A casino billboard once sought to draw travelers from a typically scrubby stretch of New Mexico highway with the gambler's siren song: "It's your turn to win!"

As anyone who has banged away on a slot machine, turned a card or rolled dem bones can tell you, it often isn't. The odds favor the house. Most Americans understand the risk of putting their hard-earned cash into games of chance. Some accept it for the rush and the fun. Others refuse.

They make the free-will choice, often not far from their homes. Gambling is no longer limited to a neon city in the desert. Forty-eight states allow some iteration; 40 have some form of legal casinos, from riverboats to racetrack slots.

The world hasn't stopped turning. States and localities have banked the tax dollars and benefited from the economic development. So when will it be Texas' turn to win?

More precisely, when will state lawmakers give Texans a chance to vote?

Biennium after biennium, this newspaper has implored the Legislature to put a casino gambling measure in front of voters. That's the most they can do, as a change to the state's gambling laws requires a voter-approved amendment to the Texas Constitution. Even if voters statewide choose legalization, local voters would still have to approve gambling in their communities.

The most logical argument in favor of such an amendment hasn't changed. Some Texans want to gamble. They will fly or drive to do it where it's legal. A pro-industry study estimates that in 2007, Texans put in play about \$2.4 billion in seven states: Nevada, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado and Arizona.

Anyone who has reviewed the license plates outside Oklahoma's WinStar and Choctaw casinos or Shreveport-Bossier City's riverboats would argue that estimate is conservative.

Gambling interests will be back in Austin this session, amid encouraging signs that they have found a unity of purpose: Las Vegas-styled resort casinos in metro areas. Past efforts have failed to even get a bill to the floor for debate, hampered in part by divergent priorities.

The opposition hasn't changed, either. Republicans dominate both houses, with increasing numbers apparently more loyal to their socially conservative bases than free-market principles. Even without a repeat of 2011's dramatic budget shortfalls, they will struggle to bring needed new spending into balance with holding the line at all costs on higher tax revenue.

All this newspaper is asking them to do this session is consider whether introducing a new industry to our state would spark an increase in construction activity, temporary and permanent jobs, and property and sales taxes.

They don't even have to go all in, just support more revenue from people willing to provide it — unlike, say, with a tax increase. They can let their constituents make the not-so-tough call for them.

— Dallas Morning News

End of the world on my mind

The recent falsely-prophesied "end of the world" is still on my mind. Even though many of us intellectually stable people never gave any serious credence to it actually happening, it did cause quite a global stir. While I don't want to revisit a news item that is passé and maybe even forgotten, I am still fascinated that people would get so worked up about the idea of this globe we call home passing away simply because of the Mayan calendar.

If you frequented online bulletin boards, fear-mongering websites, or the History Channel during the months that preceded Dec. 21, you probably maxed out your credit cards and said goodbye to all your non-believing friends.

In case you don't remember, according to the latest doomsday prophecy, the ancient Maya predicted the end of the world would occur on Dec. 21, 2012. We know this because that's the date their calendar ends. While they weren't specific about how Armageddon was to come about, there are a host of astronomical events that could occur that can reduce the Earth to a burned-out cinder, so theories about it happening were numerous.

There was even a science fiction disaster movie named "2012" released in 2009 whose worldwide theatrical revenue reached approximately \$770 million. I didn't see it and never plan to because that kind of stuff just doesn't get my adrenaline flowing. I'd rather sleep at home in my good bed than in a theater. But that's neither here nor there, so back to the matter of the Dec. 21 doomsday prophesy.

The Maya were a clever bunch of folks. Their civilization got started several thousand years ago and reached its height by 900 A.D., spread over the Yucatan Peninsula in present-day Mexico. They had a sophisticated culture and were adept in agriculture and architecture. They had a complex written language and a keen system of mathemat-

ics. They were excellent astronomers, understanding the patterns of the stars and planets in the sky. And, of course, they had an advanced calendar. In fact, they had several calendars.

The funny thing about all this to me is that the Mayans didn't actually prophecy the world would end on the day their calendar ended. In fact, they may have been thinking we would all be celebrating on Dec. 21 because, instead of the world coming to an ominous end, it would mark a new beginning.

Just like our calendar, theirs was based on cycles. At the end on a cycle, you reset all the current units and move the biggest one up a notch. It's what we do on December 31, reset to the first day of the first month, and increment the year by one. Happy New Year!

Of course, there have been countless predictions of the collapse or destruction of the planet. Back in 2003, there was a big doomsday rumor flying around the web about a giant planet named Nibiru, or, more ominously, Planet X, that orbits the Sun every 3600 years. On May 15 of that year, so it was said, the planet would sweep past the Earth and cause all sorts of disasters. A lot of people really believed it, too. You may remember that date as being one when the Earth wasn't destroyed. Oh, and by the way, sleep well because Nibiru doesn't even exist.

But, back to my fascination with people's interest in the whole idea of doomsday. As all of you know I am deeply and unapologetically religious, or spiritual, as I much prefer to be referenced. I believe the Bible is absolutely true and stands as the supreme authority in all matters of man, life and eternity. And if you have any interest in changing my mind about that, save your energy for some cause that is possible. And, I believe God has the only calendar that really matters.

According to the Bible, there will be an end to the world as we know it. And, frankly, it may actually occur with some resemblance to some of the concepts presented in dramatic or theatrical theories. Nobody really knows the details for certain. But what we need to concern



EDDY PRINCE

I COLUMN AS I SEE 'EM

ourselves with the most isn't when or how it's going to happen, but our personal preparedness for just such an event.

As we all learned vividly on 9-11, every aspect of everyday life in our world can be rocked in less time than it takes to get a haircut. Being prepared to face the end of time should be significantly important to every one of us. I personally believe it is inventory time for all humanity.

It's time we take an honest look into the mirror and see what's really looking back at us. How much longer can we self-righteously excuse ourselves for things like more than 55 million abortions in America since 1973? And that statistic includes only surgical and medical abortions. Because many contraceptive measures are abortifacients (drugs that induce or cause abortions), there are a huge number (as many as 14 million annually) of children killed by chemical abortions. And in case you are interested, hundreds of millions of our tax dollars assist in the slaughter.

Factor in spousal and child abuse, disregard for human rights, disease, crime, government and social corruption, immorality, drug and alcohol abuse and many more ills that plague our civilization and you start to get the feeling that the end is probably closer than we want to believe.

I'm honestly wondering how much more God is going to tolerate of the arrogance and blasphemous actions of His creation before He really does end it all? You might give that some serious consideration, making sure you're ready for it.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.

Chuck Hagel is a choice to irritate the Republicans

"Never make an enemy by accident," housemaid Anna Bates warned her husband in the third season premiere of "Downton Abbey" Sunday night. That's what the housemaid's mother always told her.

If his mother ever gave him the same advice, former GOP Sen. Chuck Hagel — now President Barack Obama's pick to serve as secretary of defense — seems to have ignored it.

Biographically, the former U.S. senator from Nebraska and decorated Vietnam War hero makes a great choice. As the president noted, "he'd be the first person of enlisted rank to serve as secretary of defense, one of the few secretaries who have been wounded in war and the first Vietnam veteran to lead the department."

But temperamentally, not so much. Though Obama lauded Hagel for representing "the bipartisan tradition we need more of in Washington," I think that what the president really meant is that Hagel is his favorite kind of Republican, the self-loathing kind.

Make that: the kind whom Democrats like because Republi-

cans do not.

Hagel alienated some on the right when he turned against the Iraq War, for which he had voted in 2002. A lot of people changed their minds about that war, but Hagel went so far as to say in 2007 that "of course" the Iraq War was about oil.

Hagel angered folks from both parties when he said during a 2006 interview, "The Jewish lobby intimidates a lot of people up here."

The Jewish lobby? Not the Israeli lobby? That's why Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told CNN on Sunday that the Hagel pick was an "in-your-face nomination."

Hagel's opposition to sanctions against Iran led Bill Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard, to warn that "nominating a person who is clearly soft on Iran would send exactly the wrong message to Tehran."

The Washington Post, which endorsed Obama in 2012, editorialized that Hagel is the wrong choice because his "stated positions on critical issues, ranging from defense spending to Iran, fall well to the left" of the president's first-term policies.

Some Democrats didn't like the fact that Hagel opposed James Hormel's appointment as ambassador to Luxembourg in 1998 on the grounds that Hormel was "openly, aggressively gay." Last month, Hagel apologized for that remark.



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Begin the new year in an old way

By **DANA JACOBI**

for AICR
Every year, I make at least one food-related New Year's resolution. This year it is to cook beans from scratch more often than using them from a can.

"Good luck," you say, thinking of the time involved. "Get real," is my reply. Cooking your own beans has multiple benefits. Let me count the ways, health first:

No sodium. You add just the amount you wish after the beans are cooked.

No BPA. At this time, beans sold in BPA-free containers are still rare.

No preservatives. Sulfites are a common additive to maintain the color in canned beans.

Save money and space. A one-pound bag of dried beans makes as many servings as you get in about 4 (15-ounce) cans. Or buy a few ounces of dried beans in bulk. They cost even less and make just enough for one or two people.

Finally, let's address the big issue - time. My routine is to soak a cup of beans overnight or toss them in a bowl at breakfast time and add water. Unless beans are old, 4 to 6 hours is usually enough soaking. Most beans then cook in 1 hour, time during which you can be doing other things, food related or outside the kitchen.

Two reasons my resolution will work: first, a small amount of dried beans, one-half to one

cup, cooks faster than a big pot and makes the right amount for a small household. What is leftover after one meal keeps in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days. And pre-cooked beans can be used in many ways, from making white bean or black bean hummus, to being tossed into a salad or added to a bowl of soup.

Second: you must try this Tuscan Bean Soup - to see for yourself that the flavor and texture of home-cooked beans is so superior that it is fully worth the effort.

Tuscan White Bean Soup

- 1 cup dried navy beans
- Cold water, enough to cover beans
- 1 leek, white part only, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3/4 cup coarsely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped carrot, in 3/4-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup chopped celery, in 3/4-inch pieces
- 1/4 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, loosely packed
- 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 4 cups reduced-sodium vegetable or chicken broth
- 2 cups water
- 1 tsp. finely chopped fresh rosemary
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- Fried leek, optional, for garnish (see note)

Place beans in deep pot and cover with cold water to 1-inch above beans. Bring water to boil and simmer, uncovered, for 1 minute. Off heat, cover and let



beans sit for 1 hour. Drain beans.

In same pot, cover beans with cold water to 2-inches above beans. Over medium-high heat, bring just to gentle boil. Cover pot partway so it does not boil over, and simmer beans until soft and creamy, 45-60 minutes. Set beans aside in cooking liquid until ready to use. Or, if not using within 4 hours, drain cooled beans and refrigerate, tightly covered, for up to 4 days.

In food processor, pulse leek, onion, carrot, celery and parsley until finely chopped and moist.

In medium Dutch oven or small soup pot, heat oil over medium-high

heat. Add chopped vegetables and cook, stirring, until they soften, 5 minutes. Cover tightly, reduce heat and gently cook vegetables until they let their juices, 10 minutes. Increase heat and cook vegetables until golden, 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add broth, 2 cups water and rosemary. Simmer, covered, until vegetables are very soft, 20 minutes. Off heat, use immersion blender to whirl soup until partly pureed, with some vegetables bits remaining.

Add 2 cups drained cooked beans to soup. Return pot to heat and cook until beans are heated through. Season soup to taste with

salt and pepper. Divide soup among 6 deep soup bowls. If desired garnish with Fried Leek. Or pass grated Parmesan cheese on the side.

Note: For Fried Leek garnish, use white and 1-inch green part of medium leek. Halve leek lengthwise. Cut each half crosswise into 1 1/2-inch sections, then cut each section lengthwise into 1/4-inch strips. Heat 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil in small skillet over medium-high heat. Add leek and cook, stirring occasionally, until strips are limp and start to brown, 3-4 minutes. Stir often until some of leek is deep brown. Drain fried leek on paper towels. As it

cools, the browned bits will get crisp. Fried leek can be rolled in a paper towel and kept at room temperature for 8 hours. Use the same day.

Makes 6 servings.

Per serving (1/4 cup): 172 calories, 3 g total fat (<1 g saturated fat), 27 g carbohydrate

11 g protein, 10 g dietary fiber, 393 mg sodium.

Something Different is written by Dana Jacobi, author of "12 Best Foods Cookbook" and contributor to AICR's "New American Plate Cookbook: Recipes for a Healthy Weight and a Healthy Life."

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Texas news in brief

Texas GOP leaders outlining priorities for session

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Republican leaders in Texas are back to work at the Capitol with an agenda that includes tax relief, abortion restrictions and spending restraint.

Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday is joining Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Joe Straus in laying out their plans for a new legislative session. Perry and Dewhurst are both out to reassert their political power to lawmakers and the public after failed campaigns for bigger offices.

Dewhurst has vowed to make the next 140 days among the most conservative sessions in recent history. Straus is starting his third term as speaker and has outlined an agenda that includes public schools, infrastructure and water.

Lawmakers entered the session with a bright revenue forecast that includes up to \$101 billion in available spending.

Flood watches cover Austin, Houston, San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Heavy rain in parts of Texas has led to flash flood watches for some of the state's largest metropolitan areas.

The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood watch for the Austin, San Antonio and Houston areas until Wednesday evening.

A flash flood watch is in effect for the Dallas-Fort Worth area through Wednesday afternoon. Oncor (ON-kor) crews worked to restore power after more than 1,700 outages, mainly in the Dallas area.

Heavy rain in parts of South Texas has led to the closure of about two dozen roads in San Antonio due to high water. Forecasters say San Antonio received nearly 3 inches of rain overnight. The Austin area recorded almost 2 inches of precipitation since Tuesday morning.

CPS Energy reported scattered electrical outages in San Antonio.

Woman slain in UT Southwestern Med Center garage

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police say a woman has been fatally shot in a parking garage at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center by an attacker who then fled.

Police on Wednesday identified the victim as 40-year-old Karen Smith. Her body was discovered Tuesday night on the fourth floor of the garage after someone nearby reported hearing several shots.

UT Southwestern officials say that Smith as an

executive assistant at the school and the attack is believed to be an isolated incident.

DPS most wanted sex offender Rubio caught

BANDERA, Texas (AP) — A tip has led to the arrest of one of the Department of Public Safety's 10 Most Wanted Sex Offenders at a home in Central Texas.

DPS says 55-year-old James Anthony Rubio was captured in Bandera, about 40 miles northwest of San Antonio.

Rubio was released from prison in April 2012 after serving 20 years for sexual assault. Investigators say Rubio last September cut off his ankle bracelet monitor and fled from the Travis County Residential Center in Del Valle.

Rubio, who was caught Monday, had outstanding warrants for failure to register as a sex offender, failure to comply with sex offender civil commitment requirements and a federal warrant for sex offense. His criminal history includes aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, rape, attempted rape and making a terroristic threat.

Ex-Ennis educator gets 5 years for soliciting boys

WAXAHACHIE, Texas (AP) — A former agriculture science teacher at a high school in North Texas has been sentenced to five years in prison for online solicitation of male students.

A judge in Waxahachie on Tuesday sentenced 28-year-old Joshua Allen Jaggears of Burleson.

The former teacher at Ennis High School earlier pleaded guilty to online solicitation of a minor, improper relations between an educator and a student and sexual performance by a child. Jaggears was sentenced to five concurrent five-year prison terms.

Prosecutors say Jaggears requested sexually explicit cellphone photos of several students. A parent happened to overhear the boys talking about Jaggears, who was then arrested in September 2011.

Abuse settlement reached with Texas archdiocese

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An out-of-court settlement has been reached between a South Texas man and the Archdiocese of San Antonio over alleged priest abuse in the 1970s.

A Floresville man who says he was abused as a boy sued the archdiocese and Louis Paul White,

who was removed as a priest in 1989. White formerly served Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wilson County.

White did not show up for trial Monday so a judge issued a nearly \$181 million default judgment against him.

The San Antonio Express-News on Tuesday reported a settlement has been reached with the archdiocese, which denied wrongdoing. Terms haven't been disclosed.

The archdiocese in 2009 publicly named White as the target of "believable" accusations of sexual assault.

Teen charged in soldier slaying near Killeen store

KILLEEN, Texas (AP) — Police say a Central Texas teenager has been charged in the fatal shooting of a Fort Hood soldier who was attacked outside a convenience store.

Killeen police on Tuesday arrested 17-year-old Terry Grant Scott of Killeen in connection with the Jan. 2 attack. Police on Wednesday did not immediately provide additional information on Scott's jail status or an attorney.

Fort Hood officials say Spec. Austin James Sampson of Bliss, N.Y., died Friday at a Temple hospital. Police say two men who were with Sampson in an SUV were critically wounded by the gunfire in a convenience store parking lot.

Investigators have not announced a possible motive for the shootings.

Sampson had been assigned to Fort Hood's Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, since February 2010.

CPS to give update on case of kidnapped Texas boy

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge could decide if a Houston boy found in March after being kidnapped as an infant eight years ago will remain in foster care.

A court hearing is set for Wednesday in Houston in the case of 8-year-old Miguel Morin. The boy has been in foster care since authorities found him living in East Texas.

Child Protective Services officials say Miguel and his parents continue to have joint therapy sessions. They say the boy also has had weekend visits with his four siblings that have gone well.

The boy's former baby sitter and her mother remain jailed on kidnapping charges.

Authorities allege Miguel was hidden in homes in Central and East Texas, kept out of school and called by a different name through the years.

2013 Glasscock County Jr. Livestock Show results

Swine Show		Junior—Kastin Wilde		Halfmann		Burnett		— Brody Halfmann	
Champion Black OPB — Holly Halfmann	Champion Cross Bred — Rafe Royall	Champion British Steer — Jordan Driver	Reserve Champion British — Kadden Kothmann	Champion American — Jordan Driver	Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann	Champion Commercial Rabbit — Zach Burnett	Reserve Commercial Rabbit — Claire Fuchs	Champion Fancy Rabbit — Ally Burnett	Reserve Champion Fancy Rabbit — Zach Burnett
Reserve Champion Black OPB — Derek Halfmann	Reserve Champion Cross Bred — Reed Seidenberger	Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann	Champion Exotic Steer — Hannah Halfmann	Reserve Commercial Rabbit — Zach Burnett	Reserve Commercial Rabbit — Claire Fuchs	Champion Medium Wool — Brody Halfmann	Reserve Champion Medium Wool — Bailey Dehlinger	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann
Champion Chester — Brylie Schaefer	Champion York — Holly Halfmann	Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann	Grand Champion Steer — Jordan Driver	Champion Fancy Rabbit — Ally Burnett	Reserve Champion Fancy Rabbit — Zach Burnett	Champion Medium Wool — Brody Halfmann	Reserve Champion Medium Wool — Bailey Dehlinger	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann
Reserve Champion Chester — Derek Halfmann	Reserve Champion York — Rafe Royall	Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann	Reserve Grand Champion Swine — Lexie Schaefer	Champion Medium Wool — Brody Halfmann	Reserve Champion Medium Wool — Bailey Dehlinger	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann
Champion Duroc — Reed Seidenberger	Grand Champion Swine — Lexie Schaefer	Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann	Senior — Lexie Schaefer	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann
Reserve Champion Duroc — Hagan Halfmann	Showmanship: Senior — Lexie Schaefer	Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann	Intermediate—Kenzie Schaefer	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann
Champion Hamp — Lexie Schaefer		Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann		Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann
Reserve Champion Hamp — Kamie Halfmann		Reserve Champion American — Allison Halfmann		Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann	Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Goat — Matthew Halfmann



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6	5	9	1	3	7	8	2	4
5	8	6	9	7	3	1	4	2
3	1	4	2	8	5	9	7	6
2	9	7	4	1	6	3	8	5
8	7	2	3	5	1	4	6	9
1	6	3	7	9	4	2	5	8
9	4	5	8	6	2	7	1	3

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News in brief

Biden to meet Wednesday with gun-safety, victims groups as deadline for proposals looms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seeking to spur fresh action on gun legislation, Vice President Joe Biden is meeting at the White House with victims groups and gun-safety organizations.

Wednesday's meeting is to be part of a series of gatherings Biden is conducting this week at the White House, aimed at building consensus around proposals to curb gun violence following the horrific elementary school shooting in Newtown, Conn. The vice president will meet Thursday with the National Rifle Association and other gun-owner groups. Meetings with representatives from the video-game and entertainment industries are also planned.

President Barack Obama wants Biden to report back to him with policy proposals by the end of the month. Obama has vowed to move swiftly on the recommendations, a package expected to include both legislative proposals and executive action.

"He is mindful of the need to act," White House spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday.

But as the shock and sorrow over the Newtown, Conn., shooting fade, the tough fight facing the White House and gun-control backers is growing clearer. Gun-rights advocates, including the powerful NRA, are digging in against tighter gun restrictions, conservative groups are launching pro-gun initiatives, and the Senate's top Republican has warned it could be spring before Congress begins considering any gun legislation.

Testimony details unfocused Holmes after Colo. massacre; police say he made elaborate plans

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — As officials this week laid out the most detailed portrait yet of last year's Aurora movie theater massacre, they also mapped sometimes paradoxical behavior by the man accused of the rampage, James Holmes.

At a hearing to determine whether the former neuroscience graduate student should stand trial for the shooting, detectives Tuesday testified that Holmes spent more than two months assembling an arsenal for the assault on a midnight screening of "The Dark Knight Returns."

He bought his tickets nearly two weeks before the July 20 massacre. He rigged an elaborate booby-trap system in his apartment to distract police from the carnage at the theater, though the trap was never sprung, they testified.

But after police arrested him leaving the scene clad in body armor, Holmes showed less focus. He played with the paper bags they placed on his hand to preserve gunpowder evidence, pretending they were puppets, Aurora Det. Craig Appel testified. Holmes played with a cup and tried to jam a staple into an electrical outlet.

Holmes' lawyers were expected to present an insanity defense. They have previously stated that Holmes, 25, is mentally ill. Defense lawyer Tamara Brady pointedly asked an ATF agent in court Tuesday whether any Colorado law prevented "a severely mentally ill person" from buying the 6,295 rounds of ammunition, body armor and handcuffs that Holmes purchased online.

Richardson, Google delegation pressing N. Korea for missile ban, open Internet

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Wednesday that his delegation is pressing North Korea to put a moratorium on missile launches and nuclear tests and to allow more cell phones and an open Internet for its citizens.

Richardson told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview in Pyongyang that the group is also asking for fair and humane treatment for an American citizen detained in North Korea. Also on the trip is Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt.

"The citizens of the DPRK (North Korea) will be better off with more cell phones and an active Internet. Those are the ... messages we've given to a variety of foreign policy officials, scientists" and government officials, Richardson said.

Most North Koreans have never logged onto the Internet, and the country's authoritarian government strictly limits access to the World Wide Web.

Richardson has said the delegation is on a private, humanitarian trip. Schmidt, who is the highest-profile U.S. business executive to visit North Korea since leader Kim Jong Un took power a year ago, has not spoken publicly about the reasons behind the journey to North Korea.

Influential Chinese newspaper to publish as management, reporters pull back from standoff

GUANGZHOU, China (AP) — Communist Party-backed management and rebellious staff at an influential weekly newspaper stepped back Wednesday from a contentious standoff over censorship that spilled over to the wider public and turned into an unexpected test of the new Chinese leadership's tolerance for political reform.

Hopes among supporters of the Southern Weekly that the dispute would strike a blow against censorship appeared to fizzle with a tentative resolution. Under an agreement reached Tuesday, editors and reporters at the newspaper will not be punished for protesting and stopping work in anger over a propaganda official's heavy-handed rewriting of a New Year's editorial last week, according to two members of the editorial staff. One, an editor, said propaganda officials will no longer directly censor content prior to publication, though other long-standing controls remain in place.

"If that's the case, we've got a small victory for the media," said David Bandurksi, an expert on Chinese media at Hong Kong University. The compromise, he said, might see censors back off the "really ham-fisted approach" they had taken in recent months.

The staff members who described the deal asked not to be identified because they feared retaliation after they and other employees were told not to speak to foreign media. Executives at the newspaper and its parent company, the state-owned Nanfang Media Group, declined comment on the agreement other than to say that staff were at work Wednesday and the Southern Weekly would publish as normal Thursday.

Aside from getting the presses rolling, the agreement appears likely to deflate the confrontation that presented a knotty challenge to Communist Party leader Xi Jinping two months after taking office. Xi has raised hopes of more liberal party rule, urging respect for the often-ignored constitution, and of a wider role for the media in helping Beijing press a renewed campaign against widespread corruption.

Illinois' newly sworn in legislature to includes 3 charged lawmakers, worrying some reformers

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — When Illinois' new General Assembly takes the oath of office Wednesday, the state that's still struggling to rebuild its image after two consecutive governors went to prison will set yet another precedent of sorts: Three sitting lawmakers facing criminal charges.

Illinois is no stranger to dramatic headlines about the nexus of politics and crime in its highest offices — most recently former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's conviction for attempting to sell Barack Obama's former U.S. Senate seat. But experts and capitol veterans can't recall a comparable circumstance for state legislators since the early 1970s, when several were rounded up in a bribery trial involving cement trucks.

The allegations against the three officials vary widely: bribery, bank fraud and trying to bring a gun onto a plane. But experts say that while the charges differ, the accumulation and timing is damaging to Illinois as it struggles to address some of the most serious financial problems in its history.

"All this does is confirm those negative, cynical opinions that are out there," said Kent Redfield, a University of Illinois at Springfield political scientist. "Part of that reputation is well deserved, ... but if you're trying to get citizens of Illinois to accept the legitimacy of the process you need as much credibility and trust as you can muster. That's in pretty low supply in state government currently."

The three legislators are Chicago Democrats. But that's where the similarities end.



By Steve Becker

Second-Hand Low?

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 6 3
♥ A K 10 9 8
♦ 7 5
♣ 9 3 2

WEST
♠ A J 7 5 2
♥ Q 5
♦ J 4
♣ Q 10 8 4

EAST
♠ 9 4
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ Q 10 8 6 2
♣ J 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10
♥ 4 2
♦ A K 9 3
♣ A K 7 6

The bidding:
South 1♦ Pass North 1♥ Pass
East 2NT Pass South 3NT
Opening lead — five of spades.

Playing second-hand low on defense is generally a sound practice, but, as with all generalities, there are occasional exceptions.

West led the five of spades against three notrump, taken by South with the ten. With only eight tricks in view, the most promising source of a ninth trick obviously lay in the heart suit. So at trick two, declarer led a heart and finessed the

eight after West followed low. East won with the jack — he could have saved a trick by ducking — and returned a spade. Eventually South scored 10 tricks consisting of four hearts, two spades, two diamonds and two clubs.

However, West could have beaten the contract by playing the queen on the first heart lead instead of mechanically following low. This could not have cost him a trick. If declarer had the jack, all five of dummy's hearts would be tricks anyway, while if East had the jack, the queen play might limit dummy to two tricks. South could not have recovered from this play and would have finished down one, scoring only two tricks in each suit.

It is true that a defender usually follows low when he is second-hand and seldom plays a high card in order to force a higher one from dummy (or declarer). But here the queen is clearly the right play, since it is very likely that if West plays low on the first heart lead, declarer will also play low from dummy.

It follows that if it is declarer's advantage to play low if West does, it must be to West's disadvantage to allow him to do so. West should therefore put up the queen.

Tomorrow: Good reasoning helps a lot.

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sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

4	3	6	2					
		8	5	4				1
6					7	8	2	
5		6			3		4	
	1		2		5		7	
	9		4			3		5
	7	2	3					9
1				9	4	2		
				6	2		1	3

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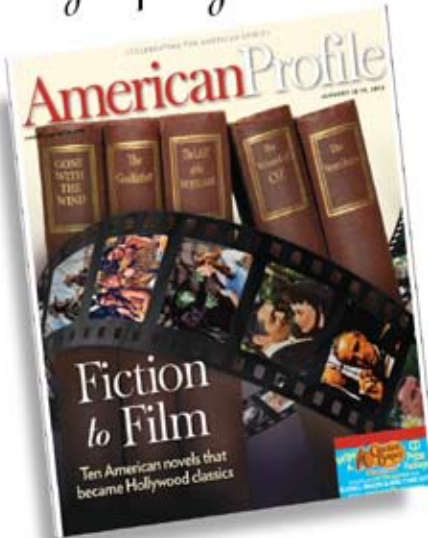
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Some great American novels went on to find new life as timeless Hollywood films. Here are 10 books of fiction that became classics of the silver screen.

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Lady Steers earn first district win

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

Girls Big Spring

SNYDER — BSHS Head Basketball Coach Mike Warren said his team “started slow, then caught fire” during Tuesday’s 51-47 win over Snyder.

The Lady Steers’ scoring was led by its trio of guards — Logan Yarbar had a game-high 19 points, Dyrshae Vanderbilt hit 13 points and nabbed 10 rebounds and Julianna Rodriguez put up seven points and had six rebounds.

Despite a shaky start, BSHS (12-12, 1-2) tightened up defensively toward the end of the game, leading to its first District 4-3A victory after losing to Sweetwater last week in the opener.

“We started to block out a lot better,” Warren explained. “Our guards carried us — they shot well — while the posts did a good job of guarding.”

With the win, Warren is focused on bringing the momentum to Abilene on Friday, where BSHS will meet two-time defending state champions Wylie.

“We are just going to go out and compete,” Warren added. “We will try to stay in each quarter and try not to let them get hot. They like to get off and running and we will have to try to slow them down. They are definitely the team to beat so far in district.”

Forsan

SUNDOWN — The Lady Buffs (15-7, 1-1) kept rolling last night as they defeated Sundown 44-31 on the road.

Mary-Ashley McDaniel gave Forsan an offensive spark, according to Head Coach Lindsey Schmidt, when she nailed two 3-point baskets in the first quarter. McDaniel accounted for 10 points for FHS, while Maria Ortiz put up 11, Brittney Hergert nine and Jahnia Willard six.

“Sundown was picked to finish third in our district,” Schmidt said. “So this was a must-win game for us. Defensively, we had another good ball game. Holding them to 31 points was Schmidt and for us.”

Schmidt said Friday as they host Plains.

“I think they are ranked No. 4 in the state,” Schmidt added. “They score 70 points per game, we know we have our work cut out for us, but if we come out and play a good defensive game, anything can happen.”

Coahoma

LAMESA — Julia Castilaw’s 12 points accounted for nearly half of the Bulldogette’s scoring output and Kaeli Yaeger added five in Tuesday’s 53-25 loss to Lamesa.

“We didn’t play very well, but we must give credit to Lamesa for getting after us from the start,” Head Coach Paul Hartman said. “We didn’t respond well to their athleticism and speed.”

Coahoma (6-17, 0-2) will continue district play on the road against Stanton on Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Grady

LOOP — The Lady Wildcats keep decimating opponents. This time, it was district foe Loop that was on the receiving end of a 54-point blowout as Grady (17-4, 6-0) remained perfect in division play by pounding Loop 81-27.

Ellyn Avery continued her dominance on the court, putting up 23 points for Grady. Ariel Arnold chipped in 15 and Cayley Oppgard added 14.

The Lady Wildcats will host Dawson on Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Boys

Forsan

SUNDOWN — It came down to two points, but Sundown was able

See **HOOPS**, Page 14



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring’s Autumn Minter puts up a shot during Tuesday’s 51-47 win over Snyder. The victory marked the first for the Lady Steers in District 4-3A action.

Judgment day for Bonds, Clemens, Sosa at HoF

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Judgment day has arrived for Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa to find out their Hall of Fame fates.

With the cloud of steroids shrouding many candidacies, baseball writers may fail for the only the second time in more than four decades to elect anyone to the Hall.

About 600 people are eligible to vote in the BBWAA election, all members of the organization for 10 consecutive years at any point. Results were to be announced at 2 p.m. EST Wednesday, with the focus on first-time eligibles that include Bonds, baseball’s only seven-time Most Valuable Player, and Clemens, the only seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

Since 1965, the only years the writers didn’t elect a candidate were when Yogi Berra topped the 1971 vote by appearing on 67 per-

cent of the ballots cast and when Phil Niekro headed the 1996 ballot at 68 percent. Both were chosen the following years when they achieved the 75 percent necessary for election.

“It really would be a shame, especially since the other people going in this year are not among the living, which will make for a rather strange ceremony,” said the San Francisco Chronicle’s Susan Slusser, president of the Baseball Writers’ Association of America.

Three inductees were chosen last month by the 16-member panel considering individuals from the era before integration in 1946: Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert, umpire Hank O’Day and barehanded catcher Deacon White. They will be enshrined during a ceremony at Cooperstown on July 28.

Also on the ballot for the first time are Sosa and Mike Piazza, power hitters whose statistics

have been questioned because of the Steroids Era, and Craig Biggio, 20th on the career list with 3,060 hits — all for the Houston Astros. Curt Schilling, 11-2 with a 2.23 ERA in postseason play, is another ballot rookie.

The Hall was prepared to hold a news conference Thursday with any electees. Or to not have one.

Biggio wasn’t sure whether the controversy over this year’s ballot would keep all candidates out.

“All I know is that for this organization I did everything they ever asked me to do and I’m proud about it, so hopefully, the writers feel strongly, they liked what they saw, and we’ll see what happens,” Biggio said on Nov. 28, the day the ballot was announced.

Jane Forbes Clark, the Hall’s chairman, said last year she was not troubled by voters weighing how to evaluate players in

See **JUDGMENT**, Page 14

Saban quickly turns to challenges of 2013 season

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — It’s becoming a familiar January scene for Nick Saban.

The Alabama coach plastered a smile on his face for a series of posed photos next to the various trophies awarded to college football’s national champions and then proceeded to talk about the challenges facing his team.

Maybe Saban let the Gatorade dry from the celebratory drenching before thinking about the 2013 season. Maybe.

“The team next year is 0-0,” Saban, who is on a 61-7 run over the past five seasons, said Tuesday morning.

“Even though I really appreciate what this team accomplished and am very, very proud of what they accomplished, we need to prepare for the challenges of the new season very quickly with the team we have coming back.”

It didn’t take Saban long to refocus after Monday night’s 42-14 demolition of Notre Dame that secured a second straight BCS title, the Crimson Tide’s third in four seasons and the seventh straight for Southeastern Conference teams.

Shortly after the game, he was already talking about getting back to the office by Wednesday morning. Alabama players,

meanwhile, finally were able to voice the “D-word.” Center Barrett Jones said he had a Sports Illustrated cover from a couple of years ago after his last college game.

“It says, ‘Dynasty. Can anybody stop Alabama?’ I’ll never forget looking at that thing and wondering if we really could be a dynasty,” said Jones, who mainly put it on the wall because he’s featured. “I think three out of four, I’m no dynasty expert, but that seems like a dynasty to me. I guess I can say that now that I’m gone. Don’t tell coach I said that.”

The 2013 team will almost certainly be regarded among the pre-season favorites to get back to the summit, even though three Tide stars — tailback Eddie Lacy, cornerback Dee Milliner and right tackle D.J. Fluker — could decide to skip their senior seasons and turn pro.

Saban also emphatically tried to end speculation that he might return to the NFL, where he spent two years with the Miami Dolphins before returning to the SEC.

It was a question that really made him bristle during the 30-plus minute news conference.

“How many times do you think I’ve been asked to put it to rest?” Saban said.

Harden scores 31 as Rockets beat Lakers for 5th straight win

HOUSTON (AP) — Sore the Los Angeles Lakers are short-handed.

But a team with Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash and Metta World Peace should still play better than this.

James Harden scored 31 points and Chandler Parsons added 20 to help the Houston Rockets pick up their fifth straight win with a 125-112 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

Houston trailed by as many as 14 in the first half, but used a pair of runs in the third quarter to go on top and build a big lead.

World Peace had a season-high 24 points for the Lakers, who were playing without their top three big men: Dwight Howard, Pau Gasol and Jordan Hill — who are all out with injuries.

Bryant added 20 points for the Lakers and Nash had 16 points and 10 assists to become only the fifth player to surpass 10,000 career assists, joining John Stockton, Jason Kidd, Mark Jackson and Magic Johnson.

Nash said he tweaked his back in the game, but that he was OK.

“It’s really hard to enjoy it right now,” Nash said of the assists. “I

don’t want to discredit it, or not appreciate the company I share in this milestone, but right now it’s the farthest thing from my mind. We’re just trying to find a way to win one game.”

The Lakers, who lost their fourth straight to the Lakers, are in 11th place in the Western Conference.

“I thought we had the better team,” World Peace said. “We definitely had the better team, but every night we have the better team and it’s just not translating to wins.”

The Rockets have rallied from double-digit deficits for their last

three wins. As usual, they did it on Tuesday night behind the strong play of Harden, who has scored at least 25 points in 13 straight games.

“They were short-handed tonight, but they are still tough,” Harden said of the Lakers. “We knew we couldn’t take them lightly. They did a great job in the first half of really getting easy shots on us. In the second half we started to pick it up defensively. We got out in transition and made some easy shots.”

“We’ve just got to move forward,” World Peace said. “We don’t have time to feel bad.”

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"Classic" Ann Landers®

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: I lost my wife of 38 years, the love of my life, to cancer, and now I feel that her death was my fault.

Years ago, she had a bruise on her breast that would not go away, but she refused to see a doctor. After a while, the skin on her breast took on a thick "orange peel" appearance. Despite my pleading, she would not see her doctor about it. More time passed.

She started leaning against walls in order to navigate and thought it was probably an inner-ear infection.

She agreed to see the doctor for an antibiotic. After many tests, the doctor determined she had multiple brain tumors that had metastasized from breast

cancer. I'm convinced that if I had dragged my wife to a doctor when I found out the bruise wouldn't go away, the cancer might have been controllable.

Because of neglect, my wife went through two years of radiation and chemotherapy — all the while wondering when the inevitable would occur.

We spent that time traveling and doing things we had always wanted to do together.

When we returned from Hawaii last August, my wife began to deteriorate.

Caring for her those last few weeks and watching her slip away was a nightmare. I beg your readers to see a doctor immediately if they detect a bruise that won't go away or if they find a lump or a mole anywhere.

Because we waited too long, I lost my lover, my wife and my pal. — A.V.

Dear A.V.: I hope it will be a comfort to you in your time of grief to know that because you wrote to me, the lives of countless other women will be saved.

Your description of the symptoms was wonderfully explicit. Thirty-eight years with the love of your life isn't a bad run. Thank you, good friend. You've performed a marvelous service today.



ANN LANDERS

Because we waited too long, I lost my lover, my wife and my pal. — A.V.

Dear A.V.: I hope it will be a comfort to you in your time of grief to know that because you wrote to me, the lives of countless other women will be saved.

Your description of the symptoms was wonderfully explicit. Thirty-eight years with the love of your life isn't a bad run.

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Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Responses will be accepted through 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 in the Old Main South Annex, room 131, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning documents submitted. The final determination of vendor award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu, (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all responses. #7622 January 6 & 9, 2013

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Owners say ferrets are pets, officials say pest

By SUE MANNING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The difference between owning a ferret in Hawaii and one in Pennsylvania can be up to three years in jail — and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.

That's the penalty for ferret fans in the Aloha State, where the 3-pound members of the weasel and polecat family are banned amid concerns of the animals escaping and wreaking havoc on the islands' delicate ecosystems. Similar fears are behind a decades-old ban in California, which has one of the nation's most diverse ecosystems.

"The concern is that if these animals were released, like other non-native species have been, they would adapt and thrive and out-compete native species for food, and prey on native species," said Adrianna Shea, deputy director of California's Fish and Game Commission.

States have had problems with feral animals in nonnative environments, creating problems for native species by eating them or ravaging their food supply.

Feral cats, for example, have decimated bird populations. In Hawaii, the introduction of the mongoose to combat a rat problem "was a very poor idea. Rats are nocturnal and mongooses are diurnal. They only saw each other for a short period between dusk and dawn," said Minami Keevin, a land vertebrate specialist with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

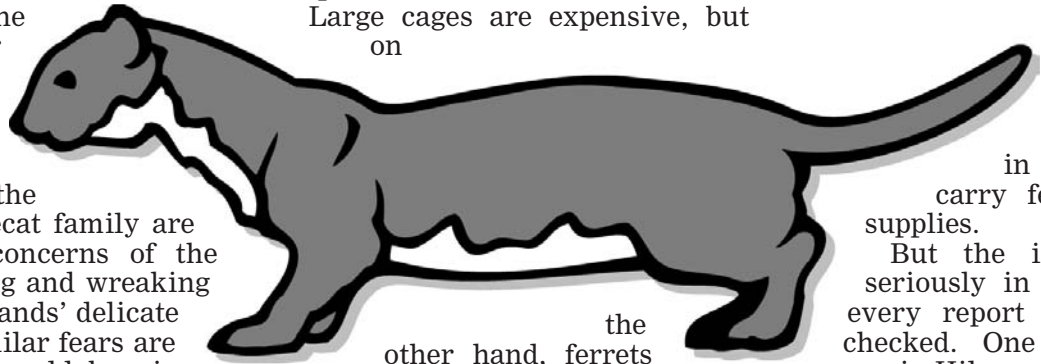
But ferret fans argue that the foot-long domesticated creatures make excellent pets and shouldn't be regulated by wildlife agencies.

"Ferrets are really wonderful animals for those of us who are so inclined. They are messy, and they're expensive, and they're demanding, but they are full of personality, full of love and full of joy," said Pat Wright, who lives in La Mesa, near San Diego, and has been fighting California's ban for nearly 20 years.

Keeping a ferret as a pet takes more time, care and money than owning a dog or cat. The American

Veterinary Medical Association in Schaumburg, Ill., which recently posted a YouTube video on pet ferrets, noted that they need to be caged most of the time, require hours of exercise and emit a musky odor that many people find unpleasant.

Large cages are expensive, but on



the other hand, ferrets don't require as much medical or dental care as cats or dogs.

"They are wonderful little clowns that not only steal your heart but they will steal anything they deem is theirs. This includes your shoes, socks, pens, pencils, hairbrushes, potatoes, car keys, wallets and clothing. I had two ferrets that tried to take my notebook computer to what is called their hidey-hole," said AmyJo Casner of Harrisville, Pa., who legally owns ferrets Manny, Marcuz, and Marylin.

Their antics are better than antidepressants, said Casner, whose pets inspired her to start a ferret clothing line that she sells online.

A count of ferret owners across the U.S. was unavailable, but the American Pet Products Association said that in 1992, 2 percent of people who owned a small animal like a mouse, rat, ferret, gerbil, rabbit, hamster or guinea pig said they had a ferret.

In 2000, 10 percent of small-animal owners said they had a ferret, and 7 percent in 2010 had them. That's despite bans in the two states, plus a number of large cities including New York, and U.S. military bases.

In California, where having a ferret can net a \$500 fine or six months in jail, Wright estimated between 50,000 and 500,000 pet ferrets live a clandestine existence. His guess is based on ferret-supply sales and a 5,000-member mailing list for his ferret legalization cause.

Shea, who said Fish and Game has never tried to verify those numbers, said California doesn't have enough game wardens to chase violators, so the ban is not strictly enforced.

Billboards close to the borders of Arizona and Nevada point motorists in the direction of ferret sellers. And most pet stores in California carry ferret food and supplies.

But the issue is taken seriously in Hawaii, where every report of a ferret is checked. One captured last year in Hilo was turned over to the Hawaii Island Humane Society, flown to Honolulu and quarantined until it could be shipped out of state. The penalty for importing, selling or possessing a ferret in Hawaii is a fine up to \$200,000 and as many as three years in jail.

Dr. Valarie Tynes, a veterinarian with the AVMA, said breeders who spay and neuter ferrets before selling them could allay states' concerns that the animals could escape and procreate.

"I think there have been concerns by some that if ferrets got loose, they might thrive in the wild in the United States and possibly be damaging to native populations," she said. "I think it's interesting, as long as they've been pets, I've never heard of any place that's happened."

California's 80-year-old ban can be changed by commission vote or legislation, and there have been six attempts at a bill since 1994. A 2004 proposal came closest when it reached the desk of the governor — Arnold Schwarzenegger, who appeared with a ferret in "Kindergarten Cop." He vetoed it.

Wright is looking for another lawmaker willing to sponsor a new round of legislation, but conceded that task alone was difficult. With legislators facing issues like the budget, gun control and health care, he noted, anyone who goes to bat for ferrets will probably be mocked.

Online:
<http://www.avma.org>

Annie's Mailbox®



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I am a 56-year-old male dating a woman with a 13-year-old son. We plan to marry in the near future.

The boy has no relationship with his father and is very fond of me, as I am of him. The problem is that he's a mama's boy. I think he is jealous of me. He competes for his mother's attention and goes so far as to crawl into bed with us in the morning in order to snuggle with her. When we sit on the sofa, he joins us and places his mother's arm around his neck as if to say, "Hey, what about me?"

I've tried to ignore this behavior, but it is starting to wear on me. My girlfriend sees nothing wrong with it, saying they have always been close and it's always been just the two of them. But I think this isn't quite right. I want her son to grow up a bit.

I raised three children and never experienced this type of thing with my kids. I feel she needs to do something to curb this behavior. Am I being insecure or territorial or something? I love my girlfriend and don't want this to be an issue, but I have no idea what to do. Any suggestions? — *Don't Want a Contest*

Dear Contest: Many boys at 13 are still children, and the cuddling with Mommy is not indicative of an aberration. However, this is also a time when Mom should be setting sensible boundaries and gently discouraging too much intimacy. Some boys can confuse their love for Mom with their developing sexual feelings. Please approach this carefully. Suggest that the two of you talk to the boy's pediatrician about appropriate behavior, and make sure your girlfriend understands that her son's long-term best interests must take precedence. For information and assistance, we suggest the National Stepfamily Resource Center at stepfamilies.info.

Dear Annie: I married a wonderful widower nine months ago. We are both in our 60s, and he treats me like a queen.

"Vern's" previous marriage of 34 years was a great one. When we married, he had lots of photos of his late wife. He thoughtfully removed them, but what upsets me is that he put a lot of them, including their wedding picture, in his home office where he spends 40 hours a week. Worse, the centerpiece of his bookshelves is the urn with her ashes.

I told Vern I thought this was a little odd, but he said it would be disrespectful to put her ashes in a closet. What do you think? — *Second Wife*

Dear Wife: Vern was thoughtful enough to remove these photos from your presence, and his office is his own private space. And we can understand why he wouldn't want to stick the urn in a closet. You can gently encourage Vern to scatter his late wife's ashes somewhere that has significance for him or ask whether he'd like to bury them. But if he is resistant, we suggest you leave this alone. Neither the photos nor the ashes are in your shared space. You have no reason to be jealous.

Dear Annie: "Frustrated in Michigan" said she sent her college-aged nieces very generous checks and didn't get a thank-you note. She then called the mother of one of the recipients to see whether it had been lost. The check was then cashed, but still no thank-you note.

In a situation like this, I wonder whether the giver is begging for attention. The gift was unsolicited. It almost seems as if the nieces are saying, "No, thanks, I'd rather do this myself." I have been the recipient of unasked-for gifts, and they almost always come with strings attached. — *No Strings for Me*

Dear Strings: If a gift comes with unwanted strings, it need only be returned — along with a note of thanks. But not to send any acknowledgement at all is extremely inconsiderate.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus Settles In

What is love? Is it fireworks and rockets or the flickering warmth of a slow-burning flame on a cold night? Venus has recently decided to explore the less dramatic option, claiming she wants to settle down into a sensible, secure groove. Enjoy some stability in the weeks to come. Fewer romantic distractions mean progress in other areas of life.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19). You have bright and intense energy now. Be careful to read people accurately so as not to overshadow them. Success depends on



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

your ability to harness your passions and use them judiciously.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The need to be right stops people from relating and learning. But the remedy is simple: Agree to be wrong, mistaken and flawed. In other words, agree to be human. So what? No one can know everything.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've gone through rough spots in a relationship, and that's why you can now appreciate the sweetness of smooth sailing. The strange part is that it's so easy to get along that you wonder why you ever didn't.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Does your work take discipline? Maybe you don't think of it in those terms, but to show up and do any job well, you need a certain amount of

willpower. Your brain will work hard today. Tonight, relax and recharge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). All of the expectations and options available to you bring pressure that is not conducive to getting things done. You'll have to shut out some of the background noise if you're going to move your main goal along.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Meeting new people is work. Sometimes you just don't feel like doing it. The energy you've been pouring into family life makes new relationships seem less appealing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your catchy personal habits make you intriguing company. Some of the things you say will inspire another person to be more like you. Expect imitations, but know that none comes close to the original.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't always want what everyone else wants, and you're proud of that. Also, you know the truth: Many people don't have any idea what they want, so they just try to blend in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As you create a change, you wonder whether it's positive, negative or neutral. No one can know for sure. That's why all change is risk. But you're a risk taker, so change you must.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may take the option you didn't want to take, but it's not settling, not exactly. It's just that now you know more about what's possible. Some amount of compromise must be

made for the greater good.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just because there's a certain way that certain people do a task doesn't make it right for all. The conventional way may or may not work for you, and if it doesn't, you'll find a better way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Plain and simple: Some endeavors are harder than others. At least you're taking this on with a friend. Just when you think you've each made every possible mistake, one of you will invent a new one — but it's all in good fun.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9). You're a brave hero! You'll defend what's yours and earn what's not yet yours. Strategy and diplomacy will be your strong suit through February. March features the happy conclusion of a term of service, and you'll embrace new responsibilities and adventures as a result. Self-control is strong through June. Virgo and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 39, 11, 20 and 16.

GEMINI YEAR AT A GLANCE: JANUARY: Relationships will bring a curious mix of emotional struggle, surrender and security. FEBRUARY: You'll go far to amuse yourself and avoid boredom without creating any lasting consequences. MARCH: You'll approach work with enthusiasm, cheer and charm and be chosen for the premium jobs. APRIL: The 8th through the 14th will be the luckiest time, with the moon, Venus and Mars rooting for you to solve a problem in the unique way that only you can. MAY: You'll move to

the top of people's minds and hearts and invite lists as Venus visits your part of the sky. JUNE: The new moon in your sign on the 8th is the perfect time to launch your humanitarian project. JULY: Meet short-term needs. Your efforts to reorganize and take excellent care of yourself will ultimately help you prevail.

AUGUST: You'll love more realistically. Focus on those you respect, and you'll become like them. SEPTEMBER: Streamline your efforts. Firm boundaries will be necessary to make it to key goalposts. OCTOBER: You'll push yourself to the limit because that's what your mission demands of you.

NOVEMBER: Your talent will be recognized in the last week. DECEMBER: Handling what's in front of you is the best way to create a future of your liking.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge, is in for a wild ride as her new year presents royal developments and expansions. Middleton's sun in ambitious Capricorn is well balanced by Mercury and Venus in Aquarius, the sign of humanitarianism. Her Cancer moon indicates a strong maternal instinct, and she is likely to love motherhood so much that she'll opt for multiple children.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King Seinfeld	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose King	King King	American Guns	CSI: Miami	Paddle, Dax Shepard	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang Ent	News Ent	Caso Cer- rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mani Andrew	PBS News- Hour	Rules Nature	American Guns	CSI: Miami	Movie: Dodgeball: A True Under- dog Story	Castle	Movie: Lakeview Terrace, Kerry Wash- ington	ANT Farm Jessie	College Basketball	NBA Basket- ball: Lakers at Spurs
7:PM :30	Middle Neighbors	Por Ella Soy Eva	Stars in Danger: The High Dive	I Get That a Lot	Rosa Dia- mante (SS)	Whitney Guys-	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Upd Chevalme	Nature (DVS)	Arrow	American Guns	Movie: Bring It On, Jesse Bradford	J. Schmo	Castle		Phineas	College Basketball	
8:PM :30	Mod Fam Suburg.	Amores Verdaderos	Simpsons How I Met	People's Choice Awards 2013	La Patrona (SS)	Law & Order: SVU	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	Supernatural	American Guns		J. Schmo	Castle	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	Good Good		
9:PM :30	Nashville	Amor Bravo (SS)	How I Met	News	Escobar Rostro de	Chicago Fire	Big Bang Big Bang		Life on Fire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sons of Guns	(01) Movie: The Truman Show	J. Schmo	Castle	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	Good Good		NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Clippers
10:PM :30	News Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met	News	Noticias (SS)	News	Conan	Rik McDonald	Charlie Rose	'Til Death 'Til Death	American Guns			CSI: NY	Movie: Without a Paddle, Dax Shepard	College Basketball		
11:PM :30	Nightline	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Office Alewine	World	'70s '70s	Sons of Guns	(15) Movie: To Die For, Joaquin Phoenix	Repo	Cold Case	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	Deck Deck	Basket NBA	SportsCenter
12:AM :30	Extra Paid	La Jaula American	Insider	Pagado	Pagado	(05) Today	Movie: Eddie and the Cruisers	Light. Light.		Browns Browns	American Guns		Repo	Southland	Good Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
1:AM :30	Paid Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Pagado	Pagado					L. Tripp	American Guns	(45) Movie: Entourage	Repo		Good Good			

DENNIS THE MENACE

1-9

"I ALWAYS TELL MOM SHE DOESN'T NEED TO DIET, SO SHE'LL KEEP MAKIN' DESSERTS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

1-9

"Can you tell Billy to stop using up so much snow?"

HAGAR

LATELY I'VE HAD TROUBLE FALLING ASLEEP!

WHY DON'T YOU TRY COUNTING SHEEP?

BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY SHEEP

BC

I'VE CREATED A SCULPTURE TO GIVE FUTURE GENERATIONS AN IDEA OF HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES!

UM... BIT OSTENTATIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?

WOW - YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TIME, THOR.

IS MY NOSE REALLY THAT BIG?

BLONDIE

WERE YOU JUST TALKING TO YOUR BOWLING SHOES, DEAR?

OF COURSE NOT! I WAS THINKING OUT LOUD!

IT SURE SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE APOLOGIZING FOR REPLACING THEM WITH A NEW PAIR

HA! HA! GOOD ONE!

SO, ANYWAY, IN CONCLUSION...

WIZARD OF ID

THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA BOARD TO SEE YOU, SIRE

SHOW THEM IN

THEY GOT DISTRACTED BY THE ROYAL BUFFET

THEY GOT DISTRACTED BY THE ROYAL BUFFET

AGNES

I NEED MONEY TO BUY A SNOW SHOVEL

WHY DO YOU NEED A SNOW SHOVEL?

SO I CAN SHOVEL SIDEWALKS TO EARN MONEY.

SO THE LESSON HERE IS "YOU NEED TO HAVE MONEY TO MAKE MONEY!"

FINE... NEXT LESSON... "YOU NEED TO HAVE MONEY TO LEARN."

LEARNED. CAN I HAVE TEN BUCKS?

"YOU NEED TO LEARN TO LEARN."

LEARNED. CAN I HAVE TEN BUCKS?

"YOU NEED TO LEARN TO LEARN."

HI AND LOIS

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO STAND UP...

I ALWAYS FALL DOWN.

NOBODY UNDERSTANDS GRAVITY BETTER THAN A BABY.

I ALWAYS FALL DOWN.

NOBODY UNDERSTANDS GRAVITY BETTER THAN A BABY.

THE OTHER COAST

SAKURA, IF YOU WEREN'T A DOG, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO BE?

WELL, I'D BE A CARNIVORE, GUARANTEED A FULL MEAL EVERY DAY, ALONG WITH SNACKS.

A SOFT BED TO SLEEP ON, LOTS OF LOVE AND ATTENTION, AND REGULAR CAR RIDES TO THE PARK.

YOU'RE DESCRIBING A DOG.

YOU MEAN GRIZZLY BEARS DON'T GET THE SAME DEAL?

YOU'RE DESCRIBING A DOG.

YOU MEAN GRIZZLY BEARS DON'T GET THE SAME DEAL?

SNUFFY SMITH

AHH... THAR'S NUTHIN' THAT CAN BEAT A BOX OF CHOCKLITS AN' A STEAMY ROMANCE !!

LOWEEZY !! COME QUICK-- GOSSIP ALERT !!

SIGH... THIS IS WHAT MY GRAMMY CALLED AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES !!

SIGH... THIS IS WHAT MY GRAMMY CALLED AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES !!

BEEBLE BAILEY

DID MISS BUXLEY GET ME A DATE?

YEAH, SHE HAD A HARD TIME FINDING A BRAVE GIRL

HERE SHE COMES NOW

HERE SHE COMES NOW

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2013. There are 356 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, Calif.

On this date:

In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew between Philadelphia and Woodbury, N.J.

In 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union, the same day the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, S.C., retreated because of artillery fire.

In 1931, Bobbi Trout and Edna May Cooper broke an endurance record for female aviators as they returned to

Mines Field in Los Angeles after flying a Curtiss Robin monoplane continuously for 122 hours and 50 minutes.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines.

In 1951, the United Nations headquarters in New York officially opened.

In 1960, on his 47th birthday, Vice President Richard Nixon became a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

In 1968, the Surveyor 7 space probe made a soft landing on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purported autobiography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake.

In 1987, the White House released a Jan. 1986 memorandum prepared for President Ronald Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In 1993, the two owners of a fast food restaurant in Palatine, Ill., and five employees were found shot and stabbed to death. (Two suspects were arrested in May 2002; both were convicted in separate trials and sentenced to life in prison.)

In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 people on board.

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Krantz is 85. Football Hall-of-Famer Bart Starr is 79. Sportscaster Dick Enberg is 78. Actress K. Callan is 77. Folk singer Joan Baez is 72. Rockabilly singer Roy Head is 72. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 69.

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Answer to previous puzzle

TBSP	IDOL	SPADE
RACE	NOVA	COCOA
ACRE	FLAT	ADIOS
COOL	MILLION	DRY
ENDSON	NUTS	
	RIPE	TYPEAS
SST	ATOMS	AXLE
CHILLY	RECEPTION	
AONE	TRANS	TED
NESTLE	YMCA	
	SAGE	LLAMAS
STS	COLD	COMFORT
KIOSK	BIAS	IDEA
INDIE	ONME	REAL
MEATY	WEED	ELSE

Newsday Crossword

OUT ON A LIMB by Bruce R. Sutphin
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

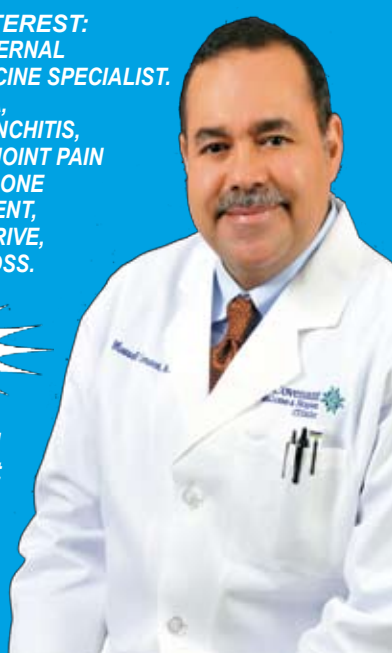
- ACROSS**
- 1 Beat-keeping instrument
 - 5 Females
 - 9 May honorees
 - 14 Decrease
 - 15 Camping structure
 - 16 Texas shrine
 - 17 Desperate hope
 - 20 Get gas and go
 - 21 Sign of a sellout show
 - 22 Ice cream holder
 - 23 Overdo it in the sun
 - 24 Workout unit
 - 26 French author Émile
 - 28 Curiosity probe's destination
 - 30 Mockeries
 - 34 "I understand now!"
 - 37 Tiny amount
 - 39 Prolong one's gaze
 - 40 Enforcement power
 - 44 Rite place
 - 45 Seafood serving
 - 46 AOL competitor
 - 47 Taken suddenly
 - 49 Bad reviews
 - 51 Federal health org.
 - 54 "Doesn't matter to me"
 - 57 Writer Angelou
 - 60 Exist
 - 62 Spicy sausage
 - 64 President, Cabinet, etc.
 - 67 PC support staff
- DOWN**
- 1 Tower over
 - 2 Less cooked
 - 3 Join together
 - 4 Restaurant reading
 - 5 Result of poor ventilation
 - 6 Egg source
 - 7 Ceases
 - 8 HBO alternative
 - 9 Damage a bit
 - 10 4 Down phrase
 - 11 Sandwich spread
 - 12 "Couldn't agree more"
 - 13 Holding a grudge
 - 18 Start of a 69 Across
 - 19 Magical sound effect
 - 25 Scenes in many teen movies
 - 27 Mascara destination
 - 29 Bend down
 - 31 Serene
 - 32 Historical periods
 - 33 Stitched together
 - 34 Cry of sadness
 - 35 Logical flaw
 - 36 Prefix like contra-
 - 38 Company with a spokeduck
 - 41 Spanish soup
 - 42 Carpeting calculation
 - 43 Mixes the drinks
 - 48 "Darn it!"
 - 50 Leave a mark on 52 Missteps
 - 54 Homeland star Patinkin
 - 55 Game show host
 - 56 Cymbal with a 1 Across
 - 57 Prefix for physics
 - 58 Chopped down
 - 59 Expression of disgust
 - 61 Villainous
 - 63 Rested (on)
 - 65 Pac-12 sch.
 - 66 Bird on Australian coins

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
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23			24		25		26		27			
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70							71					72

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RG3 has surgery on torn knee ligament

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Griffin III had surgery Wednesday morning to repair a torn ligament and to determine whether there was any other damage in his ailing right knee.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press that the procedure was expected to last about two hours. The person said orthopedist James Andrews planned to repair a torn lateral collat-

eral ligament and examine the state of Griffin's ACL.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Redskins had not made an announcement about the latest details surrounding the rookie quarterback's injury.

A torn LCL requires a rehabilitation period of several months, possibly extending into training camp and the start of next season. A torn

ACL is a more severe injury, typically requiring nine to 12 months of recovery, although Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson made a remarkable return this season some eight months after tearing an ACL — and nearly broke the NFL's single-season rushing record

Griffin was optimistic before he entered surgery, tweeting early Wednesday: "Thank

you for your prayers and support. I love God, my family, my team, the fans, & I love this game. See you guys next season."

Griffin reinjured his knee at least twice in Sunday's playoff loss to the Seattle Seahawks, prompting a national debate over whether coach Mike Shanahan endangered Griffin's career by not taking his franchise player out of the game sooner.

JUDGMENT

Continued from Page 8

the era of performance-enhancing drugs.

"I think the museum is very comfortable with the decisions that the baseball writers make," she said. "And so it's not a bad debate by any means."

Bonds has denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and was convicted of one count of obstruction of justice for giving an evasive answer in 2003 to a grand jury investigating PEDs. Clemens was acquitted of perjury charges stemming from congressional testimony during which he denied using PEDs.

Sosa, who finished with 609 home runs, was among those who tested positive in MLB's 2003 anonymous survey. The New York Times reported in 2009. He told a congressional committee in 2005 that he never took illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

The BBWAA election rules say "voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played."

"Steroid or HGH use is cheating, plain and simple," ESPN.com's Wallace Matthews wrote. "And by definition, cheaters lack integrity, sportsmanship and character. Strike one, strike two, strike three."

Several holdovers from last year remain on the 37-player ballot, with top candidates including Jack Morris (67 percent), Jeff Bagwell (56 percent), Lee Smith (51 percent) and Tim Lincecum (49 percent).

When The Associated Press surveyed 112 eligible voters in late November, Bonds received 45 percent support among voters who expressed an opinion, Clemens 43 percent and Sosa 18 percent. The Baseball Think Factory website compiled votes by writers who made their opinions public and with 159 ballots had everyone falling short. Biggio was at 69 percent, followed by Morris (63), Bagwell (61), Raines (61), Piazza (60), Bonds (43) and Clemens (43).

Morris finished second last year when Barry Larkin was elected and is in his 14th and next-to-last year of eligibility. He could become the player with the highest-percentage of the vote who is not in the Hall, a mark currently

held by Gil Hodges at 63 percent in 1983.

Several players who fell just short in the BBWAA balloting later were elected by either the Veterans Committee or Old-Timers' Committee: Nellie Fox (74.7 percent on the 1985 BBWAA ballot), Jim Bunning (74.2 percent in 1988), Orlando Cepeda (73.6 percent in 1994) and Frank Chance (72.5 percent in 1945).

Ace of three World Series winners, Morris finished with 254 victories and was the winningest pitcher of the 1980s. His 3.90 ERA, however, is higher than that of any Hall of Famer. Morris will be joined on next year's ballot by Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, both 300-game winners.

If no one is elected this year, there could be a logjam in 2014. Voters may select up to 10 players.

The only certainty is the Hall is pleased with the writers' process.

"While the BBWAA does the actual voting, it only does so at the request of the Hall of Fame," said the Los Angeles Times' Bill Shaikin, the organization's past president. "If the Hall of Fame is troubled, certainly the Hall could make alternate arrangements."

HOOPS

Continued from page 8

to fend off the Forsan Buffaloes (10-8, 0-1) on Tuesday, coming away with a narrow, 51-49 victory.

Forsan outscored Sundown 18-5 in the third stan-

za, but a slow start proved too much to overcome for the Buffs, despite having four players score in double digits.

Dillon Bagnall led FHS with 14 points and six rebounds and Kade Fannin scored 12 points and grabbed 18 rebounds. Aric Hernandez added 11 points and Tyler Evas put up 10.

The Buffs will host Plains on Friday.

Stanton

STANTON — The Buffaloes of Stanton posted a record of 17-3 on the season with a 51-44 win over Pecos.

Cole Schroyer scored a game-high 16 points for SHS and Scott Smith added 15.

The Buffs will open District 3-2A play Friday at Coahoma at 8 p.m.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

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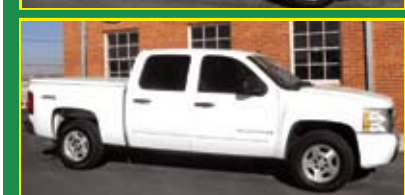
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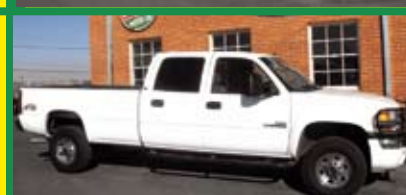
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