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New trustees sworn in to college board

BY LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

It was a bittersweet moment for the Howard College Board of Trustees Monday.

The board said goodbye to long-time member Marie Ethridge, who is moving out of the district, with a resolution of appreciation, and sworn in two newly appointed trustees to fill both vacancies left by Ethridge and the death of Dr. Charles Warren.

Those two men are Adriel E. Saldivar, a local business owner, and Ryan Williams, a physician's assistant.

Saldivar return five years ago to his native town after living in Austin and said he applied for the

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3



New Howard College trustees Ryan Williams, left, and Adriel E. Saldivar take the oath of office from Julie Bailey during the college board meeting Monday afternoon.



A grant from the Texas A&M Forest Service has resulted in Glasscock County's Drumright Volunteer Fire Department receiving this new brush truck, equipped with a system that delivers fire-retardant foam.

TFS grant finances new truck for Glasscock fleet

GARDEN CITY — Thanks to a grant from Texas A&M Forest Service, Glasscock County's Drumright Volunteer Fire Department has received a new addition to its fleet.

"This unit will make a big difference in the department's ability to serve and protect the citizens in Drumright VFD's service area," said TFS Regional Fire Coordinator, Bill Davis.

The brush truck is equipped with a compressed air foam system that is used to deliver fire retardant foam. The CAFS system is a significant innovation in modern fire suppression technology, changing the way fires are attacked and extinguished, officials said.

"The CAFS provides us with a wider range of strategic options on our calls and we feel that the low profile tank is more stable in rough off road conditions," said Drumright VFD Fire Chief Baylor Walker.

"The TFS grant programs are extremely important to rural, sparsely populated counties," Walker said. "Without the support of our county officials and TFS, our department's capabilities would be extremely limited."

Volunteer firefighters operate 85 percent of the fire departments in Texas.

This year TFS will pass approximately \$24.3 million along to VFDs across the state. The grants aid them in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

– Julie Bass

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Cruz in spotlight at Republican debate

By JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump will be standing at center stage, but Ted Cruz will be in the spotlight at Tuesday night's Republican presidential debate.

The Texas senator is challenging Trump's lead in the kickoff Iowa caucuses, and he has the money, campaign infrastructure and conservative appeal to compete deep into the GOP primary season. Those assets now make him a target for his rivals, most notably Trump and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

Trump and Cruz have been getting along for months, and that has protected the senator from the harsh criticism the businessman has flung against other opponents. But signs of a split have emerged in recent days, with Cruz appearing to question Trump's judgment at a private fundraiser, according to audio obtained by The New York Times, and Trump calling Cruz "a little bit of a maniac."

Trump didn't go after Cruz by name

during a Las Vegas rally on the eve of the debate, but said the primetime face would likely turn messy.

"I am giving them a chance for them to making total fools of themselves in front of millions of people," Trump charged, adding he's expecting to be attacked. "This will not be like an evening in paradise for me. Do we agree?"

Another intriguing dynamic Tuesday's prime-time debate in Las Vegas involves Cruz and Rubio. Both are first-term senators and Cuban Americans who see themselves as alternatives to Trump, who has baffled Republican leaders with his political durability.

Cruz and Rubio have been sparring from afar for weeks, particularly over national security, which is now a top campaign issue following the attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California. Rubio has tried to brand Cruz as an isolationist and has criticized his support for ending the bulk collection of Americans' phone records, saying

it weakens the government's ability to identify potential terrorists.

"There are some differences in policy," Rubio said of Cruz in an interview Monday with The Associated Press. "I think we need to be the national security party, the party of strong national security, committed to ensuring we

See **CRUZ**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Ross Wayne Bonner



Dr. Ross Wayne Bonner, 92, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Bill Ivins officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, 2015, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Wayne was born March 5, 1923 in Otto, Texas and

married Lucy Williams Aug. 28, 1948 in Dallas, Texas. She preceded him in death Feb. 10, 2008.

He served in the U.S. Army and was on the coaching staff that took the 1953 Big Spring Steers to the state football championship game. Wayne was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Wayne is survived by a daughter, Gwynn Jump and husband, Dennis, of Denton; a son, Greg Bonner of California; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, Oscar Lee and Ida Mae (Durham) Bonner.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at: www.npwelch.com

Mary Bradberry

Mary Bradberry, 69, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Local 5-Day Forecast				
Wed 12/16	Thu 12/17	Fri 12/18	Sat 12/19	Sun 12/20
 53/27 Sunny skies. High 53F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.	 54/26 Windy with sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 20s.	 56/31 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 63/42 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	 66/45 Considerably cloudy, windy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:45 PM

Larry McWhorter



Larry W. McWhorter, 73, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, at his residence. A private family burial was at noon Monday Dec. 14, 2015, at Wilbarger Memorial Park in Vernon.

He was born Aug. 17, 1942, in Seymour, Baylor County, Texas to Opal Evans McWhorter and Calvin McWhorter. He grew up on the Waggoner Ranch and worked most of his life as a ranch hand until 1997. During that time, he also worked at Kentucky Anna Farms, which raised race horses, and in the mines in Arizona. In more recent years, he had worked at the Big Spring State Hospital. He had been a resident of Big Spring since 1986 and married Lorena Mutters on Aug. 17, 1989, in Big

Spring.

He is survived by his wife, Lorena McWhorter, of Big Spring; three daughters, Michael Shannon Blackketter of San Antonio, Melissa Jane McWhorter Crandell of Mesa, Ariz., and Larra Lee McWhorter Black of Pennsylvania; two sons, Heath Houston McWhorter of Gilbert, Ariz., and Eben Wayne McWhorter of Pima, Ariz.; three brothers, William Carter McWhorter of Las Cruces, Larry Dale McWhorter of Argyle and Jerry Lynn McWhorter of Greenville; two sisters-in-law, Yvonne McWhorter and Irene McWhorter; 16 grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Edward Carl McWhorter and Calvin Carlton McWhorter.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Police/Sheriff/Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **TINA DEANNE GAMMILL**, 54, of 1702 Yale Ave. was arrested on a charge of assault – family violence, threat or offensive touch.
- **JOSE ANTHONY NIETO**, 35, of 2403 S. Main St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **BRAD WAYNE DUGAN JR.**, 32, of 4614 Aspen St. was arrested on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 6400 block of W. I-20 and the 200 block of N.E. 12th St.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 3300 block of E. FM 700.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the intersection of Park and Virginia Streets.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of E. 11th St. and the 1900 block of Scurry St.
- **THEFT** was reported

in the 200 block of W. FM 700.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1400 block of Scurry St.

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 58 inmates at the time of this report.

- **BRAD WAYNE DUGAN JR.**, 32, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **TINA GAMMILL**, 54, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of assault – family violence, threat or offensive touch.
- **JOSE ANTHONY NIETO**, 35, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **BRANTLEY CARNELL GARY**, 42, was booked by the DPS on a warrant for failure to appear – possession of marijuana.

The Big Spring Fire

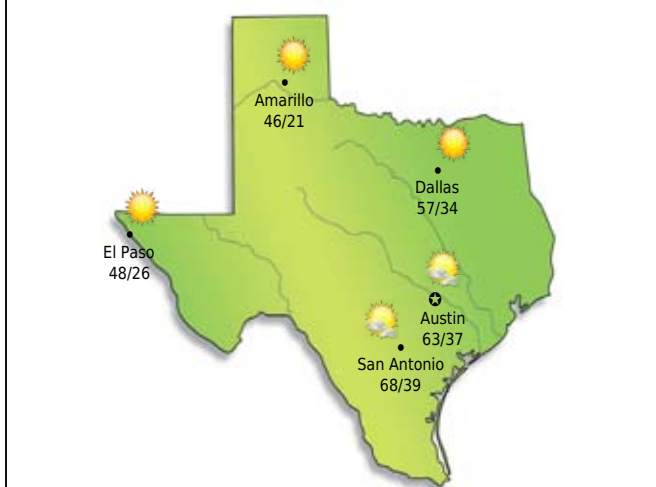
Department and Emergency Services reported the following information:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of Settles. No transport.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of 4th St. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported on Hwy 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of Main St. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **SMOLDERING MATERIAL** was reported on Johnson St. Hazard removed.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **PUBLIC SERVICE** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore St. No transport.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2600 block of Hunter Dr. One

person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 600 block of Ridgeline. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of Lamesa. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **POWER LINE DOWN** was reported in the 100 block of 7th St. Safe area established.
- **GASOLINE SPILL** was reported on I-20 near mile marker 183. Identified, analyzed hazardous material.
- **BARBECUE FIRE** was reported in the 1200 block of Johnson. Investigated.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of Jefferson. No transport.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of 6th St. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Young St. One person was transported

Texas at a Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	64	35	Sunny	Kingsville	81	57	M Cloudy
Amarillo	48	20	Sunny/Wind	Livingston	75	56	Sunny
Austin	70	49	M Sunny	Longview	74	51	Sunny
Beaumont	75	59	Sunny	Lubbock	54	25	Sunny
Brownsville	82	65	M Cloudy	Lufkin	76	55	Sunny
Brownwood	67	34	Sunny	Midland	57	32	Sunny
Corpus Christi	76	59	P Cloudy	Raymondville	82	63	Cloudy
Corsicana	66	46	Sunny	Rosenberg	78	59	Sunny
Dallas	71	43	P Cloudy	San Antonio	72	49	Cloudy
Del Rio	71	40	Cloudy	San Marcos	71	50	Cloudy
El Paso	49	26	Cloudy	Sulphur Springs	66	47	Sunny
Fort Stockton	58	33	Sunny	Sweetwater	61	35	Sunny
Gainesville	66	37	Sunny	Tyler	71	50	Sunny
Greenville	66	44	Sunny	Weatherford	69	40	Sunny
Houston	78	60	Sunny	Wichita Falls	66	35	Sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	67	43	Sunny	Miami	82	72	P Cloudy
Boston	58	40	P Cldy/Wind	Minneapolis	36	34	Cloudy
Chicago	45	41	Cloudy	New York	63	44	Sunny
Dallas	71	43	P Cloudy	Phoenix	56	35	Sunny
Denver	27	14	Snow	San Francisco	58	45	Clear
Houston	61	43	M Cloudy	Seattle	46	40	Cloudy
Los Angeles	62	40	Sunny	Saint Louis	54	47	Cloudy

Moon Phases

 First Dec 18	 Full Dec 25	 Last Jan 2	 New Jan 10
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UV Index

Wed 12/16	Thu 12/17	Fri 12/18	Sat 12/19	Sun 12/20
3	3	3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

0

11

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to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **FIRE** was reported in the 2000 block of FM 700. Out upon arrival.
- **FALSE ALARM** was reported in the 1200 block of Sycamore St. Investigated.
- **SMOKE DETECTOR ACTIVATED** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster St. Investigated.

- The Big Spring Art Association meets every third Tuesday, September through May at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Memberships are available. The annual dues are \$20.
- Howard College will be hosting several “update meetings” throughout Howard County for interested citizens to gather more facts and information about Howard College as

they prepare for the tax rate rollback election to be held in January 2016. Those dates are: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 12:30 p.m. Hall Center for the Arts Auditorium, Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane, (sign language interpretation provided); and Tuesday, Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. Hall Center for the Arts Auditorium, Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- A pig showmanship camp sponsored by the Howard County Live-

stock Association will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dec. 12 at Howard College. The cost is \$10 and is open to the first 50 exhibitors. Lunch is included in the cost. Topics covered is basics of showmanship, feed and nutrition and daily management. To registrar, e-mail HCJLA01@gmail.com.

- Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to sit with patients, make items for patients and

help with office work. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7911 or 432-213-0150.

- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week, call Kim Plew at 263-4016 or 213-7960.
- Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

Take Note

Support Groups

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

- **RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy)** a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

 - **Alcoholics Anonymous**, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women’s meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

- **Spring Tabernacle Ministries** has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.
- **Weight Watchers** meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don’t have to talk if you don’t want to. Flexible payment options.
- **Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous** meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the

mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls).

Open meeting at 7 p.m.

- **A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group** meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran’s Healing Center.

FRIDAY

 - **Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous** meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls).

Open meeting at 7 p.m.

 - **AA open discussion meeting** from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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Courtesy photo
Marie Ethridge stands with HC Board President John Freeman after receiving a resolution of appreciation for her many years serving as a college trustee.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

trustee position because he wanted to give back to the community.

“My interest has already been with the college,” Saldivar said. “Big Spring needs to grow. It’s going to grow.”

Even though the terms of both positions last until 2020, college President Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks said the two men will have to stand for election in May of 2016 if they want to keep the seat.

Trustees gave notice of candidacy filing for the 2016 May elections at the meeting.

Two other positions are up this cycle. District 1 is served by Michael Flores and District 2 has Murray Murphy as its representative.

Filing an intent to run officially for a trustee begins Jan. 20, 2016. Paperwork can be obtained at the president’s office during business hours, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In other business, trustees:

- Approved an agreement to lease the land which houses the Vietnam Memorial for \$1.
- Heard an update on the year-long 70th anniversary celebration for Howard College.
- Sparks reported that during the month of January, a number

of college professors will be hold a one-day continuing education class over a specific topic such as astronomy, music, photography, or economics to name a few.

There will be a cost to each of the courses, but they will be open to the public, Sparks added.

- Trustees will soon begin the process on a \$2 million ventilation and air conditioning project at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. The funding for the large project was secured during the last Texas legislative session.

Staff Writer Lyndel Moody can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@big-springherald.com.

News in brief

Los Angeles schools closed due to threat

LOS ANGELES (AP) — All schools in the vast Los Angeles Unified School District have been ordered closed due to a threat, a spokeswoman Ellen Morgan said Tuesday.

During a press conference Tuesday officials said they received the electronic threat and were still analyzing it. They said the action was being taken out of an abundance of caution. Schools would remain closed until the threat was cleared, which they expected to happen by the end of the day.

“We need to cooperation of the whole of Los Angeles today,” said school board President Steve Zimmer. “We need families and neighbors to work together with our schools and with our employees to make sure our schools are safe throughout today.”

The district, the second largest in the nation, has 640,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade and more than 900 school.

The district spans 720 square miles including Los Angeles and all or part of more than 30 smaller cities and some unincorporated areas.

Study: Smaller counties driving US jail population growth

NEW YORK (AP) — While big-city jails get most of the attention, lockups in small and medium-sized counties have actually driven the overall explosion in the U.S. inmate population, according to a new analysis of 45 years of jail statistics.

U.S. jails now hold nearly 700,000 inmates on any given day, up from 157,000 in 1970, and the Vera Institute of Justice found that smaller counties now hold 44 percent of the overall total, up from just 28 percent in 1978.

Jail populations in mid-sized counties with popu-

lations of 250,000 to 1 million residents grew by four times and small-sized counties with 250,000 residents or less grew by nearly seven times, Vera’s analysis shows. In that time large county jail populations grew by only about three times.

Exactly what’s behind that trend is not clear but experts say a range of factors likely contribute, from law enforcement’s increased use of summonses and traffic tickets to the closing of state mental hospitals in that time.

30 lives extinguished, but no regrets: A killer’s story

IGUALA, Mexico (AP) — The killer says he “disappeared” a man for the first time at age 20. Nine years later, he says, he has eliminated 30 people — maybe three in error.

He sometimes feels sorry about the work he does but has no regrets, he says, because he is providing a kind of public service, defending his community from outsiders. Things would be much worse if rivals took over.

“A lot of times your neighborhood, your town, your city is being invaded by people who you think are going to hurt your family, your society,” he says. “Well, then you have to act, because the government isn’t going to come help you.”

He operates along the Costa Grande of Guerrero, the southwestern state that is home to glitzy Acapulco as well as to rich farmland used to cultivate heroin poppies and marijuana. Large swaths of the state are controlled or contested by violent drug cartels that traffic in opium paste for the U.S. market, and more than 1,000 people have been reported missing in Guerrero since 2007— far fewer than the actual number believed to have disappeared in the state.

Leading Thai seafood boss: AP shrimp probe ‘wake-up call’

BANGKOK (AP) — The president of one of the world’s biggest seafood exporters expressed frustration and promised change Tuesday after saying an Associated Press investigation that linked slave-peeled shrimp to his company should be a “wake-up call” to the industry.

Thiraphong Chansiri said Thai Union will spend millions of dollars to end reliance on poorly regulated contractors that have been responsible for much of the abuse.

Like other exporters in Thailand, his company has for years relied heavily on poor migrants working in factories in the port town of Samut Sakhon to peel, gut and devein shrimp.

The AP report revealed Monday that many of these laborers are undocumented and can end up being tricked or sold into factories where they are forced to work 16-hour days with no time off and little or no pay for sometimes years at a time. Some end up locked inside. Others are allowed to go out, but only if they leave their children or spouse behind as a guarantee against running away.

Thiraphong said despite great efforts, Thai Union has been unable to keep labor abuses out of its supply chains. It has tried everything from spot checks by third-party auditors to regular meetings with external suppliers. But problems keep popping up.

CRUZ

Continued from Page 1

have the strongest military force in the world.”

More broadly, Rubio’s campaign is eager to cast Cruz, who prides himself on being a conservative “truth-teller,” as a politically expedient flip-flopper who is willing to say whatever is necessary to win an election. Rubio’s campaign has raised questions about the consistency of Cruz’s positions on sending troops to the Middle East, as well as his ambiguousness on whether he would allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to stay in the country.

Cruz’s campaign has dismissed Rubio’s criticism, with spokesman Rick Tyler saying, “Nobody believes Senator Cruz is weak on national defense and security.”

Tuesday’s debate will be the first for Republicans in more than a month, and also the first since the attacks in Paris and California. The four previous

GOP debates had record viewership, giving the candidates an unparalleled platform to reach voters.

With just six weeks until voting begins, the broad contours of the race remain consistent. Trump still sits atop the GOP field, displaying a talent for connecting with voters frustrated with Washington and on edge about the threat of terrorism. He continues to make controversial comments that might disqualify more traditional candidates, including his recent call for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S.

More experienced politicians are still struggling to break through in the crowded field. Some party leaders fear that unless the party’s establishment wing quickly rallies around one candidate, the nomination could go to Trump or Cruz — candidates they see as all but unelectable in a contest with Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

Still, there have been some signs of movement

in early voting states since Republicans last took the debate stage.

Cruz’s rise in Iowa has been accompanied by a precipitous decline for Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon who has struggled with inexperience on national security matters. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is enjoying increasing support in New Hampshire, which helped him regain his spot on the main debate stage after being downgraded in November.

“I’ve been making executive decisions for 13 years and been held accountable for them,” Christie told AP in an interview. “There’s no other way to get ready for the presidency than that; you have to have executive experience to be successful.”

Also on the main stage Tuesday night will be Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, former business executive Carly Fiorina, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul. Four lower-polling candidates will appear at an earlier event:

former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former New York Gov. George Pataki and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham.

For struggling candidates, the debates will be one of their last opportunities to change the trajectory of their campaigns before voting begins in Iowa Feb. 1. The stakes are particularly high for Bush, who was once seen as a front-runner for the Republican nomination and has raised more money than any other candidate.

Bush has scoffed at suggestions that he should drop out of the race before voting begins. But that idea is likely to build if he delivers another lackluster debate performance.

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Larry McWhorter, 73, died Saturday.

Jose H. “Joe” Olivares, 54, died Wednesday. Prayer service will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Lighthouse Restoration Center. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at the Lighthouse Restoration Center with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Alfred R. Cerna, 87, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Tuesday at the Ackerly Cemetery.

Mary Bradberry, 69, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Opinion

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

Will elites blow up the GOP?

“Buchanan, if you ever hear of a group getting together to stop X, be sure to put your money on X.”

So, Richard Nixon told me half a century ago, after he had been badly burned in just such a futile and failed enterprise.

It was the Cleveland Governors Conference of 1964.

Sen. Barry Goldwater had just defeated Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in the final and decisive winner-take-all primary in California.



PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

As the story is told, Stu Spencer, Rocky’s man in California, had come to his candidate and said, “Governor, I think it’s time to call in the Eastern establishment.”

To which Rocky replied, “You’re looking at it, buddy. I’m all that’s left!”

Rocky was cooked. But then the panicked Republican governors gathered in Cleveland — Rockefeller, George Romney of Michigan, William Scranton of Pennsylvania — to plot a path to deny Goldwater the nomination he and his conservative insurgents had won.

Nixon was invited, and, according to Romney, privately urged him to get into the race. Nixon denied it.

The governors, and Goldwater himself, suspected Nixon was pushing Romney onto the tracks to derail his bandwagon. And, presumably, after Romney had been run over, the convention, to heal the bleeding wound, would turn to a centrist compromise candidate — Nixon.

“Nixon is sounding more and more like Harold Stassen every day,” said Goldwater. Nixon pivoted swiftly to repair the damage, offered to introduce Goldwater to the convention, did so in a brilliant speech, then campaigned harder for Mr. Conservative than did Barry himself.

And while Nixon enlisted in Goldwater’s campaign, Rockefeller, Romney and Scranton, arrogantly refusing to accept defeat graciously, crippled any

chance Goldwater might have had by demanding that the platform condemn the John Birch Society as equally extreme as the Communist Party and Ku Klux Klan.

The party said no. And the establishment cut Barry dead in the fall.

Thus did the GOP establishment earn the eternal enmity of the right.

And thus did Richard Nixon emerge in 1968 as the first choice of Barry Goldwater and the centrist Republican most acceptable to the conservative movement. The rest, as they say, is history.

Which brings us to that dinner last week at The Source on Capitol Hill where Republican Party elites discussed how Donald Trump, even if he wins the lion’s share of votes and delegates, might be denied the nomination in a “brokered convention.”

The absurdity of such a conspiracy would be matched only by its stupidity.

Has the GOP establishment learned nothing from history?

Deadlocked conventions — like the 1924 Democratic convention, which went on for 104 ballots — virtually ended with the elimination, by FDR’s party in 1936, of the two-thirds rule for nomination.

That rule kept ex-President Martin Van Buren, who could not muster 67 percent of the delegates, from capturing the nomination in 1844.

After eight deadlocked ballots in a three-way contest, that Baltimore convention turned to a “dark horse,” Speaker James K. Polk, who promised immediate annexation of Texas by the United States and that he would take us to war with Mexico to guarantee it.

With the two-thirds rule dead, the only way to have a convention without a nominee on the first ballot is a three- or four-way split in delegates.

But assume at the GOP convention in Cleveland that Trump runs first, Ted Cruz second, Marco Rubio third and Ben Carson fourth.

Rather than wait for Karl Rove & Co. to tell us whom the party shall nominate, Trump would phone Cruz, offer him second spot on the ticket in return for

his delegates, and if Cruz declined, ask for Rubio’s phone number.

Candidates who have gone through a yearlong campaign, and sustained the defeats and suffered the abuse, are not going to let a Beltway cabal decide the nominee.

Carson has already warned he will walk away from the party if such a decision were imposed upon the convention.

Moreover, the old establishments are dead. Conservatives killed the GOP establishment in 1964. The Vietnam War and George McGovern killed the Democratic establishment in 1972.

What is left are elites, collectives of officeholders past and present, donors, lobbyists, think-tankers angling for jobs, party hacks and talking heads.

What the Republican collectivity has to realize is that it is they and the policies they produced that are the reason Trump, Carson and Cruz currently hold an overwhelming majority of Republican votes.

It was the elites of both parties who failed to secure our borders and brokered the trade deals that have de-industrialized America and eviscerated our middle class.

It was the elites of both parties who got us into these idiotic wars that have blown up the Middle East, cost us trillions of dollars, thousands of dead, and tens of thousands of wounded among our best and bravest.

That Republican elites would sit around a dinner table on Capitol Hill and discuss how to frustrate the rising rebellion against what they have done to America, and decide among themselves who shall lead us, is astonishing.

To borrow from the Gipper, they are not the solution to our problems. They are the problem.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of the new book “The Greatest Comeback: How Richard Nixon Rose From Defeat to Create the New Majority.” To find out more about Patrick Buchanan and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Web page at www.creators.com.

Climate change needs a Churchill

This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” Those were Winston Churchill’s words of battle-weary comfort when World War II started decisively shifting in the Allies’ favor.

They could also be applied to the climate accord just reached in Paris — 196 countries all agreeing to cut or limit greenhouse gas emissions. The long slog to slow global warming and avoid its worst environmental, economic and security consequences is hard and often thankless political work.

Republicans running for president are obviously not keen on picking up that shovel. They treat the issue as not a problem, a problem for others to solve or unsolvable. Ted Cruz: “Climate change is not science. It’s religion.” Donald Trump: “I don’t believe in climate change.” Ben Carson at least conceded its existence but says that there is “no overwhelming science” that humans are involved.

It may be true that the electorate is focused on the more immediate and dramatic threat of terrorism, and not just Republicans. Global warming can seem boring by comparison.

But terrorism was pretty much ignored until Sept. 11, 2001. Then disaster struck domestically, and the public erupted. Trying to prevent the awful things from



FROMA HARROP

happening in the future is what mature leaders do. Sadly, their efforts go largely unappreciated by a public too busy or detached to take notice.

It would be unfair to paint all Republicans as limp on climate change. A survey released in September found that 54 percent of self-described Republican conservatives believe that climate change is happening and that humans play a part in it. Only 9 percent don’t think the planet is warming. (Other polls show far lower levels of concern among Republicans, it must be noted.)

The survey was ordered by Jay Faison, a wealthy Republican from North Carolina determined to sell his party on the need for confronting climate change.

Faison created a group called ClearPath to frame the issue in conservative terms.

Its website rumbles against government efforts, such as the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan. But it promotes the solar boom, noting that from 2010 to 2014, the price of solar energy dropped 50 percent.

That’s something conservatives, liberals, libertarians, independents and Whigs would all applaud.

And some of the ideas are quite interesting. The survey found that 54 percent of conservative Republicans would support a tax on carbon if the money collected were rebated. A tax on carbon is a solid way to discourage use of fossil fuels.

Climate change activists criticized the Paris agreement as too little too late. They are correct that it’s not a cure. (Even if the

promises are kept, the Greenland ice sheets, for example, probably will remain perilously close to collapsing.)

What the agreement could do, though, is make the bad things happen more slowly and perhaps buy time. And it will give a boost to the good developments — improvements in green energy technology, conservation and the very exciting field of “negative emissions” technology (taking planet-warming gases out of the air).

Here’s where American ingenuity can save the world and make big money at the same time.

That’s a conservative talking point, free for the taking.

Think Churchill. The agreement is not the end of the problem. But it’s a lot better than inadequate. It gives hope that something resembling victory is possible.

A sense of futility makes people not want to try. Churchill’s brilliance was giving people optimism without sugarcoating the work ahead.

So think “end of the beginning.” The struggle to avoid the most frightening results of global warming has just begun in earnest.

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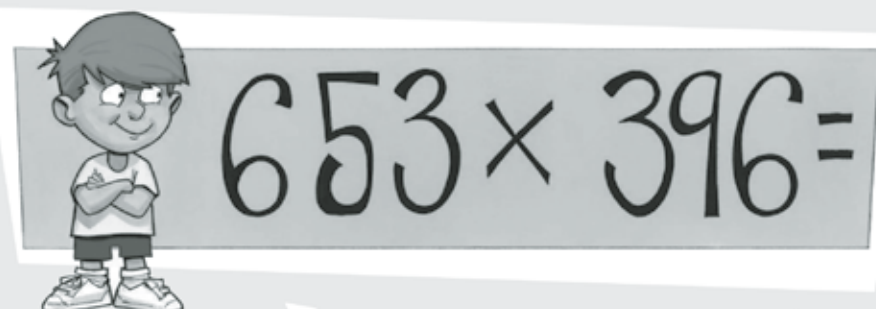
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Mental Calculators

Are you good at calculating numbers? Some people are so good they are called mental calculators. They can solve difficult math problems quickly and easily.

Many mental calculators show their talents at a young age, some as early as age 3 and 4. Imagine being able to multiply 653 by 396 in your head in seconds at the age of 4!

Some young mental calculators go on to use their special skills as mathematicians and scientists. Others choose jobs that have nothing to do with math.

What Rhymes with...



List 10 words that rhyme with "add."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Some answers: bad, dad, fad, had, iad, mad, pad, sad, tad

Name That Mathematician

Mathematicians spend a lot of time studying math. Fill in the blanks to name some famous mathematicians.

- 1 IS ___ C NE ___ TON
- 2 ___ Y ___ AGORAS
- 3 ROB ___ RT H ___ KE
- 4 E ___ CL ___ D
- 5 NICOL ___ US
CO ___ ERNI ___ US
- 6 ARC ___ I ___ E ___ ES
- 7 R ___ NE
DE ___ CA ___ TES

Answers: 1) Isaac Newton, 2) Pythagoras, 3) Robert Hooke, 4) Euclid, 5) Nicolaus Copernicus, 6) Archimedes, 7) Rene Descartes

COLORING PICTURE



Fact or Fiction?

Numbers Challenge

Math is all about numbers. Here are some questions about numbers. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) Zero is also known as nil.
Fact or Fiction?
- 2) Quintillion comes before trillion.
Fact or Fiction?
- 3) Decillion comes after nonillion.
Fact or Fiction?
- 4) Undecillion comes after decillion.
Fact or Fiction?
- 5) Pi has something to do with squares.
Fact or Fiction?
- 6) Googol is 1 plus a million zeros.
Fact or Fiction?
- 7) Googolplex is 1 plus a googol zeros.
Fact or Fiction?
- 8) $11111111 \times 111111111 = 12345678987654321$.
Fact or Fiction?
- 9) $12 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 67 + 8 + 9 = 100$.
Fact or Fiction?
- 10) Infinity goes on forever.
Fact or Fiction?



Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fiction, quintillion comes after trillion and quadrillion, 3) Fact, 4) Fact, 5) Fiction, pi deals with circles, 6) Googol is 1 plus 100 zeros, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fact, 10) Fact

Jokes and Riddles

Q: What did the zero say to the eight?

A: Nice belt!

Q: What is a math teacher's favorite dessert?

A: Pi



Life, Love & Chaos

I grew up in the blink of an eye

My husband Anthony and I had a meeting at 7 o'clock the other night so we ate supper early and we were talking when an old friend we hadn't talked to in quite a while called him.

Anthony and Jason have been friends since they were 12 or 13 years old and before I knew either of them. We all ran around together in our later teen years and they were even co-workers during the beginning of Anthony and I's marriage.

While they visited and caught up on each other's lives, I sat in wonder.

I see myself as a home-body and a little introverted. My husband is my absolute best

friend and the only one I truly tell every little thing in my life to (except for the private matters entrusted to me by others).

As Anthony sat talking on the phone, he explained that life was good but pretty busy.

He explained that our oldest daughter is in Art Club, a video game club, and doing well in school with her classes and the extra college courses she is taking on the side. He shared about our youngest daughter being in band and tennis. I knew all of that, I am the one that chauffeurs them around most of the time.

But then he went on to explain how busy he and I are. I felt a little puzzled, because although I do feel busy with work and the girls, I still feel like there are hours to while away doing nothing at times. He started off with

his job, how things were going and how busy it was despite not doing oilfield work. He then told Jason a little about my job and what I am up to these days.

As I sat pondering his remark of how busy we always are, he explained we would soon be heading out to a meeting for the Emmaus community, we are in the Kiwanis club and how proud he is that I am the vice president. He then explained that we were part of several bowling leagues and I was the secretary of the youth league that our kids bowl on as well as a board member of the United States Bowling Congress.

As I begin to feel my eyes widening in shock at our activities listed to Jason, Anthony begins to laugh on the phone. I come back to the present just as he says that yes, he supposed we were

becoming upstanding members of our community.

I know I am 35 years old, I never deny my age or try to change it because I feel that I have earned every day of my life. I realize that for many, I am in the beginning stages of middle age. However, until my husband laid it out just how much we are active outside of the home, I just didn't realize how much of an adult I really am.

The house we live in is the first one we have ever purchased, we have a car payment, and the normal bills to keep the lights on and the water flowing. But after 16 years of marriage, it wasn't until that moment, him talking to Jason, that I realized we have gone past the normal everyday activities of living and added civic activities and responsibilities.

Often times, I do not even feel like an adult. So as I have

evaluated my life and done some self-reflection over the last few days, I am happy to say that I guess this "adulting" stuff isn't too bad.

I enjoy getting to see my bowling buddies on Mondays and Wednesdays and we have a great time bowling, cracking jokes and just enjoying the time together.

The Kiwanis group is made up of quite a few people older than I am, but they are wise, have great senses of humor and have some wonderful stories to share.

Adulthood is what you make of it. I didn't even realize how much I have embraced being an adult because I have just been having fun, like I have my whole life.

Julie Bass is the life editor at the Big Spring Herald and can be reached by emailing life@bigspringherald.com.



JULIE BASS

Girl Scouts hope tech initiatives will curb membership drop



BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As the Girl Scouts' membership continues

a sharp decline, its leaders are betting on technology to reverse the trend, including a major expansion of its year-old program enabling Girl Scout cookies to be sold via mobile apps and

the girls' personalized websites.

The Digital Cookie upgrade, announced on Tuesday, comes amid persisting challenges for the 103-year-old organization. According to figures provided to *The Associated Press*, youth membership for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 was 1.88 million, down

nearly 6.2 percent from 2014, and adult membership was 784,120, down 3.1 percent.

The total membership — now 2.66 million — is down more than 15 percent over three years, and down 30 percent from a peak of more than 3.8 million in 2003.

The Girl Scouts also are struggling in terms of financial support. The latest compilations by the Chronicle of Philanthropy show that the organization received \$103.2 million in private donations in 2014, down from \$194.6 million in 2006. Back then, the Girl Scouts ranked 83rd among U.S. charities for such dona-

tions; the Chronicle now ranks it 257th.

Some other major youth groups also face revenue and membership declines, due in part to societal trends. However, Anna Maria Chavez, CEO of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, contends that her organization is capable of rebuilding its ranks through technological improvements.

For paid staff and volunteers, these include online toolkits — one streamlining the process for joining the Girl Scouts, another empowering volunteer troop leaders to plan a full year of meetings and activities with a single online visit.

"Our volunteers need more tools to serve more girls," Chavez said. "So we're really doubling down on technology."

For the girls themselves, Digital Cookie is the flagship initiative. Chavez said it was input from some scouts a few years ago that inspired the initiative.

About 160,000 Girl Scouts participated in the program over the past year, and were credited with selling nearly 2.5 million boxes of cookies beyond those sold through traditional in-person methods. For the coming year, about 90 percent of the GSUSA's 112 regional councils will be engaged in Digital Cookie, and various new features have been added to make it more educational and more fun.

These include an online game called Cookie Booth Bounce to

help girls improve decision-making and budgeting skills, and a "Learning to Run a Business" section of the website. Girls also can post their own videos, explaining who they are and what the plans are for their proceeds.

Digital Cookie's fans include Claire Houston, 18, who spent 13 years with the Girl Scouts in Dutchess County, New York. She's now a freshman at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, studying computer science and serving as co-coach to a Girl Scout robotics team.

Digital Cookie "is a great way to connect with how the world is changing right now," she said. "Technology is such a big part of our lives."

Overall, the technological evolution has not been problem-free. A memo from the Girl Scouts' communications office said some councils across the U.S. experienced membership declines and "disruption in service capabilities" while adjusting to the new systems.

"GSUSA had to make the decision to accept the short-term impact for the necessary long-term investment in necessary tech improvements," the memo said.

Some complaints about the program changes and the cost of program materials have circulated on "GSUSA, Are You Listening?" — a Facebook page that serves as a sounding board for Girl Scout volunteers who are uneasy about the organization's

direction. Some worry that the GSUSA is going too far in de-emphasizing camping, the earning of badges, and other traditional activities.

The Facebook page recently served as a vehicle for Suellen Nelles, the most outspoken dissident among the 112 council CEOs, to distribute a detailed "white paper" criticizing the national leadership and urging it to work more collaboratively with staff and volunteers at the councils.

"The leadership is fine with maintaining all the power and being a top-down organization," said Nelles, who heads the Farthest North Girl Scout Council in Fairbanks, Alaska. "We have forgotten our foundation and that we are only as strong as our all-volunteer membership."

However, Nelles said she's received little support for her stance from other council CEOs, and Chavez insisted that collaboration between the national office and the councils was more vibrant now than at any point in her seven years as a Girl Scout executive.

"We know we'll continue to have challenges," Chavez said. "But here's our secret power: We're a family with a clear purpose — creating girls of courage, confidence and character. The girls are going to lead the way for us."

In schools, on streets and TV, children feel Muslim backlash

AP — A backlash against American Muslims is leaving a mark on some of the nation's youngest minds.

After seeing presidential candidate Donald Trump call on television for barring Muslims from entering the country, 8-year-old Sofia Yassini checked the locks on her family's home in Plano, Texas, imagining the Army would take them away. She raced to her room and stuffed a pair of Barbie dolls, a tub of peanut butter and a toothbrush into a bag. She insisted on bringing boots for the long boat ride she imagined was coming.

When her mother, Melissa, arrived home from her work as a human resources manager, Sofia ran into her arms and cried.

"I want people to understand the impact that their words have on these children," said Melissa Yassini, who described the experience in a Facebook post that had been shared more than 21,000 times as of Monday. "We often forget, we're waging war on one another with words, and we're adults. We can take it. The kids are suffering with this. They go to school every day and they're afraid to tell people they're Muslim. This has to stop."

Anti-Muslim sentiment was building in the days before 14 people were killed Dec. 2 in the massacre at a disability center in Southern California by a Muslim couple investigators say were inspired at least in part by the Islamic State group. Some gover-

nors had already said they wouldn't allow Syrians fleeing civil war into their states because of extremist fears. Experts say Trump's call Dec. 7 to keep all Muslims from entering the United States — a plan he said would apply only temporarily and to non-citizens — only fanned the flames.

Parents say their children hear disparaging remarks in their own communities, see hateful bumper stickers and T-shirts, and have had friends abandon them because of their faith.

Ahad Khan, 12, came home from school in rural Westminster, Maryland, in tears because his best friend called him a future terrorist who couldn't be trusted, according to Ahad's father, Raza Khan.

Khan, the chairman of the science department at Carroll Community College, shared Ahad's experience in an open letter to Trump on Facebook. As of Monday, it had been shared more than 4,300 times.

"He is the engine right now for that fearmongering," Khan said in an interview. "I don't think he realizes that his words matter. He doesn't realize the damaging effect his words can have on people, especially kids."

In the minds of children — many long on imagination and short on political understanding — phrases like "total and complete shutdown of Muslims" can be traumatic, experts say.



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Bill of Rights

Congress OF THE United States,

By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

Whereas a Joint Resolution of the Congress, approved August 21, 1941, authorizes and requests the President of the United States "to issue a proclamation designating December 15, 1941, as Bill of Rights Day, calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on that day, and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and prayer":

Now, Therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate December 15, 1941, as Bill of Rights Day.

And I call upon the officials of the Government, and upon the people of the United States, to observe the day by displaying the flag of the United States on public buildings and by meeting together for such prayers and such ceremonies as may seem to them appropriate.

The first ten amendments, the great American charter of personal liberty and human dignity, became a part of the

Constitution of the United States on the fifteenth day of December, 1791.

It is fitting that the anniversary of its adoption should be remembered by the Nation which, for one hundred and fifty years, has enjoyed the immeasurable privileges which that charter guaranteed: the privileges of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the free right to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

It is especially fitting that this anniversary should be remembered and observed by those institutions of a democratic people which owe their very existence to the guarantees of the Bill of Rights: the free schools, the free churches, the labor unions, the religious and educational and civic organizations of all kinds which, without the guarantee of the Bill of Rights, could never have existed; which sicken and disappear whenever, in any country, these rights are curtailed or withdrawn.

The fifteenth day of December, 1941, is therefore set apart as a day of mobilization for freedom and for human rights, a day of remembrance of the democratic and peaceful action by which these rights were gained, a day of reassessment of their present meaning and their living worth.

Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them. They come

in time to take these rights for granted and to assume their protection is assured. We, however, who have seen these privileges lost in other continents and other countries can now appreciate their meaning to those people who enjoyed them once and now no longer can. We understand in some measure what their loss can mean. And by that realization we have come to a clearer conception of their worth to us, and to a stronger and more unalterable determination that here in our land they shall not be lost or weakened or curtailed.

It is to give public expression and outward form to that understanding and that determination that we are about to commemorate the adoption of the Bill of Rights and rededicate its principles and its practice.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Amendment 1

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.

Amendment 2

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Amendment 3

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment 4

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause,

supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment 5

No person shall be held to answer for any capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment 6

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district where in the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for

obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Amendment 7

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 9

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

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Giants forge 1st-place tie by beating Dolphins 31-24

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Killing time hours before kickoff at the New York Giants' hotel, Eli Manning plotted a play he wanted to try against the Miami Dolphins.

It worked better than he ever imagined. With the game tied in the fourth quarter, Odell Beckham Jr. slipped 5 yards behind the secondary to score the go-ahead 84-yard touchdown, and the Giants forged a three-way tie atop the NFC East by beating Miami 31-24 Monday night.

Beckham gave Manning credit for cooking up the pivotal play.

"It was something he saw when he watched the film," Beckham said. "His mind is different. It's special to be able to see something like that. It was something we hadn't practiced and was completely on the fly."

Here are things to

know about the Giants' first visit to Miami since 1996:

THE STANDINGS: The Giants (6-7) broke a three-game losing streak and are tied with the Redskins and Eagles for the lead in their woe-filled division.

"It's a must-win, a playoff game for us," Beckham said. "They're all playoff games."

The Giants' next game is indeed a biggie: They play host to NFC South champion Carolina (13-0) on Sunday.

The Dolphins (5-8) were mathematically eliminated from the playoff race, extending their postseason drought to a franchise-record seven consecutive years.

"Obviously this is not where we want to be," quarterback Ryan Tannehill said, "but here we are."

GOING DEEP: Beckham's long touchdown catch put the Giants

ahead to stay with 11 minutes to go.

Cornerback Jamar Corner and seldom-used safety Shamiel Gary were the closest defenders, but Manning hit Beckham in stride at midfield and he sprinted to the end zone for his 12th TD this year.

"We thought it would be a big play," Manning said, "but I didn't think he would be that open."

Miami safety Reshad Jones blamed miscommunication.

"The corner was supposed to follow up and go over the top," Jones said, "which he didn't."

OTHER ODELL: Beckham had seven catches

for 166 yards and the game's final two scores. The 100-yard game was his sixth in a row, a Giants record.

"They got it to a star player, and he made plays for them," Dolphins defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh said.

Beckham missed one series when he went to the locker room due to cramps in both calves, but didn't let that slow him down. He outplayed his close friend and former LSU teammate, Miami's Jarvis Landry, who had 11 catches for 99 yards.

Beckham made a 45-yard reception to set up a touchdown and had a

6-yard scoring catch. His final reception, a diving grab on third down at midfield, sealed the victory with less than 2

minutes left.

"Obviously his performance is something we all expect," Landry said. "He's just continuing to do what he does."

MANNING'S BEST: The Giants quarterback went 27 of 31 for 337 yards and four scores. His passer rating of 151.5 was his highest since 2009, and his 87 percent completion percentage was a career high.

Manning led a touchdown drive in the final 2 minutes of the first half, including 80 yards, including 45 on a long pass to Beckham, to make it 17-all. The receiver on the 5-yard pass for the tie: Will Tye.

"Guys were getting open quickly," Manning said. "We got everybody in the mix. That's when we're at our best."

FESTIVITIES: In celebration of the franchise's 50th season, the Dolphins introduced their 50 greatest players at halftime.

The not-so-great 2015 Dolphins were hurt by 12 penalties and seemed reluctant to run the ball, as has been the case most of the year. Lamar Miller rushed for 89 yards, including a darting 38-yard touchdown run, but carried only 12 times.

HOBBOLED: Injuries took a toll on the Giants. Left tackle Ereck Flowers hurt his ankle on the long touchdown pass to Beckham and missed the rest of the game. Defensive tackle Markus Kuhn left in the third quarter with a knee injury. Defensive end George Selvie was evaluated for a concussion in fourth quarter and didn't return.

Coach Don Coughlin took a tumble when Giants cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie ran into him along the sideline.

"Actually it helped," Coughlin said. "It snapped my neck."

Parsons' big 2nd half helps
Mavs top Chandler, Suns 104-94

DALLAS (AP)—Chandler Parsons looks for benchmarks in his slow recovery from offseason knee surgery.

The Dallas forward found another one against Phoenix on Monday night.

Parsons scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half, Raymond Felton found his second career triple-double with 17 points and the Mavericks beat former teammate Tyson Chandler and the Suns 104-94.

Usually struggling to find a rhythm and now coming off the bench because of restrictions on his playing time, Parsons played a season-high 28 minutes and had eight points during a 20-4 run to finish the third quarter. Dallas made 13 of its last 14

shots in the quarter to take a 77-58 lead.

After the Suns pulled within 10, Parsons had a four-point play and another 3 to help Dallas push the lead back to 15.

"It's all about confidence right now," Parsons said. "I am going to be rusty. I'm going to miss some shots and go through some slumps. I just got to stick with it."

Deron Williams led Dallas with 18 points, including a 3-pointer to help hold off another Phoenix push.

Eric Bledsoe led the Suns with 23 points and seven assists.

The Mavericks snapped a three-game home losing streak while beating Chandler's new team for the second time following a win at Phoenix on open-

ing night.

Chandler left in free agency for the second time since helping Dallas win its only championship in 2011. He had six points and three rebounds coming off the bench for the second straight night after missing eight games with a right hamstring strain.

The 7-foot-1 center entered in the first quarter to a nice ovation from fans that have forgiven him twice for going elsewhere. That's partly because the Mavericks decided both times to pursue other options.

"It will always be special as long as I'm in the league, and even when I'm not in the league it will always be special to come to a game here," Chandler said. "It's always been so much love

here. The love is right back."

Parsons has had a hard time getting in the flow with his minutes limitations and made just 5 of 18 from the field his previous two games. But he was 5 of 10 from the floor and made all five free throws against Phoenix, finishing three points shy of his season high of 20 against Philadelphia.

"He's going to outlast this situation," coach Rick Carlisle said. "There's a big rock. He's just got to keep chipping away at that rock. It takes an amazing amount of persistence and wherewithal to get through something like that."

The Suns fell to 0-9 when held under 100

See **MAVS**, Page 9

Athlete
Spotlight

Name: August Alexander

Age: 17

Height: 5'4'

Position:
Shooting Guard

Classification: Senior

Team: Big Spring Varsity Basketball



Favorite basketball player: Steph Curry

How long have you played: 6 years

Favorite team: Chicago Bulls

What do you do for fun outside of basketball: Play volleyball

Favorite Quote: Play every game like it's your last.

Favorite part about playing with your team: We are all comfortable with each other.

Scoreboard

NBA Saturday's Games L.A. Clippers 105, Brooklyn 100 Boston 98, Charlotte 93 Detroit 118, Indiana 96 Chicago 98, New Orleans 94 Houston 126, L.A. Lakers 97 San Antonio 103, Atlanta 78 Milwaukee 108, Golden State 95 Washington 114, Dallas 111 New York 112, Portland 110 Sunday's Games Phoenix 108, Minnesota 101 Toronto 96, Philadelphia 76 Miami 100, Memphis 97 Oklahoma City 104, Utah 98, OT Monday's Games Indiana 106, Toronto 90 Orlando 105, Brooklyn 82 L.A. Clippers 105, Detroit 103, OT Chicago 115, Philadelphia 96 Memphis 112, Washington 95 Miami 100, Atlanta 88 San Antonio 118, Utah 81 Dallas 114, Phoenix 94 Denver 104, Houston 108 Portland 105, New Orleans 101 Tuesday's Games Cleveland at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Houston at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m. Wednesday's Games Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m. Charlotte at Orlando, 7 p.m. Miami at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. Boston at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.	p.m. Minnesota at New York, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Chicago, 8 p.m. Portland at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Philadelphia at Atlanta, 8 p.m. Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m. New Orleans at Utah, 9 p.m. Phoenix at Golden State, 10:30 p.m. Milwaukee at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m. NHL Saturday's Games Boston 3, Florida 1 Buffalo 2, Los Angeles 1, OT Montreal 3, Ottawa 1 Washington 2, Tampa Bay 1 N.Y. Islanders 3, Columbus 2, OT St. Louis 3, Dallas 0 Colorado 3, Nashville 2 Carolina 5, Arizona 4, OT Calgary 5, N.Y. Rangers 4, OT Minnesota 2, San Jose 0 Sunday's Games N.Y. Islanders 4, New Jersey 0 Colorado 3, St. Louis 1 Chicago 4, Vancouver 0 Monday's Games Edmonton 3, Boston 2, OT Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1 Tampa Bay 2, Columbus 1 Ottawa 5, Los Angeles 3 Buffalo 2, Detroit 1 Tuesday's Games New Jersey at Buffalo, 7 p.m. Florida at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m. Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m. Carolina at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. San Jose at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.	Calgary at Nashville, 8 p.m. Vancouver at Minnesota, 8 p.m. St. Louis at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. Colorado at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Columbus at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday's Games Ottawa at Washington, 7 p.m. Pittsburgh at Boston, 8 p.m.	TRANSACTIONS BASEBALL American League BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with RHP Darren O'Day to a four-year contract. Designated INF Rey Navarro for assignment. SEATTLE MARINERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Steve Cishek on a two-year contract. TEXAS RANGERS — Claimed 1B Andy Wilkins off waivers from Seattle. National League CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with RHP Trevor Cahill on a one-year contract. NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with RHP Buddy Carlyle, LHPs Duane Below and Andrew Barbosa and INF Marc Krauss on minor league contracts. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Agreed to terms with C J.P. Arencibia, INF Angelys Nina and RHPs Greg Burke, Ernesto Frieri and Gregory Infante on minor league contracts. WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Yusmeiro Petit on a one-year contract and with RHP Nick Masset on a minor league contract.	and OF Harrison Kain. Frontier League LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Traded 3B Anderson Hidalgo to Texas (AA) for a player to be named. TRAVERSE CITY BEACH BUMS — Signed 3B Jose Vargas to a contract extension. WASHINGTON WILD THINGS — Named Bob Bozuto vice president.	BASKETBALL National Basketball Association PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Recalled F Christian Wood from Delaware (NBDL).	FOOTBALL National Football League CHICAGO BEARS — Placed S Antrel Rolle on injured reserve. Activated OT Tayo Fabuluge from exemption. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed CB Joe Haden on injured reserve. Waived OL Gabe Ikard. Claimed OL Kaleb Johnson off waivers from Baltimore. Signed WR Rannell Hall from Tampa Bay's practice squad. GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed DT Mike Daniels to a contract extension. MIAMI DOLPHINS — Placed TE Brandon Williams on injured reserve. Signed DT Deandre Coleman from the practice squad. MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Waived S Shaun Prater. Signed DE Justin Trattou.	Arena Football League LA KISS — Announced WR Brandon Collins and G Gustave Benthin have been assigned to the team. ORLANDO PREDATORS — Agreed to terms with LB Terence Moore. Signed DB Schon Thomas.	Canadian Football League EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Named Jason Maas coach. WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed OL Jace Daniels to a two-year contract extension. HOCKEY National Hockey League NHL — Suspended Anaheim F Nate Thompson three games an illegal check to the head of Carolina D Justin Faulk. CAROLINA HURRICANES — Assigned D Michal Jordan to Charlotte (AHL) for conditioning. CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Acquired D Rob Scuderi from Pittsburgh for D Trevor Daley. DALLAS STARS — Recalled Fs Gemel Smith and Cole Uily from Idaho (ECHL) to Texas (AHL). DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned F Zach Nastasiuk from Grand Rapids (AHL) to Toledo (ECHL). TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled Fs Joel Vermin and Yanni Gourde from Syracuse (AHL). American Hockey League AHL — Suspended Charlotte D Ryan Murphy three games. CHARLOTTE CHECKERS — Assigned G Rasmus Tirronen to Florida (ECHL). Recalled G Daniel Altshuller from Florida. HARTFORD WOLF PACK — Recalled D Kodie Curran from Greenville (ECHL). Signed D Sean Escobedo to a professional tryout agreement. LEHIGH VALLEY PHANTOMS — Assigned G Martin Ouellette to Reading (ECHL). ROCKFORD ICEHOGS — Assigned F Daniel Ciampini to Indy (ECHL). STOCKTON THUNDER	— Recalled F Ryan Lomberg from Adirondack (ECHL). TORONTO MARLIES Recalled F Jack Rodewald from Orlando (ECHL). ECHL ALLEN AMERICANS — Added G Nolan Bowker as emergency backup.	SOCCER Major League Soccer SPORTING KANSAS CITY — Signed M Justin Mapp. United Soccer League LOUISVILLE CITY FC — Exercised team options on Gs Scott Goodwin and Greg Ransjitsingh, FBs Sean Reynolds and Enrique Montano, and Ds Tarek Morad and Conor Shanosky.	COLLEGE BIG TEN CONFERENCE — Suspended Michigan hockey players Michael Downing for two games and Niko Porikos for one game for separate incidents in a game against Minnesota on Dec. 12. ARMSTRONG STATE — Announced the reinstatement of women's cross country program for 2016. JACKSON STATE — Named Tony Hughes football coach. LOUISIANA-MONROE — Named Matt Viator football coach. RUTGERS — Named Drew Mehninger offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. SCIENCE & ARTS (OKLA.) — Named Sheri Deily volleyball coach. SOUTH DAKOTA — Named Bob Nielson football coach. THIEL — Named Dan Blume football coach. TUSCULUM — Named Jerry Odom football coach. WISCONSIN — Announced sophomore basketball G Riley Dearing is transferring.
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Nuggets survive shoe-toss technical, hold off Rockets

DENVER (AP) — Will Barton had an impressive one-handed dunk. He also scored 23 points, including two game-sealing free throws.

His most memorable moment, though, was a sneaker he tossed off the court that led to a late technical for delay.

The incident almost unlaced the Denver Nuggets as they nearly blew a big lead before holding off the Houston Rockets 114-108 on Monday night.

“That’s how the game goes sometimes: Might have to make a 3-pointer — or throw somebody’s shoe in the crowd,” Barton said, grinning.

Houston’s Trevor Ariza lost a sneaker with 4:53 remaining and his team trailing by 15. Barton picked it up and casually threw it off the court so as not to trip on it, leading to a technical for delay of game.

For some reason, that incident gave the Rockets some traction. They wound up cutting the deficit to 110-108 and had a chance to take the lead. But Jason Terry missed a 3-pointer with 15.9 seconds left and Barton wrapped up the win from the line as the Nuggets completed a three-game sweep of the Rockets in the season series.

“I’ve seen guys take that sneaker and throw it 15 rows into the stands,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. “Will just threw it off the field of play.”

After the game, Barton said he chatted with Ariza about the incident.

“We’re cool. No hard feelings,” Barton said. “Stuff happens during the game, man.”

James Harden finished with 24 points for the Rockets, including five of the team’s season-high 18 3-pointers.

The Nuggets outscored the Rockets 62-36 in the paint and out-rebounded them by a 52-26 margin.

“That’s astonishing,” Malone said.

And demoralizing for Rockets fans.

“Our defensive level needs to be at a point where it doesn’t matter who our opponent is, we should be able to get stops,” Houston interim coach J.B. Bickerstaff said.



AP photo
Houston Rockets guard James Harden is second in the league in scoring with a 29.1 points-per-game average. He’s averaging nearly seven assists per game and six rebounds. Harden reacts during an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, in Washington.

“We didn’t get the job done often enough.”

Jameer Nelson started for rookie point guard Emmanuel Mudiay, who’s out with a sprained right ankle. Nelson had 10 points and seven assists. Gary Harris added a career-high 21 points.

The jam of the night belonged to Barton. He blew past Ariza along the baseline in the second quarter and threw down a one-handed dunk over Donatas Motiejunas.

Asked if that was his best dunk ever, Barton said: “It’s up there. But I’ve had some pretty nasty ones.”

FAMILIAR FACE

Once again, ex-Nuggets player Ty Lawson was booed when he stepped on the court.

When he returned to town last month, he was the starting point guard. This time, he entered off the bench — and yet was still greeted by boos.

Lawson spent six seasons with Denver, but trouble

away from the court, including multiple drunken driving arrest, soured his reputation with the fans and led to him being traded to Houston over the summer. He’s embraced a fresh start.

“A change of scenery is always good for everybody, to see what things are like on the other side,” Lawson said.

LIKE FATHERS, LIKE SONS

Malone and Bickerstaff have a big thing in common — both followed in their father’s footsteps.

Malone’s father, Brendan, has coached more than 27 years in the NBA, while Bickerstaff’s dad, Bernie, has served as a general manager and

coach in the league, including a stint with the Nuggets in the 1990s.

“Our fathers have had a tremendous impact on us,” Michael Malone said. “Half the things I say I remember my father saying to me 15 or 20 years ago.”

TIP-INS

Rockets: Center Clint Capela was a late scratch after battling a case of food poisoning most of the day. ... Terrence Jones suffered a laceration in

his eye and didn’t play much in the second half. “He wasn’t an option to go down the stretch,” Bickerstaff said.

Nuggets: Denver shot 68.2 percent in the first quarter and scored a season-high 36 points. ... Danilo Gallinari had 15 points and seven assists.

UP NEXT

Rockets: At Sacramento on Tuesday night.

Nuggets: At Minnesota on Tuesday night.

Season lost, Garrett still on message

IRVING — Matt Cassel is still the starting quarterback for the last-place Dallas Cowboys, who for the moment are still not planning to put Tony Romo on season-ending injured reserve with his broken left collarbone.

This is Jason Garrett’s way of backing his message: The season is

not yet lost, despite the guarantee of his first losing record as coach, and a two-game deficit in the NFC East with three games remaining.

“Our eyes are going to be forward,” Garrett said Monday, a day after a 28-7 loss to Green Bay that again exposed an ineffective offense and a defense that can’t make

a game-changing play.

“We’re going to be focused on this next challenge, not pulling back and saying, ‘OK, let’s look at all this right now.’ That’s not the time. The time right now is to prepare and play our best football on Saturday night.”

See **GARRETT**, Page 15

MAVS

Continued from Page 8

points despite a late push that included seven straight points from T.J. Warren to get within 96-90 with 2:30 remaining. Warren finished with 10 points.

Phoenix had a chance to get closer, but Jon Leuer, who had 15 points and 13 rebounds, couldn’t handle an alley-oop pass on a fast break. Williams’ final 3-pointer pushed Dallas’ lead back to 101-92 with 1:01 left.

FELTON FEELING IT

Felton had 10 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds two nights earlier in a home loss to Washing-

ton. In this one, he was 3 of 7 from 3-point range and tied Dirk Nowitzki for the team lead with four assists. He’s been in double figures five straight games and is averaging 12.6 points, 7.2 rebounds and 6.2 assists in that span.

SHUTTING DOWN THE KNIGHT

Phoenix’s Brandon Knight went scoreless in the second half after leading everyone with 12 points before halftime. He was coming off a 25-point game in a win over Minnesota that followed a one-point out- ing on 0-for-12 shooting in a loss to Portland. He attempted just one shot in the second half.

TIP-INS

Suns: Chandler came off the bench Sunday against Minnesota. It was the first time he hasn’t started since the end of the 2009-10 season with Charlotte. ... Leuer had his third double-double of the season.

Mavericks: Devin Harris tied a career high with six steals. He scored 12 points. ... Nowitzki had 14 points and seven rebounds, and Zaza Pachulia had 12 rebounds and three steals. ... Wesley Matthews finished with 13 points, making 3 of 9 from long range.

UP NEXT

Suns: At Golden State on Wednesday night.

Mavericks: At Indiana on Wednesday night.

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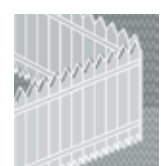
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HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope



Aquarius Lunar Light-ness

This morning the moon has a conflict with Venus in Scorpio, but it won't last long. By early afternoon it's time to shake off emotional pangs and get into the levity of the air-sign lunar influence. The Aquarius moon favors technology and the amusing distraction of social media. This evening favors online shopping.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've a unique kind of confidence. You trust yourself to provide something different than what the others around you know how to give. This will make for highly entertaining and useful interactions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You know what's in you -- at least you think you know. Tiny doubts will cause you to seek confirmation from the outside world. Do

they recognize who you are? The kindred spirits will.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To avoid the stress of the unknown, some around you will make inaccurate snap judgments and ill-fated quick decisions. You'll have more patience. Tolerate the discomfort of the unknown and you'll be wise.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a person near you who drains your energy in unexplainable ways. His or her company is unavoidable now, so this is a good time to obtain tools for emotional and spiritual protection.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To avoid falling into an unwanted mood, be proactive. Consciously create the mood around you. Which do you prefer: festive, meditative or other? Put thought into the lighting, music and the scent of the air.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Try not to see a relationship as a fixed entity; rather, it's a co-creation that can take any number of interesting twists

and turns along the way. Don't like the pattern? Change it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Occasionally life brings big change all at once. But most of the time, the big changes happen over the course of hundreds of small changes. Set a new intention, and the baby changes will begin immediately.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What's popular is not always right. You'll see something glaringly wrong with a path that many are following. Before you speak up, anticipate the backlash and formulate your arguments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The best way you can show your love today is through active listening -- giving full attention through your body, mind and spirit. It's not easy, and that's what makes it such a loving gesture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have the raw ingredients to make magic. It's just like cooking; you can fol-

low the recipe, or you can experiment. If you choose the latter, expect to fail until you figure it out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The hardest thing to rule is your own appetite (especially when you're in a place where it can be easily satiated), so celebrate every small win in this regard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You feel partially responsible for how things turn out in your family, work group and community. As for your whole world -- yes, you even feel partially responsible for that. Do try and be realistic about how much is really under your control.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 15). There was a time when you were just finding out about the things that come naturally to you. Now you're capitalizing on your innate talents and finding ways to put them in action, to do them on purpose and as much as possible. You'll make alliances in February. May brings a transforma-

tion of style. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 12, 29, 30 and 14.

HOLIDAY STRESS RELIEVERS: So many feel spent and blue in December. What can you do to counteract holiday stress?

LEO: When it comes to the holidays, resistance is futile for Leo. If the lion roars about how there's so much to do and how it always falls in his or her lap, the tirade will induce stress. Skip all that and the lion will be magically stress-free. It may seem counter-intuitive, but planning and pulling off a big event or presentation is actually a source of great relaxation and relief for Leo in the end. It's like a runner at the triumphant end of a race: The endorphins and sense of accomplishment that rush in at the crossing of the finish line far overshadow any stress that built up in training or over the course of the race. Just as the runner feels destined to

race the Leo feels destined for intense feats of showmanship and hospitality. So for Leo, the key is in dropping all resistance and diving right in to the playfulness, over-the-top decor and indulgent spirit of the season. Leos can use Will Ferrell's character Buddy the Elf, a Christmas cheerleader, as a spirit guide.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: In the television series "The Defenders" Charlie Cox will reprise his role of Daredevil, teaming up with other Marvel crime-fighters to save New York City. Sagittarian actors are especially drawn to projects that take them to other worlds and times, as shown by Cox in "Stardust," "Boardwalk Empire," "Casanova" and more. Cox was born when the sun, moon, Uranus and Neptune were all in adventurous Sagittarius.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: A group of us have been friends for more than 40 years. We graduated from high school together, but while the rest of us went to college, started careers and settled down with families, "Ray" was smoking pot, partying and working paycheck to paycheck in an entry-level job. He was so wrapped up in "doing his own thing" that it never occurred to him to have a relationship. Now we are nearing retirement age. The rest of us are able to take time to travel, pursue our interests and spend time with our families. Ray is still living hand to mouth. And every time we get together or see his Facebook page, he is griping about how hard his life is and how much he envies us.

We'd like to point him toward services that might be able to help him a little bit and show him how to make a realistic budget. The services have to be free, though, because Ray won't take "charity" from the rest of us, and if he has to pay for anything, he won't be able to afford it. There's no guarantee he'd take advantage of even a free referral, but we are tired of hearing him carrying on about the

life that, after all, he chose for himself. Do you know of any free resources that could rescue someone who's always been clueless about money? -- Ray's Friends

Dear Friends: It's romantic to "live for the moment," but that doesn't mean you cannot also plan for your future. You undoubtedly know that, even with outside assistance, Ray might not change his ways. It would require an entirely new mindset, and that takes effort that he seems unwilling to make. You can look into Debtors Anonymous at debtorsanonymous.org, or get information on local credit counseling through the Federal Trade Commission at consumer.ftc.gov. (Search "choosing a credit counselor.")

Dear Annie: I am responding to the letter from "W.," whose neighbor constantly complains about the noise from her townhouse, even though she's not doing anything particularly noisy.

The neighbors living in the condo below me used to phone and yell at me for practically any noise. They complained about the way I walked in my home even though I went barefoot most of the time to assuage

them. They went to bed at 8:30 p.m. and expected me to shut down then, as well.

They spoke to an attorney who told them I wasn't breaking any noise ordinances, but they still called incessantly to complain and were sometimes verbally abusive. So I spoke to my own lawyer. He suggested that I ignore them, but I told him I was being harassed, bullied and verbally abused and that I was not going to put up with it. If they were that sensitive, then they should have not moved into a condo with neighbors living above them. The lawyer and I resolved it by presenting them with his business card and

informing them that any future complaints were to be directed to him. If they complained directly to me, it would lead to a lawsuit for harassment. -- N.C.

Dear N.C.: Threatening to sue someone is always an option in this country, although we think it should be a last resort. Too many people think it is the first step.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at Facebook.com/AskAnnie.

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NORTH		EAST	
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♥ A 8 7		♥ J 9 5 4 2	
♦ A 4 2		♦ Q J 10	
♣ A K Q 4		♣ 9 2	

WEST		SOUTH	
♠ J		♠ A K 9 7 4 2	
♥ K Q 10 6 3		♥ —	
♦ A 4 2		♦ K 8 7 5	
♣ 8 7 5 3		♣ J 10 6	

The bidding:
South 1♠ West 2♣ North 2♠ East Pass
2♠ Pass 4♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Declarer encounters many situations where it is more dangerous to have one defender on lead than the other. In such hands, declarer tries to shape his play so as to prevent the dangerous opponent from gaining the lead.

Consider this deal where West leads the king of hearts against four spades. Declarer sees immediately that if the cards lie unfavorably, he might lose three diamonds and a trump — possibly even two trumps if the suit breaks 4-0.

It is also clear to South that he can get home safe and sound, even if the trumps are divided 3-1 rather than 2-2, if he can prevent East from gaining the lead with a trump for a diamond return through the king.

Accordingly, after taking the heart lead with the ace and discarding a diamond from his hand, declarer plays a trump from dummy and, when East produces the eight, covers it with the nine!

In the actual hand, the nine loses to the jack, but South is now impervious to attack. Whatever West returns, South draws trumps, disposes of another diamond on dummy's fourth club and winds up with 10 tricks.

Observe that if declarer starts by playing the A-K of trumps — making no effort to protect against East's holding three trumps — he goes down one against proper defense, losing a spade and three diamonds.

It is true that South's effort to avoid losing a trump trick to East would cost him a trick if the trumps were divided 2-2. However, he should be willing to lose this 30-point trick in the interests of safety. The operative principle is that you don't play the spades in an effort to make the maximum number of spade tricks, but to give yourself the maximum chance for the contract.

Tomorrow: From the mailbox.
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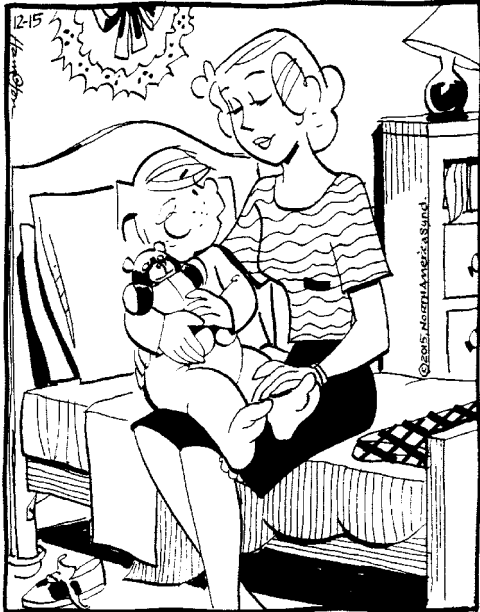
sudoku

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.

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

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5 :PM :30	News ABC	Hotel Notic.	Big Bang Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News News	Justice Called	Focus Business	CHiPs	American American	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Castle (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	High School Football	Law & Order: SVU	Married at First Sight	Moonshiners
6 :PM :30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Muchacha Big Bang	Mod Fam Ent	News NCIS (DVS)	Caso Cer- rado	News News	McGee HaYesod	PBS News- Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Castle (DVS)	SportCtr E:60	College Basketball	Und. Stars In.	Mod Fam Mod Fam		Moonshiners
7 :PM :30	Toy Story Shrek	Antes Muerta que	Grand Grinder	NCIS: New Orleans	Celia (SS)	The Voice Upd	Light of the Southwest	Prohibition (DVS)	Griffith The Flash	The Flash iZombie	Big Bang Big Bang	Castle (DVS)	2015 World Series of Poker	College Bas- ketball: VCU at Georgia Tech.	NHL Hockey: Columbus Blue Jackets at Dallas Stars.	Mod Fam Mod Fam	Married- Sight	Moonshin- ers: Outlaw
8 :PM :30	Dog for Christmas	Pasión y Poder	Grand Grinder	Limitless	Señora Acero (SS)	The Voice Upd		Frontline	Gilligan Cheers	Heroes Heroes	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Big Bang Big Bang	Castle (DVS)	World/Poker	30 for 30	Stars Live UFC	Mod Fam Mod Fam	Men, Women, Wild
9 :PM :30	Shark Tank	Creo/los Hombres	TMZ Broke Girl	News Late Show- Colbert	Tele Titulares	News Tonight Show	With Schol- ars	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett Perry Mason	Cougar Cougar	Conan Conan	Castle (DVS)	SportsCenter		Stars Live UFC	Mod Fam Mod Fam	What Would	Moonshiners
10 :PM :30	News Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Impacto Noticiero	Mod Fam Broke Girl	News Late Show- Colbert	Tele Titulares	News Tonight Show	With Schol- ars	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett Perry Mason	Cougar Cougar	Conan Conan	Castle (DVS)	SportsCenter		Stars Live UFC	Mod Fam Mod Fam	What Would	Moonshiners
11 :PM :30	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met Cleveland	James Corden	Bajo el Mismo Cielo	Seth Meyers Upd	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	McMillan and Wife	Raising Commun	Broke Girl Conan	CSI: NY	SportsCenter		Champ Spotlight	Mod Fam Mod Fam	Married- Sight	Men, Women, Wild
12 :AM :30	Extra Paid	Corona de lágrimas	Friends Middle	Insider	Señora Acero (SS)	News (:08) Today	Chevalme Light of the Southwest	Gallery Gallery	King Paid	King Paid	Cougar Movie:	CSI: NY	SportsCenter	NBA NFL Live	NHL Hockey: Blue Jackets at Stars	Chrisley Donny!	Married- Sight	Moonshiners
1 :AM	Paid Paid	Alma Hotel	Law Order: CI	Ent Paid	Pagado De siones											Law Order: CI	(:02) Born This Way	Moonshiners

DENNIS THE MENACE



"ARE YOU SURE THE TOOTH FAIRY DOESN'T CARE IF I'VE BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE?"

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Remember, we're shopping for Daddy. We will NOT be stopping in any toy stores."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2015. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

On this date: In 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1814, the "Hartford Convention" began as New England Federalists opposed to the War of 1812 secretly gathered in the Connecticut capital. (America's victory in the Battle of New Orleans and the war's end effectively discredited the Convention.)

In 1864, the two-day Battle of Nashville began during the Civil War as Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas attacked Confederate troops led by Gen. John Bell Hood; the result was a resounding Northern victory.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1938, groundbreaking for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington, D.C., with President Franklin D. Roosevelt taking part in the ceremony.

In 1939, the Civil War motion picture epic "Gone with the Wind," starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1964, Canada's House of Commons approved dropping the country's "Red Ensign" flag in favor of a new design, the "Maple Leaf" flag.

In 1974, the horror spoof "Young Frankenstein," starring Gene Wilder and directed by Mel Brooks, was released by 20th Century Fox.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHEES'-koo).

In 1995, European Union leaders meeting in Madrid, Spain, chose "euro" as the name of the new single European currency.

In 2001, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, was reopened to the public after a \$27 million realignment that had dragged on for over a decade.

Ten years ago: Millions of Iraqis turned out to choose a

parliament in a mostly peaceful election. Former Sen. William Proxmire, the Wisconsin Democrat who'd fought government waste with his "Golden Fleece" awards, died in Sykesville, Maryland, at age 90.

One year ago: A 16-hour hostage siege began in Sydney, Australia, as an Iranian-born, self-styled Muslim cleric took 17 hostages at a cafe; police ended up storming the cafe, resulting in the deaths of the gunman and two of his captives.

Thought for Today: "The world is moving so fast these days that the one who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it."

Harry Emerson Fosdick, American clergyman 1878-1969

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Answer to previous puzzle

SCAR	CASTS	SPAT
WAWA	ICEUP	OHNO
ASAP	RETRY	CATS
PHYSICIAN	SIREN	
	HALT	BEAM
STPETE	DECLARE	
TEHEE	STILT	CAD
UNIT	DOUBT	BITE
DEL	WINGS	HASIN
STORIES	PESTOS	
	SIFT	HERE
STONE	PHOTOCOPY	
LAPS	ALERT	AREA
ACHE	CEASE	MEAN
TOYS	TAPED	PORK

12/15/15

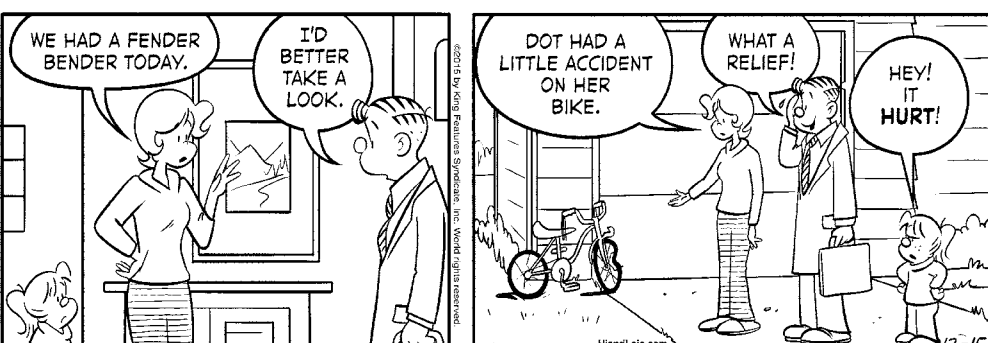
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



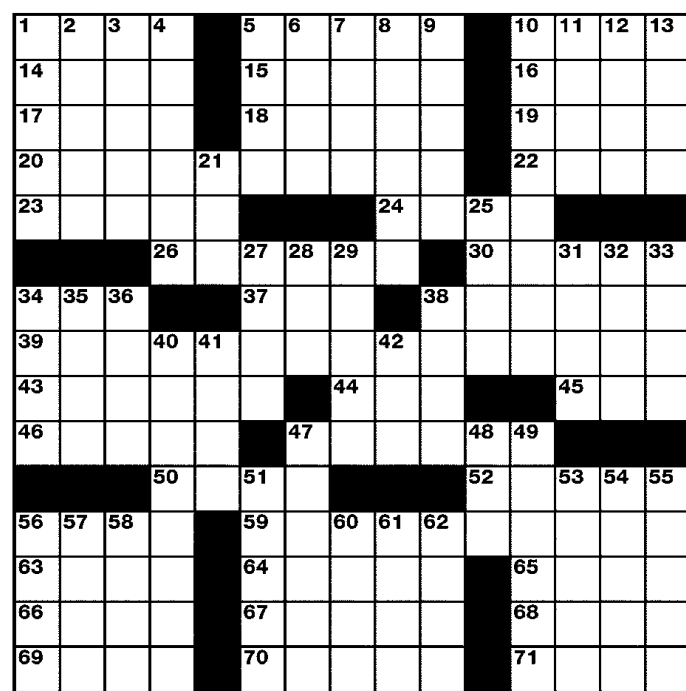
Newsday Crossword

MOST UNUSUAL by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Clumsy person
- 5 Studies hard
- 10 Raised, as livestock
- 14 Santa's laugh
- 15 New staffer
- 16 Honolulu feast
- 17 At a good distance
- 18 Extraterrestrial
- 19 "If all ___ fails . . ."
- 20 Red-in-the-middle sirloins
- 22 Complete collections
- 23 Flower stalks
- 24 Garlands worn at a 16 Across
- 26 Very bad reputation
- 30 Computer memory measures
- 34 Unpaid TV ad, for short
- 37 Dollar bill
- 38 Washington on a dollar bill
- 39 English, to a Hungarian
- 43 Turf-gripping shoes
- 44 Anti-pollution org.
- 45 Letter add-ons: Abbr.
- 46 Flies like an eagle
- 47 Stroked, as a cat
- 50 Use a keyboard
- 52 Narrow shelf
- 56 Concerning
- 59 1, 3, 5, 7, etc.
- 63 Hint in a whodunit

- 64 "So long, amigo!"
 - 65 Cry of dismay
 - 66 "Toodle-oo!"
 - 67 Nearby
 - 68 Adhesive on a roll
 - 69 Metal piece on a cowboy boot
 - 70 "___ to you" (common toast)
 - 71 Hurricane centers
- DOWN
- 1 Scorches
 - 2 Lite, on food labels
 - 3 Chicago airport
 - 4 Starting scale notes
 - 5 Shoot the breeze
 - 6 Make angry
 - 7 Diva's solo
 - 8 In a timid way
 - 9 Good judgment
 - 10 "Gesundheit!"
 - 11 Reign over
 - 12 Toward the sunrise
 - 13 Membership fees
 - 21 Tax form ID
 - 25 "___ to differ"
 - 27 Becomes hazy, with "up"
 - 28 Raggedy doll
 - 29 Brawl
 - 31 Mouse catcher
 - 32 Henhouse products
 - 33 Looks at
 - 34 Sgt.'s subordinates
 - 35 Fly alone
 - 36 Vicinity
 - 38 Biting fly
 - 40 Wide grin's width
 - 41 ___-bitsy
 - 42 Well-put
 - 47 Sell from a pushcart
 - 48 Shade tree
 - 49 Argue the issues
 - 51 Hunt illegally
 - 53 Postpone
 - 54 Vineyard fruit
 - 55 Letters before tees
 - 56 Play segments
 - 57 Open-handed hit
 - 58 Ballerina's skirt
 - 60 Designer Christian
 - 61 Tip of an airplane
 - 62 Practical applications



Pete Rose's plea for reinstatement rejected by Rob Manfred

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose's application for reinstatement to baseball was rejected Monday by Commissioner Rob Manfred, who concluded the career hits leader continued to gamble even while trying to end his lifetime ban and would be a risk to the sport's integrity if allowed back in the game.

Rose agreed to the ban in August 1989 after an investigation for Major League Baseball by lawyer John Dowd found Rose placed numerous bets on the Cincinnati Reds to win from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team.

In one of his first major actions, Manfred said in a four-page decision the career hits leader admitted he has kept on betting legally on horse racing and professional sports, including baseball. Manfred upheld the conclusions of the Dowd report and said MLB obtained additional evidence not available to Dowd: a notebook of betting records from 1986 kept by Rose associate Michael Bertolini.

"In short, Mr. Rose has not presented credible evidence of a reconfigured life either by an honest acceptance by him of his wrongdoing, so clearly established in the Dowd Report, or by a rigorous, self-aware and sustained program of avoidance by him of all the circumstances that led to his permanent ineligibility in 1989," Manfred wrote.

Manfred also said Rose has never "seriously

sought treatment" for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Behavior, conditions he said in his 2004 book had afflicted him.

"Mr. Rose's public and private comments, including his initial admission in 2004, provide me with little confidence that he has a mature understanding of his wrongful conduct, that he has accepted full responsibility for it, or that he understands the damage he has caused," Manfred wrote. "I am also not convinced that he has avoided the type of conduct and associations that originally led to his placement on the permanently ineligible list."

Rose's lawyers said he will comment on the decision at a news conference Tuesday.

"While we may have failed at our task of presenting all of the facts to the commissioner demonstrating how Pete has grown and changed over the past three decades, Pete has meaningfully reconfigured his life," Rose's lawyers, Ray Genco and Mark Rosenbaum, said in a statement.

"Pete's fall from grace is without parallel, but he recognizes that it was also of his own making," they said. "As such, Pete seeks to be judged not just by the mistakes of his past, but also by the work he has done over the last three decades to take responsibility for his actions."

Manfred said when he met with the 74-year-old Rose, the 17-time

All-Star at first was not forthcoming about his current gambling.

"Rose initially denied betting on baseball currently and only later in the interview did he 'clarify' his response to admit such betting," Manfred wrote.

Rose's conduct violated Major League Rule 21, which calls for a lifetime ban for betting on any game "with which the bettor has a duty to perform."

"Allowing him to work in the game presents unacceptable risk of a future violation by him of Rule 21, and thus to the integrity of our sport," Manfred wrote.

The ban prevents Rose from working for any major league team or minor league affiliate, but he is allowed to make ceremonial appearances with the commissioner's permission and may work for third parties such as Fox, which hired Rose this year as a baseball analyst.

Players on the permanently ineligible list also may not appear on the Hall of Fame ballot, a decision taken by the Hall's board in 1991. Reds President Bob Castellini said he hopes the Hall will reconsider its

decision.

"We and the fans think he deserves that opportunity," he said.

At the time the ban agreement was announced, then-Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti said: "The burden is entirely on Mr. Rose to reconfigure his life in a way he deems appropriate."

Rose applied for reinstatement in September 1997 and met with Commissioner Bud Selig in November 2002, but Selig never ruled on Rose's application. Manfred succeeded Selig in January, and Rose applied again on Feb. 26 to end the ban. He met with Manfred on Sept. 24.

"It was great opinion," Dowd said. "I'm proud of the commissioner for protecting the integrity of the game."

Manfred called former Commissioner Fay Vincent on Monday to inform him of the decision. Vincent was Giamatti's deputy and hired Dowd, then became commissioner following Giamatti's death on Sept. 1, 1989.

"I think he is a tragic figure," Vincent said. "He believed he was a great ballplayer, that he could do anything he

wanted and that baseball would never have the guts to throw him out."

Vincent called Rose's initial denial of current gambling "bizarre."

"He lied about betting on baseball right in the commissioner's office," Dowd said.

Rose repeatedly denied betting on baseball until in his 2004 autobiography, "Pete Rose: My Prison Without Bars." He reversed his stand and acknowledged he bet on the Reds while managing Cincinnati. Manfred said that while Rose admitted to him betting on Reds' game in 1987, he didn't remember facts established by the Dowd report showing he bet on baseball in 1985 and 1986 as a player.

Rose submitted two reports to Manfred, one by Dr. Timothy Fong,

co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program and director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship. Manfred said he gave the report little weight because it was inconsistent with what Manfred told him.

The second report was a polygraph test taken on Aug. 5 by a consultant retained by Rose's representatives. Manfred wrote the polygraph test concluded "no opinion" based on technical reasons that were not Rose's responsibility.

Rose was the 1963 NL Rookie of the Year, 1973 MVP and 1975 World Series MVP. A three-time NL batting champion, he had 4,256 hits from 1963-86, topping the mark of 4,191 set by Ty Cobb from 1905-28.

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